

Supply—Northern Affairs

been happening and what is now happening. I have made it clear that the policy of the department is not to set up caches of food to feed every single soul in the Northwest Territories. We do not set up any unsupervised caches.

Mr. Hardie: Agreed.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The hon. member appears to be aware of this fact and yet he is suggesting today that 64 people were expected to live for several months on 1,000 pounds of food. He appears to suggest that this is as a result of the policy of this government. He is completely erroneous in that regard. His statement appears to be diabolically designed to create the impression that this department has no heart in its dealings with the people who come under its jurisdiction and is not considering the welfare of those people at all. I feel I should say a few words at this time—

Mr. Hardie: Just a minute. I had the floor. You interrupted me. If you want to make a speech you can do it after I am through.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The hon. member should not be permitted to create erroneous impressions.

Mr. Hardie: I suggest to the minister that he listen to what I have to say and answer me when I am through. Since the minister has not answered my questions concerning this incident I can only state what I understand to be the facts and the minister may comment upon my understanding of the situation when I have concluded my remarks. My point was not in regard to unsupervised food caches. I will agree with the minister and say also that he should not have unsupervised food caches. I say that if you were to move 1,000 pounds of food into an area where people have nothing else to live on—and let us take the figure 64, which I took a few minutes ago—and expect them to live on 1.6 ounces per day, it would be preposterous. The only reason I give the figure 1.6 ounces is that it is based on the time the food went in until contact was made by the government three months later.

I must agree that we should have supervised food caches, but when we have not them there—whether we have them or not—you cannot expect people to live on 1½ ounces a day. I have a 3-months-old child. My wife took the child to a doctor the other day and the doctor said that the child should have 13 ounces of milk, 25 ounces of water and five ounces of pabulum a day. Let us forget about the water because they could have eaten snow, but the doctor suggested 13 ounces of

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]

milk and five ounces of pabulum for a 3-months-old child. That amounts to 18 ounces a day.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): What do the Eskimos do for a living?

Mr. Hardie: They have not anything to do for a living. I have told this government and I have told the previous government that they must have an opportunity to make a living, and in this particular area, as far as their living is concerned, they have to get caribou or they do not live, and there were no caribou. The department was advised of this. Not only was the department advised but every time you picked up a paper over the last three years you saw that the department came out with a statement that the caribou were not increasing; they were decreasing; serious things were happening. The poor Eskimo is going to be without food. What is being done? That is the point. My point is not that the caribou have disappeared.

Mr. Walker: What is your point?

Mr. Hardie: I will tell you. Well, we have the gestapo of the printing bureau, this man who is a lawyer, asking me what is my point.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Give us your ideas; never mind the guff. Tell us what you are going to do.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hardie: I will tell you.

An hon. Member: You have never told us a thing.

The Chairman: Order. I must ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to affairs concerning the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and to kindly explain to us the relationship between his remarks and this particular department.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, as far as the relationship of what I am saying to this particular department is concerned, I can quote from what the minister said in the estimates committee when he said that if one Eskimo is in difficulty in the Northwest Territories the responsibility is right here in Ottawa. As far as the interjections that are taking place are concerned, Mr. Chairman, I have the floor.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): We want to know what you propose.

Mr. Hardie: If these little seals in training want to flap their flippers every time—

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Never mind the smokescreen; give us what you propose.

Mr. Hardie: I gave you what I proposed.