

Interim Supply

a very questionable fashion, because a certain date had been set for moving the post office itself and 24 hours before this well published date the post office was moved.

[Translation]

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, again I rise on a question of privilege. The Post Office Department is accused of having transferred that post office to a new postmaster without notice. Well, in that connection, I want to put on the record that Mrs. Stewart herself wrote us as follows:

[Text]

Re transfer of Enterprise office. Would you kindly arrange to have the transfer done on Friday the 29th—

That is what we did according to the request of Mrs. Stewart.

The Chairman: Order. I wonder whether we are not getting into an argument now. As I suggested a moment ago, this is argumentation, and perhaps the minister might have the opportunity later to reply to the representations made by the hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I am just dealing with the general trend that seems to be developing in the government of returning to the very evil system of patronage which we seemed to be so singularly successful in keeping out of the activities of the government when we were in power.

I can mention other departments. In the last year the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys had \$250,000 worth of helicopter contracts in the Yukon alone which were allotted by selection. No tenders were called on those contracts, whereas under the system in the past—

Mr. Pickersgill: Autair.

Mr. Nielsen: I could not care less whether they are air contracts or contracts for other kinds of goods and services. The basic principle is that every Canadian who is a taxpayer should have the opportunity to bid on such contracts. I think that is a basically fair principle to hold to. It does not make any difference whether or not they are air contracts. It seems to me this is a practice that the government could well consider getting back to.

The Haines road operation, which comes under the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, also comes in for a little criticism. Here is a Canadian road that the government has very laudably decided to keep open on an experimental basis for one year. It is being maintained on an all-weather basis. Yet I rather strongly suspect that the road

is being maintained by United States equipment and with United States labour.

To me this is an untenable state of affairs. We have unemployed workmen in the Yukon Territory who are capable of doing the work, and we have Canadian equipment there which could very well be used on this job. All I have to go on now is suspicion, but I certainly do have the suspicion that this is not being done.

I have asked the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources several times whether the negotiations have been completed yet between the governments of the United States and Canada in so far as the maintenance of the road is concerned. All I have had by way of answers from the minister and other cabinet ministers are evasions and concealment. As a matter of fact, when answering all these questions the cabinet ministers seem to have a noted talent for concealing the truth.

The Chairman: Order. I regret that I must interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I will resume my seat, but as I did not want to take the time on the orders of the day I should now like to make one or two corrections in my remarks of last Friday.

The Chairman: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Nielsen: The remarks I refer to are found on page 5272 of *Hansard*. At the bottom of the left hand column I am reported as having said "90 per cent of Canada's gold". That should read "90 per cent of Canada's placer gold". I said something else which I think the reporter missed. I said "The Yukon and this industry have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the national treasury". At the top of the right hand column on the same page it should read "territorial government" rather than "territory government", and it should be "is not" rather than "is". On page 5273 halfway down the left hand column the words "in the city" should read "at the air field".

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman a moment ago when he referred to the increase in salaries of the county court judges and compared them with those of the magistrates in the Northwest Territories. I should like to tell him that a recommendation for the increase in the salaries of magistrates in the