

or Whitehorse, it will be exactly the same. But you must remember one principle that has to remain in there: that is, that no matter where our representative is located, eventually he is going to have to communicate with one of the district offices in order to get a solution to the various problems which he encounters.

In other words, if it is a war veterans allowance problem, he will have to report to the district authority, either in Vancouver or in Edmonton to get the "position" of the application for the war veterans allowance. So that this type of problem would not be served better by having a man stationed in Whitehorse, than by having one stationed in Edmonton, who would fly to Whitehorse every month or so.

There is not sufficient overall in any one city in the Yukon to warrant placing a man in each city. That man could never keep himself occupied.

As I told you the other day, we are studying this matter, and as Dr. Crawford indicated, we have already had discussions on it. We have had a survey made by the regional administrator in Vancouver, and the regional administrator will be coming down again in May at which time we intend to seek a proper solution.

But at first glance I would say that the establishment of a sub-district office in Whitehorse would only solve the Whitehorse problem. It would not solve any of the others.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I am going back a little further to say that away back in 1955 when I lived up there, the D.V.A. representative came up periodically; and during the time between his visits cases accumulated until his arrival.

The same thing applies to the Veterans' Land Act. Periodically the junior chief inspector came up from Edmonton, and between times cases accumulated.

I think that our veterans in the Yukon are entitled to faster service than that. Since 1955 the population has increased rather fast, and the bulk of that increase has taken place in the Yukon. It is my belief that a sub-district office in Whitehorse could be served by a small staff, and one of the staff could be equipped with means of transportation so that he could serve the whole territory.

When you consider the fact that the return air fare is \$142.80 to either Edmonton or Vancouver, that these people send officials from either Edmonton or Vancouver, and that they may make several trips a year, we would maintain a sub-district office at not too great an additional expense and provide the services to which these veterans are entitled.

Mr. LALONDE: We agree with you in principle. As Doctor Crawford has said, are trying to improve our service. Where we disagree is that we do not think the idea of a subdistrict office is the answer. We are attempting to find another answer which will provide this service without having the duplication of setting up a complete subdistrict office with a lot of clerical staff which we do not feel can be justified. In other words, there must be a more economical way of doing it than having to establish a subdistrict office. That is what we are looking at now.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Clearly there must be also a more economical way than the way we are doing it, which will provide better service.

Mr. LALONDE: I am not sure of that. I agree with you as far as Whitehorse is concerned. However, I think the other areas get as good service now as they would get if we had an official stationed permanently in Whitehorse.

We have increased the number of our visits to the Yukon following this study. The welfare officers now go up more often than previously. There is a period I believe—and you would know more about this than I would—when all communications are pretty well at a standstill and there is no use in sending