

*Yukon and N.W.T. Government*

dations with regard to the administration of justice as set out in the report of the Carrothers Commission. He said:

The federal proposal is a matter for negotiation between the territorial governments and Ottawa and includes the following matters which could become the proper responsibility of local territorial officials:

The appointment and payment of judicial officers except Judges of the Territorial Courts;

The constitution of courts having civil as well as criminal jurisdiction, subject to the condition that the existing federal statutory provisions establishing the courts of original and appellate jurisdiction be part of relevant ordinances;

The provision and maintenance of the necessary personnel and physical plant for the efficient administration of justice and the functioning of the judicial system;

The provision of complete legal services to the Commissioner, the Council, and the several departments of local government;

So far the reaction to this statement in the Northwest Territories has been good. We have received a presentation today from the president of the Northwest Territories Bar congratulating the Minister of Justice as follows:

NWT Bar welcomes the progressive proposal to transfer responsibilities to the Commissioner regarding justice.

Mark Deweerdt,  
President.

I could go on at great length about the constitutional development. We know that much more must be done and that it must be done quickly. I recognize that there is a difference between the Northwest Territory and the Yukon with regard to the speed of political development.

I spoke today of the things which I would like to see happen in the Northwest Territories to speed up this process of political development without going beyond what I believe is the general government policy. I would also like to say to the minister that while we tend to become involved in constitutional arguments, there is still a great deal to be done in northern Canada. Those of us who have lived in the north know the frustration of trying to deal with a system which somehow or other sometimes does not seem to equate with the people. We know the frustration of going into a community where there is a housing program to learn that the program will not be completed this year and that 20 families may have to live in substandard housing for another winter. One knows, too, that only a few dollars were involved and, because of poor planning on the part of administrators, funds were not available when they should

[Mr. Orange.]

have been, so the program will not be completed until the following fiscal year. This is one example of the frustrations.

• (2:40 p.m.)

From a community such as Inuvik, we had an appeal to the Commissioner and to the minister regarding improvement of housing conditions, living conditions, and the opportunity to make the town an integrated one in every sense. The appeal was that the people who live in the west end of Inuvik should receive the same level of municipal services as those in the government area on the east side, and that a program be launched to ensure that young graduates returning from universities in the south and from technical schools would find adequate housing. Then, when they secured jobs, decided to marry and raise families, they would not have to go back into substandard housing.

We know that the government is working in this direction. For example, with CMHC assistance, a rental housing project will open in Inuvik next year. But once again, Mr. Speaker, this to me seems a start, but things are not moving as fast as they should. I appeal to the minister to impress upon his officers, and upon those responsible to them, not only to do the job for which they are paid but to realize they have a mission, a mission to bring the Canadian north in every respect into the mainstream of Canadian life. This mission must involve not only economic development but also involve the people who were there first, the Indian people, the Eskimo people, the Métis people. I appeal to the minister to look upon inquiries from associations like Thebacha in Fort Smith, an Indian organization whose objective is the provision of fair wages and employment for its people, with the same kind of urgency as he looks upon other requests from other areas.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, much must be done. We have started to recognize what the north means to us as Canadians. I suggest that if anything will make us different from our neighbours to the south, if anything will give us a distinctive Canadian character, it is the fact that we are a northern nation, a people who inhabit the northern half of North America. That is something that can be the mainstay of our personality for years to come.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Before the hon. member resumes his seat, would he permit a question? I listened carefully but I did not hear him declare himself. Can he say whether he is in support of the resolution or not?