

*The Address—Mr. Nielsen*

with the United States. So there are all sorts of onerous expenses which are being incurred now by the taxpayers in the Yukon in furtherance of this federal project without one red cent being spent or guaranteed by the federal government. But then we are used to being treated that way.

With respect to the land policy of the government, I neglected to make mention of the current executive assistant to the minister. He is supposed to be, and certainly he should be if he isn't, the person who advises the minister with respect to Yukon affairs because theoretically he keeps his finger on the pulse of Yukon opinion. That current executive assistant ran for election in the territorial council in 1974. He was not successful, I might add, but I have here one of his pieces of election material. I would think that the minister would take advice from a person who occupies a position that close to him. He says in his brochure with respect to land policy:

● (1232)

Land has to be made available to Yukoners who want to:

- Own a home
- Build a cabin
- Operate a farm

All planning must be designed to meet these needs. There is room for everyone, and you must be given the right to decide where you want to live.

Maybe the executive assistant has lost this pamphlet. I could send him a copy. He might once again prevail upon his minister to adopt those views. With regard to resources, he stated:

Ottawa collects the revenue from Yukon resources. Until this money is allowed to stay here,—

Presumably he wants it to stay in the Yukon.

—the costs of essential services such as water, sewer, and streets must be paid by Ottawa, not on a cost-sharing basis—but 100 per cent. This will help to hold property taxes at the present level.

That is a very sound policy and position for the executive assistant to have taken. I only wish he could convince his minister to adopt those policies. I cannot make reference to him. If I could, I would point out that he is in the gallery. However, I do not even see him.

This brings me to the NCPC. The short answer to the minister's puzzlement expressed in his letter of July 25 this year is: if the government in Ottawa will leave the resource revenues with us, transfer the lands to the jurisdiction of our elected people and transfer the resources to us, we will look after ourselves. Indeed, we more than pay our way.

If we had taken any part in the negotiation of those pipeline provisions, we certainly would have seen to it that other levers of negotiation were used with more effect than they were. That is the short answer to the question of the minister—how can we achieve provincial status and pay for it without an increase in taxes? Simply leave the revenues generated in the Yukon there. At least I have the small consolation of knowing that the minister's executive assistant supports me in that position. As I say, I wish he could marshal the views of the Liberal party in the Yukon to be tuned into the same wave length in order to give him greater strength in making his position known to the

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minister and to convince the minister that is the proper course to take.

With regard to the Northern Canada Power Commission, I want to cite a small example in order to knock holes in the argument of the government that we cannot pay our own way. If the government would stop making costly decisions and costly errors in the Yukon, we could with these resource revenues pay our own way.

The power project which was just completed at Aishihik was originally placed in our estimates in this place at \$11 million. The final cost being paid by the consumer in the Yukon is \$46 million, an overrun of some \$35 million. It is a federal Crown corporation which, in my view, and in the view of many Yukoners, should be a Yukon Crown corporation. The federal government overspent \$35 million, and the legislation under which the corporation is set up requires that the consumer in the Yukon pay for that dreadful error of the federal government.

When they should be bringing new sources of power into production in order to meet the growing demands of resource rich projects, they are sitting on their hands. The lead time when the commission should have been acting has now gone. The power is required now. There will literally be no further mineral development in the Yukon until such time as additional sources of power are on stream. It will take between three and eight years to achieve any such power development.

The pipeline is going ahead. It is going to be so designed to use electrical energy for pumping the product through the pipe. However, NCPC has taken no steps in order to establish power to achieve that purpose at, I might add, great savings in the transmission of that gas. That is one small example of how the Yukon could meet the demands which would be placed upon it by the achievement of provincial status.

There is one other point I wish to bring to the attention of hon. members before resuming my seat. It has to do with native land claims. The position of the government, taken unilaterally without any consultation with the native people, was to freeze the availability of any land in the Yukon for disposition until the native claims had been settled. That has almost brought development to a standstill.

The government is concerning itself more with social and cultural development than it is with development of our resources. The position on this side is, and always has been, that there is no reason why negotiations for the just settlement of land claims cannot proceed hand in hand with industrial and other development in the north without the one prejudicing the other.

The government makes great exceptions with regard to the land freeze. As soon as it needs a chunk of the Yukon to settle the claim of the Inuvialuit people, it takes several thousand square miles to satisfy that claim, and freezes it for other purposes. Certainly it is not for the purposes of the ordinary citizen.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has expired.