

Royal Assent

in their own affairs. What has happened in the past, in terms of transferring responsibility from the federal government to the territorial government, has been good. This government has acted fast and with decision following the publication of the Carrothers report. However, Mr. Speaker, regardless of the action which has been taken there is still one central, key issue. Somehow or other a means must be determined to give the elected members of both territories a viable say in the administration of their own affairs. The minister has indicated on a number of occasions that it is within his jurisdiction to establish executive councils and standing committees.

I will not argue with the minister about this. However, I am concerned, as are members of the councils, that the minister is torn between the natural reluctance of the people within his own department who advise him and the impatience of the members of both territorial councils. To my mind this is the central issue. We must and will face this issue in committee, that is, how to involve the elected members of the two councils in those things, as the minister said, which affect the quality of life—education, social development, local government, engineering and all those other functions which are properly and rightly the responsibility of the commissioner and the councils.

Having been an observer of the scene for a number of years, I believe that the commissioner and the public servants in the territorial government are to be congratulated on the manner in which they are accepting their responsibilities. They act with haste. They act with decision. And they are bringing, in my view, the real role of government to the people of the north who may not have had it when the federal administration was there.

● (5:50 p.m.)

On the first day of April this past year I had the privilege of being in the community of Tuktoyaktuk, a small Eskimo community on the Beaufort Sea which has been the terminus—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is your terminus.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (6:00 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An act to amend the Canada Shipping Act.

An act to establish the International Development Research Centre.

An act respecting the sale and importation of certain radiation emitting devices.

An act to amend the Yukon Placer Mining Act.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, for the record may I ask the minister the business for tomorrow, so that it will be known to all hon. members.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will start with the second reading of the Excise Act. After that we will return to the bill under debate this afternoon, concerning the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The third item will be the report stage of the bill to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act. The fourth item will be the one relating to agricultural matters.

Mr. Bell: Farm marketing?

Mr. Chrétien: Farm marketing.

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.