

*Northern Pipeline*

communities to serve workers on the pipeline project. It would be the responsibility of the pipeline contractors to supply most of these services themselves and the best way would be to have these construction camps located some distance from existing communities.

● (2152)

My purpose in intervening in this pipeline debate is to cover some of the points that should be responded to in terms of the impact of the social and economic issues and the ability of the Yukon to handle them. I also wanted to deal with the question of the second stage inquiry, the question of land claims and the co-operation between the Yukon territorial government and the federal government.

This may be one of the largest and most important projects ever undertaken in Canada, and there has probably been more study of the environmental impact and the impact on people and on the communities associated with the pipeline than of any other project in Canada. This is good.

The majority of speakers I have listened to went to some length to point out the tremendous benefits to Canada from an industrial and employment point of view. Having studied these points, the time has come to move forward. We must make the decision that the pipeline will be built and pass the bill.

The minister should continue the leadership he has given in drafting the terms and conditions under which the pipeline will be built. They should be available to anyone who wants to study them in an objective way. We can then conclude the arrangements under which the pipeline might go forward. Taking this approach on the second stage inquiry is very correct.

The opposite approach has been put forward by a number of members, and the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands articulated it very well a few minutes ago. She said this approach would bring a tremendous degree of uncertainty to the whole project. It would draw into the debate many issues that have already been settled. Therefore, the time for that type of inquiry has in fact passed. I again emphasize that the point we are making there has been well taken.

In terms of land claims, this is a very complex and difficult negotiation that we are undertaking. It would be a good stance for all members of parliament to try and create an environment that is conducive to negotiations. It certainly does not do any good to have made the kind of statements one or two members have been making. First, it is a tremendous put-down of the Indian people in terms of their approach to it. Second, there will be times when both sides will want to negotiate seriously at the table. There will be times when both sides will want a period of time to re-evaluate their position. They may want to take that position to the people they represent. They may reappear at the table with either an updated position or a confirmation from the people they represent that their negotiating position represents their point of view and it should go forward.

I am hopeful, as is the minister, that the negotiations will continue in good faith. There is a very decided advantage to

the Indian people to bring to an early conclusion at least the principle of the land claims negotiations. One commitment of the minister is the possibility of establishing an immediate \$50 million up-front fund which the Indian people can use to establish themselves in types of business which will become involved in the pipeline. It is preferable for the Indian people to establish types of businesses that will enable them to contract for the pipeline. After the pipeline construction, they will be able to continue in business, something they could not do if they were simply employees of the large pipeline contractors.

One difficulty that has been encountered with regard to projects such as pipeline construction has been that those who normally work for low wages receive very, very high wages during the pipeline construction. After the construction is complete, that source of income is eliminated. This has led to enormous social problems. It would be preferable for those involved in these settlements to use this money immediately to become involved in a type of subcontracting on the pipeline. This could have a lasting benefit.

The land claims could be prejudiced in many different ways, particularly by those who want to use them for political purposes. This could delay the settlement to the point that it would not give the Indian people long enough to organize the types of businesses that could be of value to them before the construction begins.

I again want to assure the House that the territorial government has been participating in the pipeline project on a very regular basis. The commissioner met with the minister and other members of the cabinet who have responsibility in the pipeline project some time ago in order to participate in the early stages of the planning of the project. We are most anxious that the territorial government take a real leadership role. No one can suggest they are not being given an opportunity to participate in the many important decisions that lie ahead of us.

When the pipeline comes closer to being a reality, there will be enormous pressures. A very significant number of people will move to the Yukon. This will require very good administration of housing problems, health care facilities and so on. I encourage the territorial government to work effectively on these plans in a cool, rational manner rather than in a crisis situation, as has happened with other very large construction projects both here and in the United States.

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call it ten o'clock.