

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

However, one should point out some of the failings which can be seen at first glance when reading this bill.

As pointed out by those who spoke before, the bill does not insist sufficiently on the necessity of consulting the Eskimos and the Indians. It is easy to say that all the legislation passed by the government are directed towards the emancipation and fulfilment of the native people of the North, but, often, if not always, that objective has unfortunately not been achieved. Perhaps it is that sufficient attention has not been given this subject.

In addition, this bill seems to impose upon the territories an absolute authority which could easily smack of colonialism, which phenomenon everyone wants to see disappear, notably in our country.

Indeed, the authority of the governor in council can lead to abuses as regards appointments. Even if some members of the committee are elected, the fact remains that their election can be cancelled any time. That reminds us of the old systems that everybody wants to abolish nowadays.

There is a third point which is not given enough thought, namely bilingualism. In fact, this is a federal authority. Since the federal government recognizes bilingualism, I am surprised to see that this bill contains no provision to guarantee one way or another the right to bilingualism. Some may say that there are very few French-speaking people in those areas, but a few years from now there may be a sufficient number to prompt the government to establish right now a bilingual system. And even if there were only a few French-speaking residents, I believe that under the definition itself of Canada and of federalism—people boast so much about it in Quebec at the present time—any law reform or any establishment of new systems should be coupled with the creation of genuine bilingualism.

**Mr. Chrétien:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is referring to something that calls for a clarification, I think.

He should know perhaps that since September, courses have been given in French in the first grade in the Yukon territory, which is not the case anywhere else in Canada.

**Mr. Matte:** Mr. Speaker, French courses can be given everywhere, even in the United States. But does not necessarily change the basis itself of the system and in any event, if efforts are made in that direction, I can but

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be happy about it. However, I wish to point out that the hazards of anglicization are to be avoided.

We have already witnessed, when the federal government had complete jurisdiction over northern Quebec, that its main action was to anglicize the people, even though, in principle, they were French-speaking.

Mr. Speaker, the few deficiencies which I point out lead me to commend the minister in connection with the second part of the bill, namely clauses 24 and the following, which relate to the Territorial Lands Act. In my opinion, this legislation comes at an appropriate time, because the moment had come for us to ensure that we actually possess the vast northern expanses, and that we exercise control over their development.

Clause 24(3)(c) of the bill reads as follows:

(1) Every person who

(a) violates any regulation made pursuant to section 3b, or

(b) fails to comply with any term or condition of a permit issued pursuant to such regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars.

(2) Where an offence under subsection (1) is committed on more than one day or is continued for more than one day, it shall be deemed to be a separate offence for each day on which the offence is committed.

I am quite willing to agree that penalties are provided for those who would violate the legislation, but I wonder what \$5,000 mean to multi-millionaire American companies which are quite capable of paying \$5,000 per day, since they make daily profits of several million dollars. I wonder whether we could not make the situation clearer by stating in an even more categorical fashion the inviolability of our territory in the North.

I believe that the efforts made by the department to solve all those problems should be considered and even commended. I hope that in the course of the discussion, worthwhile amendments might be moved with a view to improving the substance of the bill. Above all, I hope that the minister will consider favourably any suggestion to make this legislation a better one.

● (5:00 p.m.)

[English]

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to deal with those aspects of the bill which relate to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. I do not intend to