

EVIDENCE

TUESDAY, November 26, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. The meeting will come to order.

As we start this first meeting it would be fitting to read the order of reference which was indicated to this committee. I ask the Clerk to read the terms of reference.

The CLERK:

Friday, November 15, 1963. Ordered that the subjects dealt with in the following bills be referred to the standing committee on mines, forests and waters for consideration: first, Bill C-83, an act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the standard law with respect thereto; Second, Bill C-84, an act respecting the Nunassiat Territory.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I believe copies of both bills have been passed to members of the committee. I trust all members have their copies. I do not know whether these are printed in both languages.

The main purpose of our meeting this afternoon is to hear the councillors of the Northwest Territories who are in Ottawa at the present time. I trust we may proceed in a fashion which may permit them to see their families in the near future.

We have with us here this afternoon Mr. Lang, Mr. Gall, Mr. Goodall and Mr. Kaeser. Of course, we also have representatives of the government and appointees to the council. To my left is Mr. Sivertz, the deputy commissioner, and Mr. Jones, and then Mr. Brown of the Department of Northern Affairs.

I would like to call Mr. Lang before the committee. Mr. Lang has informed me that he has prepared a memorandum for the committee, which I think I should ask him to read. He has presented me with copies of this memorandum.

Before we proceed, are there any remarks or suggestions from members of the committee?

I will call upon Mr. Lang.

Mr. KNUT LANG (*Member of Northwest Territory Council for Mackenzie Delta*): Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be able to address your committee regarding the proposed division of the Northwest Territories.

The present Northwest Territory comprises an area of approximately 1,300,000 square miles.

It has long been felt that it was far too large and unwieldy to govern effectively as a single unit, and at the January 1960 session of the Northwest Territory Council it was proposed to divide it into two separate territories. The council then in office accepted the idea favourably and discussed many details at two meetings. The next elected council, which held its first meeting in January 1961, was also in favour of division, and the matter was thoroughly discussed and eventually brought before the federal government. This is now before your committee.