

Mr. LANG: There are some individuals who differ a little; but as a whole the civil servants down there are of excellent quality. We have had the odd misfit. But on the whole they are inclined to do a very good job, and I think they are doing it, too. They are conscientious. However people do make mistakes. It is often because they are not intelligible enough to know something. But they all learn by their own mistakes. It has not been done intentionally and I have found them to be a very fine type of people.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions of Mr. Lang, we thank him very much.

Mr. LANG: It has been a very great pleasure for me to have had this opportunity.

Mr. GRAY: If Mr. Lang ever becomes tired of dealing with the smaller problems of the north, we would value him quite a bit down here in parliament.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think Mr. Lang is needed in the north.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I have one more question to ask Mr. Lang. I wonder if he has any suggestion as to improvements in the ways and means of arrangements for Indians and Eskimos to be employed.

Mr. LANG: What do you mean by ways and means? To create jobs?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I mean ways and means for the federal government to employ more Indians and Eskimos in our civil service?

Mr. LANG: One of my pet projects in the delta has been connected with cord wood cutting. I have been bringing that up, but we are running into some difficulty. In the old days when the steam boats and the missions were established at Aklavik, they burnt about 2,000 cords a year, and this provided a lot of work for the Indians. But when the steam boats quit, and when the mission schools were moved to Inuvik, they went into burning oil instead of cord wood. So there were only about 200 cords a year used at Aklavik. This threw a lot of people out of their winter jobs. The situation is this: when you buy a cord of wood at, roughly, \$20 a cord, that is, for 4 foot split cord wood at Aklavik, the \$20 paid goes to the man who cuts it, and he in turn spends it in the country, and this money stays there and helps to build up business and to create a little more confidence and prosperity in the country. But if you buy the equivalent in oil, you pay Imperial Oil Company, and you pay cash. You are not employing anybody and you are not going through Calgary; you are stuck with an Eskimo on relief, and that is the point I want to take in.

When you consider the difference in price between oil and cordwood, you must add the cost of relief, when you burn oil, to the poor Indian or Eskimo as a result of the loss of his job; and you must also consider the moral aspect of it. There is no man on relief who is going to benefit. It is a terrible thing to be on relief. Many of these youngsters are willing to work but just cannot find a job. That is something you cannot measure in dollars and cents.

I have suggested that the power plant at Inuvik switch over to a dual burner that will burn cordwood and oil. We also have a coal mine in the country, and if they use that, they will give some of the natives a job. We can burn coal and oil to the extent that we have unemployed people in the country, and if we are short of that, if we cannot get sufficient, we will switch to oil. That is an idea that is worth considering. We have been considering it for several years, but we have not got any further. I think it is a good, healthy idea. It may cost a little more to burn cordwood, but jobs would be created and the self respect of these people who would be working on it would be saved.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lang.