

Mr. GREGOIRE: I have one question, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Lang if he would care and if the Northwest Territories would care if their frontier were limited to the three-mile limit off the coast of Ontario and around the province of Quebec?

Mr. LANG: Well, Mr. Chairman, do you mean would I object to it?

Mr. GREGOIRE: Would you object if the frontier were placed at a regular limit of three miles offshore?

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to impede a legitimate line of questioning by my friend, Mr. Gregoire, but this does relate to the eastern Arctic. It does not have anything to do with the immediate purpose of the bill which is to divide the territory and does not affect the existing frontiers. Finally, Mr. Lang has been confining himself to his own experience in the Mackenzie delta, in the Mackenzie valley. He has been speaking more directly to the Mackenzie territory. While I would not insist at this stage on excluding the question, I would say that it would be well within the competence of the witness to decline to answer it as not being within his knowledge or not being his desire to state at the present time.

Mr. GREGOIRE: On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lang is an elected member of the Northwest Territories. There is no territory now such as Nunassiat or Mackenzie. As long as this bill is not passed in the house, this is only one territory. He is an elected member and he represents the interest of all those people in the Northwest Territories from the east to the west. I am asking him, and I think it is completely in order, what would be the reaction of the people in the Northwest Territories if the frontiers were established at a three-mile limit offshore, around the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I think this is a question which is completely in order.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I would say that I realize the order of reference asked us to study the matters brought about by this bill. This bill has nothing to do with the frontier between any provinces and the Northwest Territories. It has to do only with the Northwest Territories itself. I believe this witness stated earlier in his testimony that he knew very little of the east of the territories; that he only paid one visit to the east during his career. I recall that the place he mentioned was nowhere near the eastern boundary of the Northwest Territories. Therefore, it is obvious from his testimony that the gentleman would not necessarily know the pertinent matters brought up by the question.

Mr. GREGOIRE: If it is because Mr. Lang does not know this part of the territory I will admit that he cannot answer the question, but I will not accept the limitation that we cannot go into this line of questioning because the question of the frontiers is exactly what this bill is now trying to delineate, the frontiers of these two territories.

The CHAIRMAN: The bills are only taking up one existing thing, that is what I mean. Your question now suggests some knowledge whereby the outside boundaries of the known Northwest Territories could be changed. The Chair permitted many questions pertaining to public opinion. Do you feel that the people there would favour this? Those are questions which the Chair permitted. I honestly feel that it is a difficult question to place on the shoulders of a witness and to ask him to speak for an entire population. Your question was whether the people there like this.

Mr. GREGOIRE: May I rephrase my question and ask him if, as an elected member himself, he would feel that it would matter very much to have this frontier settled at a three mile limit. I think the witness should be glad to answer such a question.