

Mr. RHEAUME: You do not recall whether the territorial council in their deliberations of the whole range of bills C-83 and C-84 specified or concentrated discussion particularly on this point, whether it would be fully effective. Since there was a clause in there to make the number five instead of four—do you recall whether there was much discussion of that?

Mr. LANG: I do not think there was too much. We all did a lot of independent reading as far as this bill was concerned. We took it home and did a little homework on it. As far as I am concerned, the way I understood it was that whenever the new Mackenzie territorial council should come up, we would have five constituencies at that time. We also have a map set up showing broadly the outlines of the constituencies. We had three choices, and we could choose between them and pick the one most favourable. We had quite a majority.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have one other question of Mr. Lang: at any time did the territorial council in its deliberations examine the possibility of changing this clause 9, wherever there was no possibility in view of the size of the existing constituencies, of there being a greater number of constituencies than nine? Was there any discussion entered into as to the size of the council?

Mr. LANG: There is no such thing as nine constituencies.

Mr. RHEAUME: When the council met do you recall any discussion when the council thought at the time there should be a fairly drastic change, whether it should be 15, or whether the number should be reduced? Do you recall any deliberations about that?

Mr. LANG: Yes, we discussed the matter. I forget who brought it up. Maybe it was myself. But when Pine Point is developed, and we have this proposed election in 1964, that is where we put it. We thought that would be the way these things would work, and that we would be holding elections in April in 1964 to create five constituencies and elect five elected members. Then I brought it up as a suggestion that when Pine Point got into the operation within the next two or three years we hoped that we would have another election in 1967, and that would be three years, and we hoped to create six constituencies and have six elected members, with only three appointed.

Mr. DINSDALE: I wish to pursue this particular point for the moment and ask Mr. Lang what he thinks of the prospects for native northerners being elected to the Northwest territorial council, or to the new council as representatives from one or more of the five constituencies?

Mr. LANG: I would be very happy to see that. I have been talking to some of the young natives down there and suggested to them—especially in the case of one young Indian of approximately 30 years of age now who is, I think, developing quite a keen sense and interest in the government of the territories. He is raising a family and is a type of man who is intelligent and is worried about the future of his family. But I think that they are under a little bit of a handicap there, because this Uniak Indian, should he get elected, which he possibly might, would be in favour of his own Uniak people to the extent that some other races would suffer. They have not got the wide outlook and background that the white man has.

I myself have travelled all over the world and to me one man is just as good as another. I do not care what colour or race he belongs to. If he is a man, he is good enough for me and I will accept him at his value. I think that is where I may run into a little racial discrimination. We cannot blame the young Indian for it. All he has ever seen has been Indians. He never heard of any others, and he is in favour of handling everything from the Indian point of view. Otherwise I would be very much in favour of seeing some of these young natives elected.