

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Have you had any contact with either the Indian or Eskimo people in your area in respect of this subject and do they express their opinions in this connection?

Mr. LANG: Yes, they have. They have expressed their dissatisfaction. For instance, if an Eskimo asked for relief he might get \$29 a week or whatever it is—it is an arbitrary figure—whereas an Indian might go in and get \$25 or \$35, and there is a great deal of dissatisfaction created.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are you saying the Eskimos and Indians receive different rates of pay?

Mr. LANG: They have been, yes, on several occasions.

Mr. TURNER: You mean different rates of welfare, not of pay.

Mr. LANG: Yes, that is so.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are there any Indians or Eskimos in your particular area who are aware of the different possibilities? You mentioned there is some dissatisfaction among Indians and Eskimos respecting the rate of their welfare payments; but have you had any expression of opinion by Indians or Eskimos in respect of this question Mr. Nielsen asked, whether or not they should come under the Northern Affairs Department or under the Indian affairs branch.

Mr. LANG: I have had lots of expressions about that and I always explain to them we should try to treat the man as a man, never mind whether he is Indian, Eskimo or white. If I have anything to do with it, when the new Mackenzie territory comes into effect, I will try to create conditions where Indians, Eskimos and whites will be treated as Canadian citizens and not on any ethnic background.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): We are all in favour of that. Could you tell me what the present situation is with regard to Indian and Eskimo employment in your area?

Mr. LANG: Well, it is a little complicated. Northern affairs are responsible for the Eskimos and, in the eyes of an Indian at least they are inclined to favour the Eskimo when a job comes up. I might say here that jobs are very scarce in the north. I do not think that it is always quite correct that an Eskimo is preferred because he is an Eskimo but I believe in some cases it does happen. That is the reason I stress very much that we should have some kind of agency that treats a man according to his ability and needs and not according to his racial background.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): With regard to the civil service functions presently performed by whites, do you think many of those functions could be fulfilled by Indians and Eskimos who are being trained now?

Mr. LANG: Yes, I think it is particularly desirable. We already have a full-blooded Indian in Aklavik who acts as police officer. He is doing a very, very good job, I think, especially when you consider that he has to deal with some of his own relatives. I think he is doing a remarkable job. And we also have a part Eskimo at Inuvik who is doing the same work there and, in my opinion, he also is doing a very, very fine job. These people have not had very much education. But it is my hope that as soon as the youngsters can come into our schools and go out we will be able to handle the whole thing with people born in our territories. We would just take them according to their ability. We would not ask whether they were Eskimo or white.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Is this policy being carried out by all sections of the federal government?