

tell me how in a 60-day period the hon. member can be expected to travel through that vast expanse of 1,300,000 square miles without spending a good deal of money, far beyond what the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Harney) would spend, my understanding would be expanded. It is simply impossible. Thus, I was glad to hear the minister's, on introducing the bill, leave the inference that the government was at least giving favourable consideration to introducing legislation which would give the Northwest Territories an additional member.

The hon. member for Northwest Territories appears to be opposed to the principle of a senator being appointed from the Northwest Territories because, he says, he is opposed to appointing people to any legislative body. I admire that assertion as far as it applies to the Council of the Northwest Territories. I would accept nothing less myself.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** But you would accept a seat in the Senate.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I would not accept a seat in the Senate. I can tell the hon. member that immediately, unequivocally and without reservation. I am not so sure about the desires of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) in that regard, because he has colleagues in the other place thanks to the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the previous one.

**An hon. Member:** Who are they?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. I think we are now getting away from the bill. The hon. member should address himself to the Chair, and if other hon. members wish to ask him questions, he should agree to give way or not.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I said at the outset I would accept any or all questions—from the seat or from the feet, it makes no difference to me. We were discussing this bill and the question of Senate appointments. The question was asked, who were the colleagues of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and I was about to reply when Your Honour intervened. I can recall a very vociferous member of this House during my early days here, in the form of the hon. member for Assiniboia. He was the leader of his party and he is now in the other place, thanks to the government on the benches opposite.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** He is no colleague of ours.

● (2040)

**Mr. Nielsen:** Let me put it this way: he used to be a colleague and he used to be leader of that party. Perhaps that last remark of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre explains his demise.

What I was about to deal with was the rather fallacious argument of the hon. member for Northwest Territories. I agree that there should be a wholly-elected council in both territories and I agree that there should be a wholly-elected executive committee. But members of the other place are not elected. We have this system written into our constitution, whether we like it or want to change it, and

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the only way we can attain any northern representation in the other place so as to make the north wholly representative in this Parliament of Canada is by means of appointment.

I, for one, applaud the opportunity to double the representation from my constituency in the Parliament of Canada, and that is what it would mean. I should think the hon. member for Northwest Territories would also welcome eagerly the opportunity to double the representation of his constituency in the Parliament of Canada by adding a member to the other place, and that is exactly what this would mean.

While the minister said it much more briefly than I have, the truth of the situation as he has pointed it out is indisputable. I am wondering about the situation, though, as I have heard a number of rumours in the Yukon, although I do not know whether similar rumours have been making the rounds of the Northwest Territories. These rumours sometimes have a habit of coming close to the truth, and I wonder whether the minister has any knowledge that consideration has already been given to possible appointees from those territories in anticipation of the support this party will give this bill. Being a government bill, it is going to pass.

For instance, there might be an appointment of a native person from the Northwest Territories, or one of Inuit origin. There are rumours in the Yukon that perhaps one who has suddenly become closely associated with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) might be considered. There is some small dissatisfaction with the commissioners in both the territories, and the rumour is abroad that perhaps the only way we can get rid of these unpopular people in the north is to shoot them off to the Senate.

**Mr. Barnett:** Is that why the hon. member is supporting the bill?

**Mr. Nielsen:** No, I support the bill because it means doubling representation from the north in this Canadian parliament and because while we have this system we should be represented in both Houses. Why in the world should Canadians living above the sixtieth parallel be left out? Other provinces are represented in the other place, so why should not the two northern territories have equal representation with other Canadians? The NDP may look at this as something less than a right, but my view is that if we are going to participate in parliament as we now have it, and participate fully—which means full representation—such full representation has been too long in coming.

I am not often known to compliment any minister, let alone a Liberal minister or anybody in the Liberal Party, but I am afraid I am weakening. I am afraid the urge is upon me to compliment the minister and his government for bringing in this measure tonight, and that is a rare thing for me to do. This is a final recognition they have come to. Perhaps they have been dragged, kicking and screaming, to the conclusion that there is something in the bill that has stood in my name for so many years in respect of full representation. That realization is upon them and they have at last placed before this House a measure which will accord true and full representation to all