

just as effective. They might even be better, because if they are residents of the territories, they would have a lot of information which members from Ottawa, for instance, would not be able to get. I think I would be inclined to favour it.

Mr. NIELSEN: You prefaced your remark by saying that you were much more familiar with the Mackenzie side than you were with the eastern side.

Mr. LANG: Definitely.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would you care to venture an opinion whether the remarks you just made in reply to my question in connection with the Mackenzie side would be equally applicable to the eastern side?

Mr. LANG: Well, with a smaller population—I am not an expert on that question; but with a smaller population on the eastern side it might be difficult at the present time to find sufficient numbers in that group of 8,000.

Mr. NIELSEN: You mean people who would be capable in your view of fulfilling the functions of elected members?

Mr. LANG: Yes. As far as my opinion goes, and I have done a lot of thinking about it, I think we can get the right approach here. We are starting this off gradually. They have never yet been working in territorial elections, and now they will get a chance for the first time when they elect a national council. I think that is the way they have to go, gradually so they will get a responsible kind of government as people increase in numbers, and they would be able to take it over.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have been following one particular phase of questioning here. I have several other phases to follow, but I am prepared to discontinue my questioning on this particular phase at this time.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time this was under discussion in the territorial council, how much time was spent, from your own experience with council, on this question whether you should change the nature of the council in the number of elected members? How much time was spent by council in discussing this, and whether there were sufficient people capable of forming an all elected council?

Mr. LANG: That is a very difficult question to answer because these meetings took place over a period of three or four years. But there was never any strong objection to this proposed change as I recall it. As to how much time was spent on it I cannot say, because I never did consider that question before. Moreover, it is far too long ago now for me to remember.

Mr. RHEAUME: Presumably at the July session of the territorial council bills C-83 and C-84 were looked at. And there is a section in there to provide that the council shall consist of nine members. I refer to section 9 of Bill C-83, which says:

There shall be a council of the territory consisting of nine members, four of whom shall be appointed by the governor in council and five of whom shall be elected to represent such electoral districts in the territory as are named and described by the commissioner in council.

Presumably when Bill C-83 came before the council, it involved this subject matter. Was this clause not the subject of examination and discussion by the territorial council, whether or not we should still retain four appointees?

Mr. LANG: I do not understand your question. When it came up as far as we understood, it was suggested that when a new election for the Mackenzie territory council should get underway, we would have five constituencies instead of four, and that there would be five elected members and four appointed members. But someone on the Northwest Territories council insisted that we have four elected and five appointed, and continue with that.