

Dr. HARRISON: We have considered that to some length. If we were to send reports of this nature to the Whitehorse and Yellowknife offices and to the British Columbia offices, the western plains office in Calgary, and were to have them released simultaneously with those in Ottawa, then I would think that the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Maritimes and Quebec people would also have sufficient cause for complaint.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am only talking about the property in the Yukon. I am speaking in the name of the local residents who have been up there from twenty to twenty-five years. I would ask that they be given some sort of preference in return for their pioneering.

I am not asking that the people in the Yukon be advised of geological survey reports from the Northwest Territories. I mean for those residents in the area who have lived there for a substantial period of time and who have worked to open up that country.

It is a pretty discouraging sort of thing to have this situation confront them after all those years spent in the field in which you are working.

Dr. HARRISON: I agree, but I also think there is another consideration which has to do with these information circulars. Last year we released information circulars which we thought might contain important economic as well as scientific information on field work, but it happened that they had nothing of primary economic importance. This year, therefore—it was unfortunate that two points of greatest economic interest happened to be the most widely separated, namely, the maritimes and the Yukon. All individuals and companies that are on our mailing list, are advised well in advance when these reports will be released for distribution.

When the aeromagnetic maps were considered to be "hot" or important, the companies had representatives in Ottawa. They used to line up outside our publication office door at nine o'clock on the day of distribution, and they would take the maps and decide from them whether they would prospect, or whether they would telegraph or telephone to their various interests across the country.

This seemed to us to be about the fairest way we could do it.

Mr. NIELSEN: It would not take any time at all to have these reports put in the mail three days before the day of release here—that would be the maximum mailing time to the Mining Recorders' offices in Whitehorse, etc.—so they could be made available in the Mining Records' offices in Whitehorse and the other two Mining Recorders' offices in the Yukon and in Yellowknife; and at the same time the Mining Recorders could be instructed not to open these reports until such and such an hour on such and such a day. In that way everyone would have equal opportunity. But if there is going to be a stampede, a rush, then everybody should have an opportunity to be at the starting line at the same time.

Dr. HARRISON: We will give serious consideration to that thought before the next publication date.

Mr. NIELSEN: Thank you very much.

Mr. HARDIE: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Nielsen has raised a very good point. The same situation occurs in the Northwest Territories, and when the reports are released here in Ottawa the companies in a matter of hours are on the ground staking.

I think, as Mr. Nielsen does, that it would not take very much for the department to send out in advance to the Mine Recorders' offices throughout the areas these reports, with instructions to the Mine Recorder that they are not to be opened before the time they are to be opened here in Ottawa.