

Mr. NIELSEN: I am not speaking of appeals now; I am speaking of cases to be decided within the territories in the first instance.

Mr. LANG: I would be in favour of them being decided in the territories.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am not speaking of the council, but rather the territorial courts with a judge. Should that court and that judge be empowered to sit outside the territories in any other province?

Mr. LANG: On the surface of it I would be against that.

Mr. NIELSEN: I was going to ask this question with regard to the council. Do you feel the council should be required to hold its meetings within the territory?

Mr. LANG: As a rule, yes; but I think council under special circumstances perhaps should be entitled to hold one council session outside the territories, if it is agreeable to the council and the commissioner.

Mr. NIELSEN: In the manner in which the legislation is drawn in Bill C-84, in each year one of the sessions of council convened in that year shall be held in a place in the territories designated by the commissioner on recommendation of council and all other sessions of council convened in that year shall be held at the seat of government of the territory, which is in Ottawa.

Mr. LANG: It would be Fort Smith for the Mackenzie territory.

Mr. NIELSEN: But in the case of Nunassiat it would be Ottawa?

Mr. LANG: Yes. In the evolution of Nunassiat I think it would be very fitting to hold one council meeting in Ottawa because actually Nunassiat's home for some years yet to come would be Ottawa; Ottawa is the most central point of communication. But, I certainly think that there should be one meeting—two meetings a year and I gather the other meetings should be definitely held in Nunassiat.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are you prepared to endorse the suggestion which I make now, that the decision to hold a meeting outside of the Nunassiat territory of the council should be held at a place designated by the commissioner upon the recommendation of council; in other words, if the council wished to have the second meeting within the territory it should be held there?

Mr. TURNER: Are you talking about Nunassiat?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not see any particular objection to that. However, there may be other details involved and I am not too anxious to answer some of these questions as they concern matters to which I have not given any thought. You can often overlook details; I am not a lawyer and my mind does not work as fast. I am not so familiar with—not loopholes—legal terms. I do not think I am qualified to answer that.

Mr. NIELSEN: The Glassco commission has recommended, Mr. Lang, that the jurisdiction now held in the Indian affairs branch with regard to welfare and so on of the Indian people be transferred to the territorial government. Do you agree with that?

Mr. LANG: Would you repeat your question.

Mr. NIELSEN: It was recommended that the jurisdiction of the Indian affairs branch be transferred to the territorial government in respect of welfare matters.

Mr. LANG: I am in favour of that. Of course, we have three races in the territory and I feel that is a waste of effort and expense. For instance, we have welfare cases treated by the Indian agent; Eskimo welfare cases treated by northern affairs and we have the others, which means white and mixed bloods. As you know, there is an overlapping and I am in favour of getting them all under the one.