

Mr. GRAY: Which would seem to imply to me that if this bill were passed in this way you would be better off in that restricted sense than the parliament of Canada, where the appointed members of the Senate have exactly the same powers, with a few exceptions, as the elected members of the house.

Mr. LANG: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: There is no analogy.

Mr. RHEAUME: There are politics here, and there are not politics in the council. Mr. Gray should know that the commissioner has to give assent, and one person can withhold assent.

Mr. TURNER: We have the good fortune of having Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Rheaume with us most of the time; whereas we will not have the opportunity of hearing our friends from the Northwest Territories for too long. Perhaps we can revert to questioning the witnesses.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have another line to follow. Do you favour the present three-year term as opposed to a four-year term?

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I say a four-year term, but that is only my own personal opinion. I think a four-year term gives a man a better chance to pursue the particular things he is anxious to see accomplished. I think three years is a little short for this purpose.

Mr. NIELSEN: Recently there has been the establishment of a three-man advisory committee on finance for Yukon, and the three members are selected or elected from the council; they are not appointed. The council decides which three from their number will compose this committee. The commissioner will sit with this advisory committee on finance while he is preparing his budget for the territory and before it is presented to the department in Ottawa.

Do you think this would be a good idea for the Mackenzie Territory?

Mr. LANG: I have not had very much time to think about that particular matter. When one considers all the conditions involved, one may be dubious; but at first sight I cannot see why it should not be workable.

You mean three members elected by the council to sit with the commission?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not see any objection.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are not familiar with it?

Mr. LANG: No, I am not familiar with it. I am a traveller and a trader, and I am not too familiar with this. We do not deal in politics in the Northwest Territories; we speak up as businessmen and tackle the problems rather than dealing with people of political colours. I hope we can keep it that way for a while.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are missing a lot of fun!

Mr. RHEAUME: But you are probably accomplishing many things.

Mr. NIELSEN: On another aspect, I would like to ask this witness whether he is satisfied with the circumstances surrounding the administration of justice on the Mackenzie side, as far as he is aware of them. Are you satisfied with the machinery that is now set up for administering justice? I am referring in particular to courts.

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I will make no comment on that because I am not really qualified to do so. I cannot say that I am too familiar with the whole set-up; I am not a lawyer. There may be some very intricate situations upon which I would not be quite capable of commenting.

Mr. NIELSEN: I do not request you to comment upon personalities at all. What I am asking is, for instance, do the courts get around the country often