

Mr. LANG: If I understand you rightly, when you ask if there is sufficient, do you mean natives or whites?

Mr. NIELSEN: I mean people such as yourself and your colleagues.

Mr. LANG: Yes, I feel that there are sufficient men in there. I have been living there for a long time. A lot of us are prepared to work in this territory to the best of our ability. But there is also such a thing as having your own business to attend to, and sometimes people simply cannot spare the time which is necessary.

Mr. NIELSEN: We realize that in large measure the federal purse is involved with the payment of an indemnity to councillors who serve on the council. But if the indemnity were adequate do you think there would be any difficulty in obtaining the required number of people as capable as yourself?

Mr. LANG: You mean within the territory?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not think there would be any difficulty. I think we could get sufficient.

Mr. NIELSEN: You think you can?

Mr. LANG: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Well, under the circumstances, for a moment disregarding other considerations, would you think it desirable that if these two new territories were created, that in the Mackenzie side, at any rate, the whole number of elected members of council should be elected by the people, rather than to have five elected and four appointed?

Mr. LANG: I have always been in favour of going slow, and I feel that the system we have in the present council with elected members and a majority of appointed members has been of benefit. But I think the time has come now when we should switch over and get a majority of elected members. I think we have reached that stage. Take a man who has been spending a lot of his time in the territory like myself. However well intentioned I may be, there are a lot of questions I do not understand, such as legal questions and so on. That is why I have always insisted upon retaining some of these appointed members. We have had some excellent members, and I think they have done their very best, and to the best of their ability. I think the system has worked satisfactorily so far.

Mr. NIELSEN: Now I can take it from your answer that the value you place, and rightly so, upon appointed members of the council thus far has been in the excellent advice that the elected members of the council have been able to obtain from their capable civil servants and those who have been appointed to the council?

Mr. LANG: That is quite right, but when you say advice, there are different types of advice. As far as grassroots information goes, they were not advising us. We were advising them. But when it comes to technicalities, we are learning from them, and we accept their advice. Personally I have learned a lot in the six years I have been on the council, and I feel that I am now able to handle questions I was not able to handle when I first joined.

Mr. NIELSEN: If the same kind of advice were made available to you with the same capabilities through the officials of the Department of Northern Affairs and others, when your council sessions were held, just as they are in our own committees here in the House of Commons, would not that same function be followed, would the council not operate just as efficiently if it were elected, depending upon your having sufficient numbers and variety of advisers in order to assist you in your deliberations?

Mr. LANG: Yes, I believe it would, as long as we could find sufficient numbers. I do not see why it should not. I do not see why it would not be