

● (1710)

I have had this private member's bill on the order paper for many years now, and I am thankful that the government is prepared to go to the extent of providing the royal recommendation—which I do not think is necessary and which I will argue if the need arises. However, the government is prepared to provide that, so that the last possible objection of any member, including the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), should be disposed of by it. I hope, Madam Speaker, that we can give second reading to the bill and move it to the committee. In the meantime the government could provide the royal recommendation that may or may not be essential, and then the bill would be acceptable even despite that possible procedural objection.

Having said that, I urge the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre not to stand in the way of Canadian citizens in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories being represented as fully as any other Canadian citizens in parliament by permitting representation in the Senate.

**Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, it is a rare occasion when I can rise to commend the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), as many in this chamber are aware from previous debates, especially for his presentation of his Bill, C-234. It is a unique opportunity for the voice of the north to be heard, and as a northerner myself I have noted the very dense concentration of Senate representation from the heavily populated south. We on this side of the House have no objection to this bill proceeding.

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, we do have a procedural problem at this point. I understand that the debate is coming to a close, and I really do not know how to resolve the problem in the sense that we have to find some way of getting a royal recommendation to apply to a bill not presented by the cabinet, although the cabinet has presented Bill C-3 to the House for which it has obtained a royal recommendation.

I wonder if we could agree to suspend proceedings at this point, if no one else wishes to speak, and once we have had an opportunity to resolve the dilemma perhaps an order could be made so that we could have a vote on it, if necessary, when we have solved the procedural problem of a royal recommendation.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I believe that the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Reid) has raised an interesting point which obviously may take some time to resolve, that is, just how the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), who is not a member of the Privy Council, can obtain a royal recommendation from the Governor General for his bill.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Pull, drag.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Pull? I have not yet found the word pull or the word drag in the British North America Act or in the Standing Orders. But no

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doubt that matter will be resolved if that is the will of the House.

However, I wish to state my opposition to the bill, and let not the hon. member for Yukon or the hon. member for Skeena (Mrs. Campagnolo) suggest that this is a case of speaking against the north. I am opposed to this bill precisely because I do not want to insult the north. I do not want to insult the people of the Yukon or the people of the Northwest Territories by proposing to them that somehow they will be brought into the mainstream of Canadian life because a couple of Liberals are appointed to sit in the Senate on their behalf.

I think that this House did the right thing not many weeks ago when it made provision to increase the representation of the north in this House of Commons so that we will have, in the next parliament, one member for Yukon and two members for the Northwest Territories. This is where representation really counts, this is where the action is. I do not think it is worth anything to the Yukon or to the Northwest Territories to have representation in the other place.

With regard to the argument of the hon. member for Yukon that he might support my proposal to abolish the Senate but in the meantime let us have someone in it from the north, there are lots of things to which I might be opposed in society, but that does not give me the moral right to patronize them while they exist, does it? You can fill in the blank, if you want.

I suggest that the arguments in favour of this bill add up to zero. If it is the will of the House that it be approved either in the name of the hon. member for Yukon or in the name of a cabinet minister, that is the will of the House. But in defense of the dignity and the real rights of the people of the north I say that it is an insult to try to fob off on them the idea that they are brought into the mainstream of Canadian life if they have a couple of Liberals sitting in their name in the other place.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Is it agreed that the bill stand until further consultation?

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is agreed, provided that if the royal recommendation is not obtained we will have the opportunity to submit arguments on the procedural point involved.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Is it agreed that the bill will hold its order of precedence?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Reid:** Six o'clock.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock tonight.

At 5.20 p.m. the House took recess.

### **AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.