

Mr. NIELSEN: You are speaking of the Northwest Territories, not of the Yukon. There is no licence in the Yukon.

Dr. BOYER: I may be wrong in respect to Yukon, but if it is a matter of technical assistance, such as geologists assisting in courses to prospectors, or the establishing of an assay office, these services could be established by agreement or by arrangement between the Department of Northern Affairs and the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, in the Yukon and the Northwest territories as well. But such services or facilities, to be established, would have to be prompted by the Department of Northern Affairs.

Mr. NIELSEN: I prefaced my remarks by saying that I intend to take it up with Northern Affairs when their estimates come before this committee. Perhaps that would be the best time.

Mr. AIKEN: Last year a question was asked about the carbon dating technique. Has there been any advance in the last year in your equipment?

Dr. HARRISON: I think I mentioned last year the Mines Branch is building this apparatus for us, and we expect it to be completed and ready for calibration tests within a matter of a couple of months. However, we are faced with the problem of probably having to put it into cold storage until we can get into our new building, rather than have to recalibrate it all over again. But it should be operational within six months. We are doing the best we can about it.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the committee would be interested to know, inasmuch as the subject was touched upon by Mr. Nielsen earlier, as to how many parties were recalled earlier that were in the field last year.

Dr. HARRISON: None was recalled early. The wording of the instructions sent from Ottawa was that we have in effect no more money; when you spend what you have, you have to pack up.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you mean early relative to the close of the season?

Dr. HARRISON: Early relative to what they had planned. I am informed that some thirty students—seasonal employees—had their term of employment shortened by this. In other words out of a total of 335 seasonal employees engaged last year 30 only were affected in terms of remuneration.

The CHAIRMAN: What I had in mind was that these parties were called back for one reason or another to Ottawa and you say it was because there was not enough money provided. At what time of the year were they called back and how many parties were involved?

Dr. HARRISON: There were none specifically. They were informed that they could obtain no further advances. However, I should think about eight or nine parties came back early.

The CHAIRMAN: How much too early, and how much longer could they have remained in the field?

Dr. HARRISON: I would think a maximum of ten days.

Mr. NIELSEN: I do not like to contradict, but I think the party in the Yukon came back in August; that is in the Pelly area. The season in the Yukon, short as it is, does permit of field investigations well into September and I am sure the department realizes and appreciates the need for utilizing every single minute north of the sixtieth parallel, because summer is so short and the time available for conducting these surveys is so limited that every advantage should be squeezed out of every available minute.

My suggestion is that, highly desirable as it may be to utilize students for the purposes you have mentioned, if it means cutting the time, then I think surveys should be made by means other than conducting these surveys by students. I think it is imperative to our over-all development north of the sixtieth parallel to squeeze every advantage we can out of every available minute. I would not limit the program. You have already assured the committee that funds will not be the drawback this year.