

○ That is Bill C-212.

—to amend the Yukon Act and the Northwest Territories Act respecting the payment of indemnities and expenses to the members of the Council of the Yukon Territory and of the Northwest Territories; to broaden the powers of the Commissioners in Council respecting the administration of justice and respecting the establishment, maintenance and management of prisons;—

Here are the important words, Mr. Speaker:

—and to increase the size of the respective Councils and the number of members elected thereto;—

Had it been the intention of the recommendation to confine the increase of the council members to the Council of the Northwest Territories, those words would not have been used in the recommendation.

The amendment proposes to increase the size and elected membership of the Yukon council. Under section 15 of the Yukon Act, members of the council are paid an indemnity and travelling expenses. The amendment, therefore, will result in an appropriation of the public revenue. Accordingly, it is a money amendment. As such the expenditures proposed must come within the purpose specified in the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor General as required by section 54 of the British North America Act and Standing Order 52(1).

His Excellency's recommendation in respect of Bill C-212, as I have read it from the bill, appears in *Votes and Proceedings* of May 11, 1970 at page 765. I have already read the text of that recommendation into the record. I repeat the last purpose set out in the first paragraph of the recommendation which reads:

—and to increase the size of the respective Councils and the number of members elected thereto;

The word "councils" in my submission refers back in the paragraph to the words, Council of the Yukon Territory and Council of the Northwest Territories. The earlier purpose also provides for the payment of indemnities and expenses to the members of councils with the result, therefore, that the purpose specified by His Excellency covered increasing the size of membership of the Yukon Council and payment of indemnities and expenses to such members, as well as increasing the size and the membership of the Northwest Territories Council and payment of indemnities and expenses to such members. Indeed, in the bill itself, it will be found that the size and membership of the Northwest Territories Council has been increased.

Yukon and Territorial Lands Act

For whatever reason, the bill does not fulfil the specific purpose of increasing the size and membership of the Yukon Council as specified by His Excellency. The amendment for that purpose, in my submission, is quite in order. It is in order whether it is made by a Minister of the Crown or a member of the House who is not a member of the government. If that were not the case, the recommendation would have been confined and perhaps worded in a fashion similar to the words in the last sentence, and to increase the size of the Council of the Northwest Territories and the number of members elected thereto.

That is not what the recommendation of His Excellency sets forth. It sets forth that the number of members of the respective councils are to be increased in size and membership. It is on the basis of those authorities that I submit the amendment is in order and should be put.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply as follows to the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). The recommendation submitted to His Excellency the Governor General mentioned the possibility of increasing the number of the members of the Councils of both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, but the government when it tabled the bill in the House did not see fit to increase the number of councillors for several reasons.

Moreover, the committee that studied the bill made no recommendation to this effect. Only the hon. member wants to do so today and since the government did not propose this, clearly a member of the House cannot propose something involving considerable expenditures of public funds without government approval.

At this time, an increase of the number of councillors would involve such increased expenditures.

For this reason, I submit that the hon. member is not entitled to present such a proposal to the House, but only a minister of the Crown and no member of the cabinet has seen fit to do so.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that these amendments would be before us today. Therefore, I was not aware that there would be another opportunity to get into a debate