

Mr. LANG: I would agree to mutual visits.

Mr. NIELSEN: Assuming that the council was wholly elected, in your view how many members should there be to adequately represent the district?

Mr. LANG: I do not think five members could adequately represent this area. I think another member will be required when Pine Point comes into the territory.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would seven members be sufficient?

Mr. LANG: I think seven members would be sufficient at this time, but not permanently. You must remember that this is a very large territory. For the moment I think seven members could adequately represent the area. The northern constituencies are very large, but conditions in the Mackenzie delta are such that an individual could represent a constituency of perhaps Yellowknife, Pine Point and Tungsten, once that area is revived. I should say at the present time seven members would be sufficient.

Mr. GRAY: I gather from the remarks which have been made, Mr. Lang, that you and your colleagues are basically satisfied with the clause of the bill as it presently exists even though you hope ultimately to have all elected members to the council, is that right?

Mr. LANG: Are you suggesting that I am satisfied with four elected and four appointed members?

Mr. GRAY: Yes.

Mr. LANG: Yes. I can only speak for myself, but I am certainly satisfied with that suggestion at the present time. I do hope that within three years we will have six elected members rather than five.

Mr. TURNER: You would hope for a ratio of six to three?

Mr. LANG: No, six to three or seven to two.

Mr. GRAY: In other words, rather than having an all elected council at this time you would prefer to move forward step by step, adding one elected member every two or three years?

Mr. LANG: Yes, that is my point of view. Perhaps I am old fashioned, but I cannot change my view in this regard.

Mr. GRAY: So far as you are aware are you expressing a view similar to that held by other people of the western Arctic?

Mr. LANG: I do not think all people will agree with any idea, but certainly the majority are of the opinion I express. I have not heard complaints regarding the number of elected members and the number of appointed members, and I think this suggestion would meet with the general approval of the people. So far as I am aware this suggestion would not meet with protest on the part of my constituents.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Lang, if all elected members combined they would represent the majority. Would you not be better off, as is the parliament of Canada, to have an appointed Senate and a House of Commons?

Mr. LANG: There has never been a situation where the elected members were against the appointed members as you have suggested. Each individual expresses his opinion and supports the point of view with which he is in agreement. Of course, on many occasions appointed members will vote with elected members against other elected members, and vice versa.

Mr. GRAY: The point about which I am trying to question you—and I am following Mr. Nielsen's procedure and approach to phrasing questions—is that in the case of some conflict between the appointed members and the elected members, the elected members would have the majority, so they could prevail.

Mr. LANG: In the new council.