

Council are responsible persons or they are not. If the minister agrees with me that they are responsible persons, then surely they should be sufficiently responsible to have the authority to set the amount of their own indemnity and expenses. As I mentioned in my remarks yesterday, they have their electors to answer to if they abuse that responsibility. So far as the appointed members are concerned, they have the minister to answer to. There is always the inherent fiscal control.

It would be out of order for me to move an amendment but the one I would move if I could and keep within the rules would have the effect of deleting this section entirely. This would have no effect other than to place in the hands of the commissioner and council the power to set their own indemnity and expenses, because by clause 4 of the bill the commissioner and council are given the power to make expenditures of money for territorial purposes.

By the deletion of clause 3 of the bill the effect would be that the commissioner and council would have the power that this parliament is now providing with regard to the setting of indemnities. I take that position. We will get to the wording of clause 4 of the bill in a moment but it has a bearing on clause 3. As the minister well knows, the relevant provision in the Yukon Act is somewhat as follows: The expenditure of territorial funds and such portion of any moneys appropriated for the territory as the commissioner is authorized to spend by and with the advice of council. If that were the wording used in clause 4 and if clause 3 were deleted, the effect would be to place in the hands of the elected representatives of the people and the commissioner the power to set their own indemnity, a situation which I suggest to the members of the committee is the only acceptable one in keeping with the powers and responsibilities of any representative institution.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 4—*Money*.

Mr. Nielsen: With regard to clause 4, sir, I draw the attention of members of the committee to the companion clause in the legislation governing the power of the commissioner and council to make expenditures of money for territorial purposes in the Yukon Act. I find there that the wording I have put on the record is the desirable legislative

power which should be given to the commissioner and council of the Northwest Territories.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 5—*Northwest Territories consolidated revenue fund*.

Mr. Nielsen: I asked the hon. member for the Northwest Territories a question after he finished his remarks the other day, Mr. Chairman. I asked him whether he would agree with me that the legislation as it stands now gives to the commissioner and council the power to introduce a money bill and that by adopting the amendments proposed by clause 5 of this bill that right would be taken away. The hon. member for the Northwest Territories did not agree with that proposition. For his benefit and for the benefit of members of the committee let me point out the existing provisions of the Northwest Territories Act in section 19. Section 19 (3), which hon. members will find in the explanatory notes of the bill reads as follows:

The Commissioner in Council may make ordinances providing for the expenditure of money for territorial purposes—

● (1:10 p.m.)

It goes on to cover other matters which are not relevant to this argument. It is clear, therefore, that under existing legislation the Commissioner in Council has the power to introduce money bills. What are we doing by the amendment? I would ask hon. members to read the new section 19A in clause 5 which is to be found on page 3 of the bill. It states:

It shall not be lawful for the Council to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue of the Territories, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the Council by message of the Commissioner in the session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill is proposed.

I think the hon. member for the Northwest Territories must now agree with the proposition I put to him yesterday. The hon. member shakes his head, indicating that he does not. Nothing could be clearer. The existing legislation allows the Commissioner in Council to introduce money bills. The hon. member must agree with that. The new section 19A in clause 5 of the bill before us would take away that right. Nothing could be clearer. In other words, we move from a situation where the legislative body in the Northwest Territories now has the power to introduce money bills affecting their own affairs, to a