

boys in various jobs as they leave our schools, and they will be graduating in great numbers in the next few years.

Do you see any reason why the federal government, or the federal department operating in the north right now should not be doing this?

Mr. LANG: We discussed that subject at various times in the council and we came to the conclusion that the territorial government taking over the civil service would lean more towards accepting youngsters and giving them credit for being born in the Northwest Territories and knowing conditions there. Also we felt that if we could send our own boys and girls out and educate them, they would be more likely to come back and stay in the territory. And we felt that as far as the federal civil service examinations were concerned, if our boys and girls had to take them, they would be under a handicap because they were brought up in the territories and there were many things down here which they did not understand.

Many of those people in the north lack the early home training that white children outside get in a good white home. So we felt if we could establish a slightly different rule when we took over, or when our territorial government took over, we might establish a slightly more favourable rule under which to accept these youngsters and give them credit for being born in the territories and of knowing conditions there better.

Mr. RHÉAUME: You feel that the federal government cannot or is not doing this under the present set up?

Mr. LANG: They are not prepared to do it with the small number of people coming from the north. If they have a federal civil service examination, they are not going to give people of the Northwest Territories any benefit from being born there. They demand the same from them as they do from those who were born outside. I think some of our people are just as intelligent as white people. But they would only suffer from having been born in the territories if they are going to have to make a living down here. I say that the federal government would not be prepared to treat them differently, or give them any benefit. So I feel we are ready when I say that we would like to see our territorial government take over the civil service.

Mr. RHÉAUME: At the time this was discussed in the council meeting, what timing was suggested for the territorial government to operate its own federal services in the area which you are discussing now?

Mr. LANG: When I brought the matter up I suggested that it be done as soon as possible after the territorial government took over in the new Mackenzie territory.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I would like to ask if any schedule was presented to the council indicating it would be likely that the new council or the new government of the Mackenzie territory would be in a position to do this, and if any information was suggested to the council when this might occur?

Mr. LANG: No, not that I recall. It may have been done, but I do not recall that it was. We all expressed the desire that we get along with it and that it be done as soon as possible. But we all realized that there were many difficulties to overcome. I do not remember any special date or time being mentioned. I would not want to say no, but it is just that I do not recall.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Lang, do you agree with Mr. Justice Sissons when he says that there are intelligent people in the Mackenzie area of the Northwest Territories who are capable of fulfilling the functions of elected councillors as such which you and your colleagues appear to do, and do you think there are sufficient numbers to form a council of whatever size might be set up in the Mackenzie territory within reason?