

It is a downright insult to the citizens of northern Canada to suggest that, by giving them these two spots in the other place, we are doing something for them. In his speech before lunch the hon. member for Northwest Territories suggested that one ombudsman for that area would be of far more value to the people of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories than two northern Liberals sitting in the other place. If this House is determined, as apparently it is, to go through with this proposition, I suppose it will do so, and we should not spend too much time on it. However, let us not think we are doing anything concrete for the north, or for Canada, by increasing the size of the other place.

This leads me to say that what we should be doing about the other place is to reduce its numbers, not increase them. I noted the comments made by the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan) about the report of the joint committee on the constitution of Canada. I do not blame him for standing up and boasting of the fact that that committee made representations respecting the Senate. As he knows, the Senate barely survived the discussions and the vote in that committee. Instead of a recommendation to increase the number of Senators from some parts of the country, there might well have been a recommendation that it be abolished.

At this point, I should like to do, as I always do quite sincerely in this kind of a speech, that is put in my caveat about this not being criticism of individuals in the other place. There are some over there who are more hard-working than some individuals in this place. I see them around here. They are on the job. They are sincere in what they are trying to do. It is the whole idea that persons who are not elected and not responsible to anyone, not even to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who recommended them in the first place, or to the Governor General who summons them there, should have a say in the passing of the laws of this country equal with the say that is given to us who are elected by our people and are responsible to them—it is that whole idea I criticise.

There are one or two things about the bill that should be looked at in committee if it gets past second reading. As has been pointed out, it is a requirement of the British North America Act that Senators shall have a certain residence requirement. In Section 23(5) of the British North America Act there appear these words: "He shall be a resident of the province for which he is appointed." By passing this bill are we going to declare that the Yukon is a province and that the Northwest Territories will be regarded as a province? Where will these persons reside? There is nothing on that in Bill C-3.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): "Notwithstanding anything—"

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Do you find anything that says "notwithstanding"?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes, "notwithstanding anything contained in the British North America Act".

Mr. Buchanan: We used to have members from the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In the Senate?

Senate Representation

Mr. Buchanan: Yes, four of them.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You are talking about the Northwest Territories when they included the part of the country that the member for Edmonton West and I now represent.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes, but they have not changed. All they did was put in provincial boundaries.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I might say that at one time we had members of a second chamber in the province of Manitoba, as they did in Nova Scotia, but in those provinces we got sensible a long time ago and got rid of them. The last remaining upper House in a provincial legislature was in Quebec, and they got rid of it a short while ago.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is irrelevant.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The hon. member says it is irrelevant, but I do not see anything in those words that gets around the requirements of the British North America Act with respect to the Senate. If the hon. member is trying to say that those words in the first line wipe out the residential qualification, do they also wipe out the qualification that the Senator must have \$4,000 worth of real property?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I would think so.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Do they also wipe out the requirement that he must be at least 30 years of age?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Presumably.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is great legal advice I am getting on the constitution.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It says "notwithstanding", almost even the title.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is very interesting legal advice that is coming from the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), and when it is free you look at it a second time.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes; but, Stanley, you are just thinking on your feet now.

An hon. Member: Wait until you get the bill.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have it in front of me. I will give my interpretation of this, and I will also give it free. The phrase "notwithstanding" relates to what this bill does, which is to increase the number who sit in the other place. At the present time the British North America Act sets a limit on the number that can be in the other place, normally 102, plus a certain group that can be added for emergency reasons. All that "notwithstanding" does is set aside that number and permit the House to increase the number of persons in the other place.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That may be one interpretation.