

*The Senate*

**Mr. Nielsen:** We can at least make it representatively wrong.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I am not sure what kind of representation they would get. In my view there are 25 or 30 over there who work, who are around this building at weekends and at night as I am—but only a handful. By the law of averages, two more will produce about one-third of a person so far as work is concerned.

I think my hon. friend from the Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) hit the nail on the head when he said we do not want senators from the north appointed without responsibility to anybody; we would far rather have one more MP. I am glad to see there is a going notion in all parties in the House that the time has come for that cry to be heard, particularly in an area the size of that which the hon. member for Northwest Territories represents.

The hon. member for Yukon says, let us have representation. Mr. Speaker, it is an insult to the northerners to say they would be represented if they had two appointed people in the other place. He himself is not sure who they would be and, as is perfectly consistent with the course of history, he thinks these appointments may well be used to kick upstairs some individuals who are difficult and embarrassing. Many times has that been used in the provinces when somebody in the cabinet has to be dismissed. Once upon a time we had a Deputy Speaker whom Mr. King could not stand, so he put him in the Senate.

**Mr. Nielsen:** A few cabinet ministers, too.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** It was never done to a Speaker but in my early days it was done to a Deputy Speaker. Do you call that representation, to have a place where the government of the day can put in a couple of people with whom it is having trouble up in the north?

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is equality of treatment of all Canadians.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** This business of letting the northerners have all the things we have in southern Canada can be carried a bit far.

**Mr. Nielsen:** What is wrong with that? We are Canadians.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Well, down here we have all kinds of pollution; shall we give that to the north as well?

**Mr. Nielsen:** You can keep that.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We have urban sprawl and traffic problems.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Keep all those.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We have all kinds of things in southern Canada that they do not have in the north. Is that any reason why they should have them? In the same vein, we have Senators. Is that any reason why they should have to bear them as well? Not at all. After all, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Yukon who has got in bed with the Liberals for the purpose of getting this bill through—

**Mr. Nielsen:** I might even go further.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** With the new hairdo that the hon. member has, I do not know what he might do.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, to me it is an insult to the northerners to say that this means anything to them. As my hon. friend with the new hairdo has said, it will be a matter of appointments made by the government of the day and any chance of having real representation just is not in the picture. Even if they did appoint persons, who might be true northerners—and my friend the hon. member for Northwest Territories says that no self-respecting northerner would accept such an appointment—once such a person got there, like all the rest of the senators he would be responsible to no one. No senator in the other place today is responsible to any group of people in Canada. He is not even responsible to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who recommended his appointment to the Governor General. He is there on his own until age 75, yet he has his say in the political processes of this country.

I have said it is a bit of an insult. We are not unknown around this place to quote things we have said in the past. I have heard it done by some others and I am reminded of something I said in front of radio and television reporters on the question of the Senate. They were quizzing me quite thoroughly on my opposition to the Senate and I was laying down the law that I had no use for it. Finally a sharp journalist said to me, "Mr. Knowles, would you feel the same way about the Senate if M. J. Coldwell or Mr. Douglas were over there?"

**Mr. Nielsen:** Or Hazen Argue.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The question was put to me the way I put it, Mr. Speaker. The name the hon. member has mentioned does not figure in this story. It does not figure at all as far as I am concerned. He has a new hairdo, too. At any rate, when the reporter said to me, "Mr. Knowles, would you not feel happier about the Senate if M. J. Coldwell or Tommy Douglas were over there?" I simply said, "M. J. Coldwell and Tommy Douglas are two of my best friends and I resent the insult that they should even be thought of for the other place." I submit, therefore, that those of us who have any interest in the welfare of the northern people of this country should look upon this thing with the derision that we are giving to it tonight, that it is an insult to them of the first order.

I am interested in the fact that although there is a direct reference in the bill to a senator being named for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, it seems to be coupled with that special power that is in the British North America Act which enables the government to pack the other place. It is not necessary any more; one side has such an overwhelming majority there is no sense in packing it. When the Tories did get control of this House, and started appointing people to the Senate, their time ran out before they got anywhere. Even when the Tories were in power they could not get back their majority. But there is a provision in the British North America Act that the government of the day may appoint four or eight extra sena-