

Mr. LANG: I brought it up right here in Ottawa in January, 1956. It was accepted favourably by the council at that time. They all realized that this question was a big one and that it required careful consideration. They proceeded to look into several questions. At every meeting since, this matter has been brought up for discussion. Since that time we have had a new council elected, and the new council also appeared to be in favour of this division.

Mr. TURNER: Did the council have an opportunity to inspect the text of the two bills? Did they inspect bills C-83 and C-84?

Mr. LANG: Yes, we had them at our meeting in Inuvik this last summer. They were sent by special delivery. Our then commissioner, Mr. Gordon Robertson, handed out these bills.

Mr. TURNER: What decision did the council take after having inspected those two bills?

Mr. LANG: We were all in favour of passing these bills, and we were asking the federal government to consider these bills in the house. I think that was done. We put in a resolution asking that these bills be considered, intimating that we were all in favour of seeing them passed.

Mr. TURNER: You have mentioned that the people in your own district of Mackenzie delta are in favour of these bills. Has this matter of the division of the territories been discussed widely in the north?

Mr. LANG: Yes, it has. We have some individuals there who are not able to read or write, and I think the percentage of illiterate people is far greater in the east. In a large territory such as that, with a large total population of natives, there are a number of people who do not really understand what the division is about, I will admit that. However, the intelligent natives and the white population are all in favour of it. Whenever they have had it explained to them, they have been in favour of the division. Sometimes an Indian who cannot read or write will come to me and ask, "Are you going to make a new territory?" They mix it up with the game zones, for instance. After an explanation, 90 per cent of them understand.

Mr. TURNER: Has there been any publicity so that people know what is happening in regard to the division of the territories?

Mr. LANG: Yes, there has, Mr. Chairman. It was published, and we did receive a few pencilled notes from here and there. But the northerner is not a man who is a very great writer; he does not believe in writing letters, and as long as things go favourably for him he does not say anything, he is quite content. If it had been, for instance, a matter of Inuvik or Aklavik and caribou, you would have heard everything from everybody. They are not bashful about approaching one on these matters. In this case they were favourable, and their attitude is "why write if it is favourable".

The CHAIRMAN: We have an interpreter if interpretation is required. However, I understand an interpreter is badly required in another place.

Mr. NIELSEN: If anyone speaks French, then I need a translation.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, will we be having any witnesses who will be speaking French?

The CHAIRMAN: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. GRAY: This committee is bilingual. I think all the members are bilingual.

The CHAIRMAN: Then the interpreter can perhaps carry on. Mr. Turner?

Mr. TURNER: I have no further questions to ask.

Mr. RHÉAUME: On page 2 of your brief in the second paragraph you say:

We also hope that the new Mackenzie Territory government can take over most of the civil service and absorb some of our own girls and