

• (2:30 p.m.)

But that power of dissolution should be with the council itself and not with the Governor General, so that the council members themselves would have some idea of how long they will be there and what sort of planning they can undertake. The minister said that if there were a lot of quarrels among the councillors which they could not resolve, they would have to be settled from Ottawa. That will not bring organization to self-government. The councillors must be at least able to plan ahead, and in many cases they will have to plan contrary to the government in Ottawa.

The problem with Indian Affairs and Northern Development is that Ottawa has always had the power to make the final decisions, and it seems to be retaining that power. In this particular case I think the final decision should rest with the council. I could see some logic in a slight reversal of the government's proposal. I could see some logic in the council recommending to the Governor General that it be dissolved, in the same manner as happens in this House.

There is a provision in the bill that the Governor in Council may, after consultation with the council, dissolve a council at any time. Consultation is a word that can be used in a very loose way. In this case it could merely mean Ottawa saying, "We intend to dissolve the council," and the council replies, "No, we don't like that." Then the government can say, "Well, we have consulted with you, and you are out."

The council should have a reasonable length of time in which to plan. I really do not understand the minister's attitude with regard to this amendment. I thought he would come forward and say, "We want the council to have the maximum amount of self-determination. We want to give you, the council, all the power to run the show, and we will sit in the background and let you work it out." But the minister did not say that.

This power, albeit the minister says he is not likely to use it and no other minister is likely to use it, is still there. If he is not going to use it, then it should not be held as a club over members of the Territorial Council to make them fall in line with policies directed from Ottawa. I think it would be reasonable to accept the amendment and allow the council to try to work things out without a club being held over them from Ottawa. There is this threat to dissolve the council any time it

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incurs the royal displeasure, and His Majesty, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, exercises the final power.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like about two minutes to add a footnote to the remarks made by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien). I suppose that what I want to do is put in one paragraph that should have been in his speech but that he must have forgotten. He said that in this institution when we get at loggerheads and people decide, and he wants things to be that way in the north. I wonder if he has forgotten February, 1968, when we were at loggerheads in this House and the opposition, by a majority vote, defeated a government measure, a certain 5 per cent tax bill. According to the dictum given by the minister today the public should have had a chance to decide then, but somebody overruled that and we stayed here, and even the description of what happens in such a situation got changed in the Canada Year Book. I think that should be made part of the record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay?

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred. The House will now consider Motion No. 3. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), seconded by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) moves:

That Bill C-212, an act to amend the Yukon Act, the Northwest Territories Act and the Territorial Lands Act, be amended by striking out lines 12 to 15 on page 1 and substituting the following:

"longer, but the Governor in Council may at any time, after consultation with the council where he deems such consultation to be practicable or, otherwise, after consultation with each of the members of the Council with whom consultation can then be effected, dissolve the Council and cause a new Council to be elected."