

there now right up to the top at Sugluk, where a huge development is going to begin to mine asbestos and nickel, and they want to discuss a further extension of the services and to take over the responsibility in respect of these people.

Our attitude will be that we will be very happy to talk with the Quebec government but, again, we are going to insist upon full and complete consultation with the Eskimo folk before any changes are made in the present arrangements.

Mr. NIELSEN: I did not hear the reply to the question asked by Mr. Orange with regard to these two bills.

Mr. LAING: Well, I do not think I gave a very definite reply. In the case of the Carrothers report, I said that I thought it would be reported to the House first; with regard to the bills, if the members of the committee were to express a desire to discuss the bills I take it that there would be no attempt to refuse them. But, I think the House would have to pass a motion to refer the bills.

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes, this is so. But, this, of course, would not be necessary, I would suggest, if it were your intention to ask the House to refer these two bills to this committee. It makes a difference in what I would be proposing, if it is the Minister's intention to do this. If it is not I will have a different kind of proposal to make. I do not want to place the Minister in a position where his back is against the wall, in answering this question now, but I would like some indication of his intention.

Mr. LAING: Well, I would sooner have my back against the wall than my face. My back is not against the wall in this matter; I want to look at this and determine what is best—and, when I say that, I mean best for the territories. I will consider whether or not reference be made here. It very well could be.

Mr. NIELSEN: I spoke with the speaker of the Yukon Council this morning. He indicated that it likely would be the wish of the members of the council to appear before this committee in order to express their views and subject themselves to questioning by members of the committee not only with respect to the contents of the bills in question but also with respect to that phase of the Minister's responsibility which he covered on page 6 of his introductory statement, namely the Political Development of the Yukon.

I think it would be more expeditious if the members of the council could appear before this Committee while the bills were under discussion. I would imagine the members of the Northwest Territories Council—at least, the elected members anyway—would probably like to express their views. It would be more expeditious to hear them on the bills; but, if it is not the intention to refer the bills, then it would be more efficient if they were called to testify on item 1 of these estimates. Of course, this places me in the position where I have to make the necessary motion to the committee at the proper time. That is the reason I am asking for some kind of indication.

Mr. LAING: Would you give us a few days to think that one over, while we are leaning against the wall.