

EVIDENCE

(Recorded by Electronic Apparatus)

Thursday, July 3, 1969.

• 1019

The Vice-Chairman: Gentlemen, I call the meeting to order.

We have before us today Bill S-32, An Act respecting The Canada North-west Land Company (Limited) and Bill S-39, an Act respecting Boy Scouts of Canada and to incorporate L'Association des Scouts du Canada. Mr. Ian Wahn who is the sponsor of Bill S-32 will introduce the Parliamentary Agent on the first bill dealing with The Canada North-west Land Company.

The preamble reads as follows:

Whereas The Canada North-west Land Company (Limited), hereinafter called "the Company", has by its petition prayed that it be enacted as hereinafter set forth, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the petition: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

That is the preamble. Mr. Wahn.

Mr. Wahn: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the Parliamentary Agent, Mr. Marcel Joyal.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Joyal.

Mr. Joyal: Thank you. It is just a matter of coincidence, I believe, Mr. Chairman, but there are two bills which are before you today and I happen to be Parliamentary Agent for both of them.

On this Canada North-west Land Company (Limited) Act—you have the draft of the bill before you—it is simply an expedience whereby this Company, which has been incorporated by a private act of Parliament where there is absolutely no reason at all why it should be under private statute, would be enabled upon the adoption of this particular Clause 22 to apply to the Corporations Branch, constitute itself as a letters patent corporation, and thereafter never have to come back to Parliament whenever it requires any changes in its corporate status.

I have with me the President and the Chief Executive Officer of Canada North-west, Mr. Graham Gemmell, who is on my immediate right, in the event that you might have some questions to ask of him relating to the Company and its current operations. It is an old, old charter as you can see from the Preamble, and the powers, provisions and all sorts of other stipulations in it are becoming increasingly obsolete. There is no doubt that the time has come when all that carapace must be discarded so that the Company can become a very neatly structured small company, which it is, to continue with its oil and gas explorations and development operations.

That is about all I have to say.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Clerk, I would like to ask you for some guidance. In reading the Preamble, is it only the first paragraph that constitutes the Preamble?

The Clerk: That is right.

The Vice-Chairman: Not the whole thing.

The Clerk: No.

The Vice-Chairman: I just wanted to be technically right.

Mr. Joyal: I am sorry. I should have said that the opening words of Clause 1 disclose that it is an old company.

The Vice-Chairman: Yes. I thought that perhaps we were wrong in not including that in the reading of it. Are there any questions, gentlemen, for Mr. Joyal or Mr. Gemmell?

Preamble agreed to.

On Clause 1.

Mr. Peters: On Clause 1, could I ask why it is necessary to drop a fairly extensive private act for letters of patent and just why it is necessary to go through this procedure?

Mr. Gemmell: The main purpose is to give us flexibility in future operations. The things that were in our charter included many unnecessary things which might in the future hold us back. For example, in the original charter we were allowed to build telephone