

Appointment and functions of lieutenant governor. Power to him to make laws.

The second is:

Proviso.

Then the next one is:

Instructions to lieutenant governor.

The next one:

Appointment of council to lieutenant governor.

The next one:

Existing laws to remain in force.

The next one:

Public officers to retain offices.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, but I believe the committee understands the difficulty. As far as the evidence is concerned, there is an entanglement concerning the laws as they may have existed in the last century. I believe that if we are reconstituted in the next session we could then hear, if necessary, evidence on this.

We should now hear Mr. de Weerdts as he has to catch a plane tonight to return to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SIMPSON: I do not want to hold this up any longer but some mention was made here that this might come up again after Christmas. If we determine that the judge was not correct in his evidence, I would suggest that since he has gone back up north we should give him an opportunity to tell us where he found this. If someone said there is no legislation on this matter, and the judge had made reference to this legislation, I do not doubt the judge could produce this evidence if he were given an opportunity. We cannot sit here and decide whether he was right or wrong without giving him an opportunity to speak on this.

The CHAIRMAN: We will proceed with the best evidence available. If there is a rebuttal to whatever evidence we may hear, it may come from other persons than the judge himself, but if the judge is required we can discuss that. The committee is entitled to the best evidence available.

Mr. SIMPSON: It does not matter to me.

The CHAIRMAN: I now invite Mr. de Weerdts to make a statement to the committee.

Mr. M. M. DE WEERDT (*West Baffin Eskimo Co-Operative Limited*): Thank you, sir. Gentlemen, my task here today is to represent the interests of West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Limited, as instructed by Pingwartok, president of that organization.

He has sent me this telegram. It is headed "extra rush, Cape Dorset", addressed to me in Yellowknife:

Please be advised that we are most concerned over possible changes in the administration of laws pertaining to Eskimo rights and customs in particular regarding game that may occur as a result of proposed territorial divisions. We would request that you speak on our behalf to those people proposing this territorial division—signed Pingwartok, president, West Baffin Co-operative Limited.

Before I proceed, let me introduce myself and explain a few relevant facts concerning the co-operative. I have been solicitor to the co-operative since 1961 and an honorary member of it. Since I anticipate some questioning later, I might as well tell you that I live at Yellowknife, the very heart of present development in the Northwest Territories; my family and I are settled there, I have my offices there in partnership with Mr. David Searle, whom you heard