

feel the committee would not be fulfilling its functions. What I was doing was laying the groundwork for certain questions which I intend to ask Mr. Lang by expressing my own views. I then intended to ask Mr. Lang whether in view of his knowledge of the situation and people in the Northwest Territories he agreed with those views.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nielsen, while the witness is before this committee we should ask him questions. We can choose another time to deliberate and express our points of view. I do not think we should take the time of this committee, while witnesses are appearing before it, to express our own points of view. We will have all the time we require to deliberate and express viewpoints after we have heard witnesses, but at this time I think it is only fair and proper to ask the witnesses questions in an attempt to find out what they think about this bill so that at some future time we can come to some proper conclusion.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is precisely what I have had in mind, Mr. Chairman. I think you have misconstrued my intention. I did not intend to contribute to any deliberation at this time. I was putting my view to the witness and intended to ask the witness, in light of his knowledge of the people and area, whether he agreed with my viewpoint.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, you may continue.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Lang, I do not know whether my trend of thought has remained with you, but I should like to ask you the following question. My feeling is that there should be a council of five or perhaps seven, depending upon your knowledge of the geography and people living in the various areas of the Mackenzie district, who are wholly elected, without appointed members on the council, with the proviso that the indemnities are sufficient to attract men of the calibre to which you have referred. I am sure there are men of this calibre in the Northwest Territories capable of fulfilling the function of the elected members to the council. I would also add the proviso, that the council be assured of technical advice and assistance which is now available to them through the guise of appointed members to the council in much the same fashion as the council of the Yukon Territories now operates. I recommend a wholly elected body having the assurance that it will be provided with technical advice and assistance on the part of the department, the territorial government, as well as the other assistance now provided. If these assurances were forthcoming, do you feel that your constituents in the Mackenzie area would welcome the opportunity of having a fully elected, not wholly responsible council, without appointed members? I do not suggest that this elected body would have control of the purse strings.

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question. Am I allowed to ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish an explanation of the question?

Mr. LANG: Yes. What is the ratio of natives to white men in the Yukon Territory?

Mr. NIELSEN: I will answer your question after I have made the following observation.

Mr. LANG: And when you do, perhaps I will be able to answer your question.

Mr. NIELSEN: The ratio of eligible native electors in the Yukon is about 1,000 in 6,000. There are approximately one sixth of the total who are native.

Mr. LANG: That is approximately 18 per cent.