

Northern Canada Power Commission Act

hon. member for New Westminster are even too big for that. There was deliberate distortion by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard).

An hon. Member: He is here now.

Mr. Nielsen: I am glad. He and others distorted the facts. They charged that the Conservative party—

Mr. Howard (Skeena): That is not true.

Mr. Nielsen: If the hon. member would return to his seat and make his interjection, I would be happy to join issue with him.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): And what would the hon. member do?

Mr. Nielsen: You cannot just charge—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the two hon. gentlemen want to have a private conversation, they might do so while both are in their places. Meanwhile, would the hon. gentleman kindly address the Chair.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They could both go behind the curtain.

Mr. Nielsen: If the hon. member wishes, I could join him in the corridor. He has charged, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservative party's intention is to kill the bill.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: That is the intention of the people of the Yukon, the population that I have an obligation to speak for in this debate. I am expressing the views of the Yukon population, just as the hon. member for Skeena might express the views of his constituents.

Mr. Ryan: If he knew them.

An hon. Member: He hopes to be leader of his party.

Mr. Nielsen: I can tell the hon. member that the Chamber of Mines, the Chamber of Commerce, the Prospectors' Association and, he will be interested to know, the labour movement in the Yukon do not like the idea—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: —of having the revenues generated as a result of their consumption of power in the Yukon going to pay for government extravagance in Frobisher Bay, Cambridge Bay and other places throughout the system.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: The truck drivers, the mechanics, the carpenters and the plumbers, who pay electric light bills far in excess of anything the hon. member has ever experienced, do not like it. That is why they want this bill turned down.

● (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Would the hon. member permit a question? Would he identify the section of the labour movement to which he referred?

[Mr. Nielsen]

Mr. Nielsen: Certainly. I have in my office a telegram from Local 31 of the Teamsters. Ottawa members certainly cannot say that is not part of the labour movement. The Buildings Trades Council in the Yukon is just as upset as all the little people in the Yukon who have asked me to express these views. They think it is not fair to pay the same kind of tax that every other Canadian pays and, in addition, to have foisted upon them the cost of supporting the revenue-losing areas of commission-operated plants throughout the north. That is their objection. What could be unreasonable about that kind of objection?

I would inform the hon. member for Skeena that not only this party does not want this bill. It is not only me who does not want this bill. The people of the Yukon who use the power do not want this bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Surely that is not an unreasonable position to take. All members of this House should listen to this kind of report. If they do not, the much-worn, threadbare phrase of "participatory democracy" will not mean a hell of a lot.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I think I have once again placed the matter in proper perspective. Coincidentally, the views I am expressing are the views of my party, because I solicited their support. I also solicited the support of the Cr ditiste party. They all support the wishes of the people of the Yukon which I have expressed in this debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I hope hon. members will see fit to vote for the amendment so that the government will at least have an opportunity to consider something which is universally considered to be undesirable in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question? All those in favour of the amendment please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

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

Some hon. Members: Nay.

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

Some hon. Members: On division.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment lost. The question is now on the main motion.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting to see the Conservative party chicken-out after the declaratory speech we just heard.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. One cannot let a baseless assertion like that pass unchallenged. The only reason this party is passing the legislation, on division, is to save the time which would be required in recording a vote, particularly in view of the fact we had one recorded vote this afternoon.