

Mr. GREGOIRE: They never heard about it so that they would not bother with it.

Mr. LANG: Some of them have. They certainly heard about Quebec but they have not heard of that particular question about the islands off Quebec. They are beginning to get wise to that. Eventually I will see what their opinion is and may answer your questions but today I cannot answer the question conscientiously.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have a new line of questioning getting away from the islands.

Mr. GRAY: I want to follow this up briefly. To clarify this, Mr. Lang, your constituency, is that the part marked here on this map? What part of the map do you represent now? Would you show it to us on the map?

Mr. RHEAUME: It would be helpful if, in the provision of maps for the committee, we had a map of the existing constituencies and the existing set-up rather than the proposed map.

Mr. LANG: At the present time this is the proposed new constituency. My old constituency went roughly around here.

Mr. TURNER: Can you describe the places for the reporter to put them down?

Mr. LANG: My constituency goes from the far east and it includes Paulatuk and Stanton. It then goes south across the country and out to Good Hope. It does not take in Port Franklin.

Mr. GRAY: The population of your constituency does not come anywhere near the area that Mr. Gregoire was asking about. Is that right?

Mr. LANG: I think I pointed out to Mr. Gregoire that the people of my constituency had never heard about these islands. They have heard of Quebec but not about this question. You cannot blame them. Eventually this question will become a little more familiar to them and they may express an opinion. I do not feel I can express an opinion on behalf of my constituents without consulting them.

Mr. GRAY: If they do not have an opinion now it is not because they do not consider it important; it is because they are so far away from it.

Mr. LANG: They do not understand it.

Mr. GREGOIRE: Mr. Lang, do you not think it is time, while they do not bother too much about a fact like this one, to put in a new frontier while this is not a problem for them?

Mr. LANG: I gather you would like to see it settled now at this particular time.

Mr. GREGOIRE: It would be the best time to settle it.

Mr. LANG: But I just cannot see that this particular question is involved in what we are supposed to be discussing. As long as Nunassiat is a territory, the borders are not changed anywhere and this does not change the status of these islands.

Mr. NIELSEN: It is involved to this extent that if there are qualified electors resident on those islands, for instance off the coast of Quebec, are they going to be entitled to vote in the Nunassiat elections?

Mr. LANG: I can see complications here.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I would like to explain something to you on the map so that you can see it. The shore all around here, in Hudson Bay, in the province of Quebec, or in Ontario and in James Bay, is about two miles wide between low and high tide. The part where there is no water at low tide is the part we are discussing. When the tide is low, you are inside the northern territory. That is