

million dollars. There are other cases where there are large landowners in northern Alberta, where the land is not productive. If you are going to visit representative reserves within a limited number of 10 or 12 some attention has to be paid to regional differences, as well, because the situation is that in many of those instances the Indians are not living on those reserves and yet they are drawing income from them. You have situations, such as at Caughnawaga, where they are residents on the reserve but earning their money off it. These things should be borne in mind if you are going to balance out and get your so-called, Indian problem before your eyes.

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment on the last point or two raised by Mr. Baldwin on the duration of the Committee. This particular Committee is not the only House committee that is, as it were, in mid-stream on various matters. The Northern Affairs Committee, for example, is also in the middle of certain things. It does seem to me that there would be little difficulty in obtaining agreement among the members of the Committee, through our respective party house leaders—if we urge that steps be taken because we understand that there will be a new session beginning shortly after the end of the current one—for the speedy reconstitution of the Committees, with probably a renewal of the existing terms of reference where it is appropriate—and I think that it would be, in the case of this committee. That is one point. I feel that the situation should not prevent us, at this time, projecting forward plans beyond the duration of the current session. This is a standing committee of the House and I cannot see why anyone would object to its being reconstituted so that if plans are underway it could visit more distant reserves.

Mr. ORANGE: Mr. Chairman, I am inclined to agree with Mr. Baldwin in spite of Mr. Barnett's optimism. I am just afraid that it will take time to get these things organized once again.

Coming back to what Mr. Laing had to say, that these subcommittees should look at this problem in terms of regions, it seems to me that if we now ask our steering committee to go back and consult with the Minister and members of his department, setting out sort of tentative arrangements whereby we could move and move fairly rapidly, we could meet some of our objectives before the end of this particular session. I think we have to be realistic. We do not have to look on the end of the session as being the expiration of the Committee. Who knows that the Committees on Northern Affairs and Indian Affairs may not be amalgamated, as has been suggested in some quarters?

My view, Mr. Chairman, is that we ask the steering committee to consult with the department and produce some concrete plan for visiting these areas in Canada on a regional basis. Mr. Baldwin and I have talked about this previously and I really think that this is the only way it is going to work.

I cannot see any of the committees coming out in large groups and going into some of the reserves. This would defeat our purpose. If we go into the reserves unobtrusively and have an opportunity to meet and talk with the people we might be able to learn something. I am not too sure whether or not we will, but at least we will have seen it with our own eyes. We will also have had an