

*The Constitution*

by the MacDougalls in the early days. He lived a wonderful life, but one of the things that irked him most was the fact that the white men always talked down their noses to him. He was never accepted as an equal. We must realize that Indian, Metis and Inuits, each with their own cultures, were created by the same God who created us. They bleed when they are pricked as we do. Their women cry when their children die as our women do. We must treat them as equals.

We must recognize their cultures. We should not be trying to make white men of them. We have a culture of which we are proud and have every reason to be proud. I think we should develop our culture, but let us also recognize that the Indian people have a culture as well, a culture that is older than ours. Part of our culture is intertwined with the Indian culture. The Metis people have a culture, a culture that came from Scotland, Ireland, England, France and China along with the Indian culture. Those marriages that brought the Metis into the world had a culture of their own as well. Metis people are not to be considered vagabonds or illegitimates. They must be considered as men and women and recognized as equals. They have the desire to live as we do, to live well.

I would like to speak for a moment about self-government. I see that I only have three more minutes to do so. Our self-government should be an example to the Indian people. When Government Ministers refuse week after week to meet a delegation of Indian people, that does not set a very good example. When the Government refuses to unfreeze the capital moneys, so that Indians have to go out and borrow money to be paid back out of their grants, that is not something of which we can be very proud. When we give money in the form of grants to the Indians, as we did in October for a sewage system and then wonder why the money is wasted, the Indians lose respect for our way of Government.

Yes, I do believe in self-government for Indians, but it should not be imposed upon them. Let them accept it. Let them develop their own particular brand of Government. I must say that when I visit band councils I am amazed by the wisdom of the men and women. There are both men and women on band councils, but my heart bleeds when I see Indian children half-fed and half-clothed, when I see 27 of them in one house which should only accommodate five or six, when I see the standard of living we have subjected them to by closing them off and treating them as unequals. Then I go to our prisons and find that the greater percentage of the prisoners are Indians, many there for trivial matters. I pay tribute to Chester Cunningham of Edmonton, an Indian himself, who is trying to get Indians a proper deal in the courts by helping them to understand what is right and wrong and not trying to shove them into jails for trivial matters. If they do some great wrong, certainly they expect to be punished, but certainly the great percentage of them should not be there.

I welcome these negotiations as well, and I hope this will be a new day with a new, honest approach to Indians, Inuits and Metis people.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. It being 6:19 p.m., pursuant to the agreement reached earlier today and the order made Thursday, June 23, 1983, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the motion now before the House.

Motion (Mr. MacGuigan) agreed to.

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● (1820)

[English]

### GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1983

#### MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed from Wednesday, June 22, 1983, consideration of the motion of Mr. Trudeau that Bill C-152, an Act Respecting the Organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, for some time I have been very interested in the Bill we are dealing with today with respect to the DREE program.

The Department of Regional Economic Expansion was created in 1969 to combat regional disparities in Canada. A 1972 review of its policy showed that its programs were often limited in scope and focused on isolated problems. This led to the decentralization of the Department in 1973-74 and the signing of the general development agreements with the Provinces. These agreements provided for the federal-provincial cost sharing agreements which have worked since then.

When this Department was created, I had great hopes that it would be of assistance to areas such as my riding of Victoria-Haliburton. As the years have progressed I lost all hope of that. Consistently, when businessmen in my constituency have come to me for assistance I have gone to bat for them. I have had some successes in getting them sources of funding, but never from the regional and economic expansion program.

Last Fall, I approached the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Lumley)—and I remind the House that the legal name for that Department is still Industry, Trade and Commerce—to help a promising constituent firm and representatives from local councils. The response I got was that there was no use even asking for a meeting with Department officials as Victoria-Haliburton was not considered to be a designated area. The Minister told me that his hands were tied and that there was no use whatsoever in even discussing the matter. I must admit that my opinion of DREE was not enhanced by that experience.

It is very difficult to tell eager businessmen that even though the unemployment rate in our area is 14.4 per cent, a full three points above the provincial average, the federal Government