

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Will the honourable gentleman read section 8, so that we will know what it is about?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Section 8 reads as follows:

That the whole matter of the education of Indians be left over for further consideration. In the meantime, however, it is recommended that all educational matters, including the selection and appointment of teachers in Indian schools be placed under the direct and sole responsibility of the Indian Affairs Branch;

This country owes a great deal to the followers of certain religious faiths who pioneered in the wildernesses of Canada to bring some learning and religious instruction to the Indians. The churches have been able to secure teachers that the dominion government could not have secured at the salaries paid. These people were possessed with a missionary zeal and did their work for small returns. We found that in several places schools were closed because of the lack of teachers. The committee therefore recommended that the Indian Affairs Branch provide teachers, and that they be of the faith predominating in the community. The committee felt that the matter of the appointment of teachers to Indian schools should be made the responsibility of the Indian Affairs Branch until the matter can be gone into more thoroughly next year, and the act revised.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: May I ask my honourable friend if the principle that is adopted now is to permit the religious bodies to secure teaching personnel?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Where religious bodies can supply teachers, they do so; but in some instances they are supplied by the department.

Hon. Mr. DUPUIS: Where are the schools located that are supplied with teachers from religious bodies?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: I think my honourable friend will find them in all provinces. Evidence on that subject was given before the committee, and I only wish my friend could have heard it.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR: Honourable senators, for almost ten years I had the responsibility of an active direction of the Indian administration of this country. I may modestly claim that during that time I acquired some little knowledge about the problem.

The amendment which I moved, and which I will presently ask leave to withdraw, was not based primarily on the consideration that there were recommendations in this report that should not be adopted. As a matter of fact, most of the recommendations have no

more value than the wind that blows around the corner, so far as their active implementation at the present time is concerned. I dislike to see recommendations put forward which are little more than window dressing.

May I direct your attention, honourable senators, to some of the recommendations in the report? Item 9 is something that could be carried out by the government under its power to transfer duties from one department to another. Item 10 cannot be acted upon until a new Indian Act is drafted and provision made for the recommendation. The tenth recommendation proposes the appointment of a director with the status of a deputy minister. There is no provision today in the Indian Act for giving such a status. It is suggested that there be two assistant commissioners: that proposal cannot be acted upon until the Indian Act is revised.

I pass on to recommendation No. 12:

That when the director of Indian Affairs becomes aware that an Indian agent will shortly be leaving the service, he should, in ample time before the said agent retires, request that the Civil Service Commission select and appoint a successor to the said agent . . .

It may be, as the honourable senator from Norfolk (Hon. Mr. Taylor) has said, that that recommendation will be acceptable to the civil service commission; but this, again, cannot be implemented today under the law, because the law provides that when an official retires from the civil service he is on six months' leave and draws his salary for that period; consequently a successor entitled to the salary cannot be appointed until this period has expired.

Take No. 15:

That in view of the fact that Indian reserves are widely scattered across Canada, and in view of the diversity of the problems . . . regional directors be appointed to look after and to determine such matters as appropriately fall within their particular regional jurisdiction;

That may be a desirable change, and if it is, let it be incorporated in the Indian Act when the act is revised. But it cannot be made today. As I understand it, one of the duties placed upon the joint committee is to revise the Indian Act; in other words, to prepare the draft of a new bill. Under those circumstances I fail to see the purpose of making a recommendation which at the moment has no validity whatever, and asking this house seriously to adopt it. The same consideration applies to other sections I could mention; for instance, No. 18, which requires that when promotion within the staff of an agency is not feasible the field of competition for applications from the general public should be made wide enough to ensure the selection and appointment of a fully qualified person. I