

this committee, and to bring their viewpoints. I do not see the necessity of bringing in a lot of Indians and also their representatives from outlying points. They have their Indian agents and their chiefs, and in some cases they have their own lawyers. These men can prepare their briefs at home just as well, if not better, than they could do so here, and send their counsel to represent them. The man you have in mind can do a proper job and bring their viewpoints before this committee much better than if they appeared here in person. I fail to see, as someone suggested, the wisdom of opening the door and bringing in a lot of representatives here for one reason or another. There would be all sorts of excuses found to come here; and although we want to give the Indians every possible consideration and we want to learn their viewpoints, it does not necessarily follow that they should all come here; and this man, acting as their liaison officer, would be a man with whom we could make contacts, and he could present their views and present them well. We do not want the expenses to run away with us, even in this matter, which they would do if we opened the door too wide. That is what would happen.

Mr. REID: I do not think the committee had in mind the sending of counsel here by every band. Once it becomes known that the committee is considering changing the Indian Act there will be Indians coming down here and camping. We want to obviate that situation, of fifty Indians setting up a camp out here on the grounds. They would say: we are down here to make representations.

Mr. MATTHEWS: We are not inviting them: but they would be inviting themselves.

Mr. REID: I know.

Mr. CHARLTON: But we are forgetting one thing: that this man, in question, is the only Indian lawyer in Canada.

Mr. REID: Oh, no.

Mr. CHARLTON: But I understood that he was.

Mr. REID: There is an Indian lawyer in British Columbia, according to my information.

Hon. Mr. GLEN: And what is his name?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you know of any Indian lawyers?

Hon. Mr. GLEN: Do you know of one, Tom (Reid)?

Mr. REID: My information was that there is an Indian lawyer in British Columbia.

Mr. CHARLTON: It is characteristic of Indians to be a very proud people, as I have found them; and I think they would feel very proud of the fact that they had an Indian lawyer here working with them. He would not be actually speaking for them, but only acting as a liaison officer between all their groups and this committee. I think that would be a very proud fact, for them to know that they had an Indian lawyer here, and for them to know that such a man was working on their behalf and doing what he could for them. I think that is all the more reason why we should try—

Hon. Mr. GLEN: That was the thought which was in the mind of the steering committee, too.

Mr. BRYCE: There is another Indian lawyer in Montreal, but he has been away so long from the Indians—

Mr. BLACKMORE: My conception of the function of this man would be: that this committee would charge this liaison officer or counsel with the responsibility of seeing to it that the case of the Indians throughout Canada is adequately put before this committee.

Mr. MACNICOL: That sounds like good sense.