

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Forms were sent out to all agencies last September and October. I will put one in the record.

(See Appendix A.)

The Indians do understand that they have been granted the taxation exemption mentioned in subsection (1) of section 86 and the waiver will mean that should they sign that document they will no longer be entitled to tax exemption on personal property as described in section 86—

Mr. CHARLTON: (b)?

Mr. BLACKMORE: (a).

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: The whole of section 86.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: What we really are doing is showing that we want the Indians to become citizens. We want them eventually to become enfranchised and we are giving them the right to vote, but in doing so we are taking away some of the privileges that they now enjoy as Indians. If they become fully enfranchised we take away all the privileges they enjoy as Indians and place them on exactly the same footing as the white man. The Indian is in the position of a lot of people I have heard of, in view of the fact that the Indians were the original owners of this country; in view of the fact the white man took the country from them; in view of the fact we put them on reserves—in many instances reserves the white man did not want and could not use, some of the poorest sections in some parts of the country; in view of the fact that in connection with some of these reserves we have permitted white people to filch some of the best sections. I think we could be sufficiently generous, in view of all the past, to encourage them to vote, to accept citizenship, and to still retain some right as Indians by virtue of the fact that they were here before we were. I think that would be the generous and correct method to follow if we really wanted to encourage them to become Canadian citizens.

I see no reason why an Indian becoming a full citizen should not, by virtue of the fact that he is an Indian, be entitled to some special privileges. I think he is morally entitled to them.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Well, of course you have stated the case for some form of consideration for the Indian under the circumstances.

I will not agree with all that you have said because I do not agree that at any time a department of the government of Canada has permitted white men to filch the best part of reserves.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Well, I have a group of Indians who want to come in here and who will show you that the best part of their reserve has been taken away from them over the years.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Yes, but they cannot show that, you see.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Well it is pretty difficult for an Indian to show anything against a white man.

Mr. FULTON: There is the question of the water rights on the Kamloops reserve which has never yet been settled, but there is at least a 50 per cent argument in favour of the Indians that they have lost their water rights on that reserve.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Yes, but I do not think that we should take it for granted that the complaints made by Indians and non-Indians with respect to this or that particular thing are necessarily precisely as reported. Now, I do not mean to reflect on any Indians when I say that but in the matter that Mr. Noseworthy has in mind, I am satisfied that he does not know the facts. It is a long and complicated story on which I could read you a memorandum and when it was all over and done with anyone would agree that while it might look like a jumble it does not bear out the definition of the white man filching from Indians.