

*Routine Proceedings*

by the aboriginal people, the Chippewas at Stoney Point. In fact, they were encouraged to acquire that land by George Down who was the Indian agent of the day. To quote Mr. Down: "Personally, I think this is a wonderful opportunity to gather a few straggling Indians and locate them permanently with the main body of the band."

• (1520)

It was characteristic of the way that Canadians and the Canadian government looked at aboriginal people at that time. They considered them "a few straggling Indians", to use the words of George Down.

The Department of National Defence went to the Indian people at Stoney Point and asked them if they wanted to sell their land. They replied no, they did not want to sell it, it was theirs based on a treaty signed back in the 1820s, a treaty that they felt bound them as well as the Government of Canada.

It was only after they refused to sell that the Canadian government seized that land under the War Measures Act and turned it into Canadian Forces Base Camp Ipperwash.

Part of the conditions in the Order in Council by which this land was seized was that after it was no longer needed for the efficient prosecution of the war, it would be returned to the Chippewa people from whom it was taken in the first place.

After the war, in spite of their promises, the Government of Canada and the Department of National Defence refused to return that land to the Chippewa people. They refused to keep their promises, refused to respect the honour of the Crown in the Crown's dealings with those Chippewa people.

As a result, 50 years later, that land is still in the hands of the Department of National Defence and it still refuses to keep its promises. The Minister of National Defence sits in this House in his arrogant way and says: "I am not even going to answer these questions until after 150 days when I have to deal with the report of the aboriginal affairs committee."

**Mr. Waddell:** He has chronic jet lag.

**Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** At least he is here. He was advised of the question and he should have answered it in a decent, frank, forward way because this is an issue

that has been outstanding since 1942. It is coming up to its 50th anniversary.

The Order in Council under the War Measures Act was passed on April 14, 1942. It was executed on April 16, with those people at Stoney Point being dragged out of their homes, all of their furniture, all of their possessions taken from that land within two days after the Order in Council had passed and forced into another aboriginal community at Kettle Point.

They were related to the people in the community of Kettle Point, but there was not that much space available for housing. As a result, many of the people who lived at Stoney Point during those years around 1940 ended up leaving the reserve altogether and being forced to live in communities throughout southern Ontario. That community was completely broken up.

What was even more insulting was that many of the Chippewa people of Stoney Point actually joined the Canadian army and went to fight in World War II. They went to heroically fight in World War II under the Canadian flag.

They came back to their homes at Stoney Point after the war, in some cases decorated for bravery, after fighting for Canadians during the war. They came back and found that it was not the enemy that stole the land from them, it was not the enemy who threatened their homes. The people who threatened their homes was their own Canadian government.

In fact, the story is well known of one veteran of World War II who came back to his home at Stoney Point, found that he could not get in because it was a military base and was forced to sleep in a ditch outside his own land because he could not get inside the fence. It was now owned by the Canadian government, that same Canadian government that promised when the land was no longer needed for the efficient prosecution of the war, it would go back to the Stoney Point people.

Fifty years have passed. What is the term, what is the validity of a promise made by the Government of Canada to aboriginal people? When is the Government of Canada expected to keep its promise? The Minister of National Defence cannot even keep a promise over a weekend to give a decent answer to a question that is