

of Indian affairs, is subsiding. I like to think that the Indians, in the face of concrete and sustained evidence, are gradually coming to place more faith in the declared intentions of the authorities - and in the sincere desire of a growing number of Canadians to recognize their pride of ancestry, to help them regain self-confidence and to lend them a friendly hand in this difficult age of transition....

"It would be of great assistance to the Government and to me if, in regard to basic questions and common problems, the Indians would speak with one voice. The aims of the National Council of Canada (to serve nationally the Indian people of Canada by providing a strong and united voice; to co-ordinate the activities of existing Indian organizations; to promote Indian culture) are commendable. On the other hand, it is important... that to speak with a 'strong and united voice' a national council or federation - the formal title is not too important - ought to consist of all the Indian associations and brotherhoods throughout the country. The formation of the National Indian Council of Canada is certainly a first step in the right direction. It is now up to all Indian leaders to accept the challenge to bring about this highly desirable unity as soon as possible if the dialogue between the Indians, the various levels of government and the public is to be fully effective.

"There are many other matters of mutual interest and concern about which I would wish to speak to you, but I hope that other occasions will be offered to me to do so as I gain greater familiarity with all aspects of my new office. I should like, however, to refer briefly... to some fundamental points of Indian administration about which you may wish to know the intentions of the Government.

ROOTS OF INDIAN RESENTMENT

"As a jurist, before assuming responsibility for the administration of Indian Affairs, I have been aware for quite some time that to an appreciable degree distrust and resentment on the part of the Indians are rooted in the Indian Act itself. With the passage of time and rapidly-changing economic and social conditions, some of its provisions have come to appear harsh and oppressive. Without attempting to spell out such remedial action as may be taken, let me assure you that the representations formulated by the Indians themselves and the recommendations of two Parliamentary committees on Indian affairs are receiving the close attention of senior officers of the Department in accordance with the principles of justice, freedom of choice and human dignity of which I spoke a moment ago. In the field of administration, methods and procedures currently in effect will be kept under constant review in an effort to enhance efficiency wherever feasible.

"Present policies regarding education (including vocational training and adult education), placement in employment, housing, wildlife economy, community development, self-government, as well as health and social welfare, will be pursued vigorously.

EDUCATION POLICY

"Education will continue to receive top priority. Experience has shown convincingly that education

is indeed the key to the Indians' future. Coming from the Province of Quebec, I am keenly conscious indeed of the crucial importance of education. I wish to reaffirm that no Indian boy or girl need be deprived of an education for lack of financial resources. The Government, as in the past, will continue to provide such assistance as may be required up to and including university. Integrated schooling, which has proven so effective in fostering understanding through close relationships between Indian and non-Indian children at an impressionable age, will be carried forward, but at a pace which takes into account the degree of intellectual development and acculturation of Indian children, and on the explicit understanding that no Indian child is compelled to attend an integrated school if his parents object. In this area your Council could perform a most valuable service by persuading parents who do not yet appreciate fully the benefits of education, to take advantage of the facilities placed at their disposal and to encourage their sons and daughters to pursue their studies beyond elementary schooling and to develop their talents to the full by going on to high school and University....

CLAIMS ADJUDICATION

"I mentioned earlier that lack of confidence on the part of the Indians remains one of the most serious problems affecting Indians administration. In analyzing the deep causes for this distrust it soon became apparent that a rankling feeling of injustice among the Indians at the lack of action with regard to the adjudication and settlement of their long outstanding claims was one of the roots of this evil. This understandable sense of grievance among the Indians has made it extremely difficult over the years to obtain the fruitful co-operation between them and the Government, which is so necessary in every field of endeavour that may be undertaken to improve their condition. Two Parliamentary committees on the administration of Indian affairs had recognized this fact and recommended that action be taken by the Government to assess and settle all Indian claims and grievances in a just and equitable manner....

"...It will be my pleasure, before the end of this year, to introduce in Parliament a bill to provide for the establishment of an Indian claims commission, which will consider fully the claims of Indian bands and groups of Indians. In its desire to see justice done, the Government wishes that every legitimate Indian claim be given a fair hearing, without undue formality, and settlement made where justified...."

ANGLICAN DELEGATES AT STRATFORD

Some 1,200 members of the Anglican clergy and laity from all over the world attending the Church Conference in Toronto were present on August 22 at a performance of "Troilus and Cressida" at Stratford, Ontario. The churchmen occupied nearly half the Festival Theatre's 2,258 seats.

The delegates attended evensong at St. James Church and were entertained before the play at a dinner at the Victorian Inn. The bishops of Ontario were their hosts during their brief Stratford stay.