

roam and hunt for the well-being of his family or his people. The young Indian of today and the coming generations will compete on equal footing for his livelihood now that he is being educated and trained, and learning the ways of this just society. I am very sure of this. Many of my people will not agree with me on this statement, but I repeat that I am very sure this is the way it is going to be in the future.

I left my own reservation in 1944. We have five children. They went to schools in the municipality where we lived, Richmond, British Columbia, and they are all doing well today in their chosen lines of endeavour. I must remind you that it is not easy for Indians to win competitive jobs or employment. They are usually told, "Don't call us, we'll call you", and that is the end of that application. That is isolation in its worst form, tinged with discrimination. When they give their racial origin as Indian, that is it!

I say to you, honourable senators—and this is from my own experience and observation—give an Indian the same tools, the same training, equal opportunity without segregation, and he will prove himself capable and efficient. This is exactly what the Armed Forces of Canada did in World War II. The Indian was a good soldier. If he is given opportunities similar to those that the army gave him, he will be a great asset to this just society and Canada.

Today he is suffering in poverty. He lives in below standard housing, sometimes lined with cardboard. He is generally in poor health, suffering from malnutrition and many other ailments possibly caused by his poor environment. In spite of his difficulties to adjust to this society, this new way of life with its many restrictions, he is now emerging into your society. Possibly up to one-fifth of the Indians in British Columbia, 47,000 of them, have moved off their reserves to seek employment, and to enjoy to its fullest extent the benefits of this society.

• (2110)

The generation gap is there—a difficult problem—and parents are not making any headway in closing that gap. With marijuana smoking, use of LSD, and glue-sniffing in most of the schools throughout the country, these practices are now found in the reservations and pose a very serious problem for the Indian parents and councils. Of course, the Indian people suffer just as much as other citizens of Canada in the matter of alcoholism.

A bigger, and possibly the biggest, problem is the fact that 40 per cent of the inmate population of the penal institutions are Indians. All I can ask is: Why? Perhaps I should say here that I am very happy to be a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, which has undertaken a study of the parole system.

Honourable senators, I shall speak now on a better situation, that of the Indian fisherman of British Columbia. I have reason to believe his future will be good. Bear with me while I traverse the 100 years of that industry in British Columbia. When the fishing industry was first established in that province the Indian was the only fisherman, perhaps a happy isolation. I was glad to hear in the Speech from the Throne that there will be consideration given to a provision resulting in more take-home pay for fishermen.

I fished most of my life. I know something about salmon and herring fishing. In addition, for a number of years I have been a member of the Advisory Committee to the Department of Fisheries under its minister in negotiating fishing treaties with other countries, namely, the United States and Japan. We have no treaty with Japan at the present time but that country still adheres to and respects the area of abstention on the ocean in not coming east of the 175th meridian of west longitude. This is an area of intermingling of Canadian and Asiatic stocks of salmon. I also had the privilege of sitting in on the negotiations with Russia in 1971.

For many years the Indian fishermen enjoyed isolation, security, and plenty of salmon to harvest. Then came an end to the rowboat and sailboat era. Powered fishing boats gave fishermen greater mobility. Improved equipment was introduced from time to time, such as mechanized net pullers, and today they have electronic equipment such as radar, depth sounders, ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore radio communications, electronic fish finders, and many other navigational aids.

But the Indian fisherman did not participate in these changes. He was crowded out. He was left behind in the way of government assistance in the form of subsidies and legislation making possible bank loans for maintenance and other needs. It must be remembered that the old Indian Act, revised in 1952 after nearly 80 years without a revision, placed the Indian in a position of being a ward of the government. He did not qualify for loans to improve his equipment as did other nationals in the industry. This situation has forced him to carry on his fishing efforts with obsolete equipment. Sometimes his boat is not seaworthy.

He has survived nearly 100 years as a fisherman on that coast. Today the government is helping with a program known as the Indian Fishermen's Assistance Program, to the amount of \$4.6 million. This five-year plan is now in its fourth year. I say this is not good enough. A ten-year program and an increase of \$7.5 million, making a total of \$12 million, is needed. With this limited help, in the short period of four years, the government fishery statistics show that the number of Indian fishermen is above average. There are 2,300 of them, out of a total of over 7,000 fishermen.

Honourable senators, I turn now to other serious matters concerning the Indian people, not only in British Columbia but in all the provinces and territories. I refer to justice and police action. Fred Quilt, an Indian, died from the effects of beating and brutality. According to the statement of the victim's wife and son, he was dragged from his small truck on the highway by an RCMP constable who jumped up and down on his stomach. The man, who died a few days later, was not resisting arrest. Apparently he was drunk. The medical finding was peritonitis, rupture of the small intestine. The autopsy was carried out by a Chinese Canadian doctor, who stated that the rupture was caused by a sharp blow or kick. The verdict at the inquest was accidental death.

• (2120)

Indians in British Columbia are today demonstrating and protesting. They are angry, and rightly so. They say that the police were responsible for the incident and