

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Surely my hon. friend will admit that if we have to incur expenditure for the relief of Indians—and, as my hon. friend knows, we cannot take the funds of another band and apply them to relieve the band in distress—this is reasonable. We are dealing only with the money standing to the credit of the band which for the time being is in need of relief. I think we are entitled to take that money to assist the band.

Mr. NEILL: No. That is exactly the point that I do not think I have been able to get the minister to see. Now we have arrived at the point of divergence. He says it is quite right to take the funds of the band to pay for their relief. On the face of it it seems so. But this money is something which has been exchanged in lieu of their land. As one Indian said to me, "It is all the same as if you took a piece of our land, because you are going to pay the relief whether we have a fund or not." You have obligated yourselves to do that. You get in exchange for the Indians' land a sum of money, and you propose to pay your Indian department obligations out of that money. At once the Indians will say, "Well, we have been tricked. We signed for the transfer, but we will never sign for another."

Mr. COOTE: What is the source of these annuities? This information might help to clear up the point.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Strictly speaking annuities are moneys we have agreed to pay per capita annually for all time to the Indians in exchange for ceding their right to a very large territory. That is the source of annuities in one sense of the word. But my hon. friend is quite right here—there is an addition of the words "interest moneys." Of course those annuities are on a per capita basis, all the members of the band are participants. They are left with their reserve plus their annuities. That is, a certain territory is set aside upon which the Indians are located, and this territory is known as the reserve of that particular band. They have given up their right to all the surrounding territory for the annuities and this particular reserve. Now, the interest that my hon. friend speaks about is the result of further sales of their reserve.

Mr. NEILL: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The interest accrues on the capital amount received from the sale of a particular portion of the reserve. Hence my hon. friend argues that if the Indians of that band find themselves in distress,

the interest fund should not be used by the government to alleviate their distress; rather the government should find money from the revenues of the crown for that purpose and leave the interest fund intact. I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I cannot agree with him in that respect.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Will this section apply to the Six Nations Indians?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We have applied the Indian Act in its entirety to the Six Nations Indians.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Then I agree with the member for Brant (Mr. Smoke) that the Six Nations Indians should be given special consideration.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Would my hon. friend suggest taking them out from the jurisdiction of the Indian Act altogether and allowing them to be Canadian citizens in the full sense of the word?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): The minister pointed out that Indian legislation covers every Indian in Canada. I would point out that the Six Nations Indians have a different status altogether from other Indian tribes. I agree with the member for Brant that the legislation should refer to specific bands, not to every Indian with whom you make a treaty.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I cannot agree with my hon. friend.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): That is all right, we have different views.

Mr. COOTE: Is an annuity what is commonly called treaty money?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes.

Mr. COOTE: Then I agree with my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), I do not think treaty money should be used for education. That is one of the treaty obligations of the government.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is quite true of recent treaties, but there are considerable differences in the treaties made with the various Indian tribes with respect to what may or may not be done.

Mr. COOTE: I understand the educational provisions of the Indian Act are compulsory.

Mr. NEILL: Hear, hear.

Mr. COOTE: They were put in the act not because of any treaty obligations. We are obligated to pay them treaty money or annuities, and it does seem to me that this