

would get representative reserves, if you discussed it with my officials and asked them which reserves are the really bad ones, and which are the representative reserves across the board.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for noticing my presence. I will try to attend more often.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: What is the feeling of the Committee now? Mr. Laing and gentlemen, the idea at the back of all this was that although we realize that these two reserves have been visited frequently, as Mr. Watson has pointed out, we had such trouble getting started previously that we thought we would make this a trial run to see actually how long it took. Following that, we could consult with your department about seeing other reserves across Canada.

It was impossible previously to visit 10, and we are asking the House today, if we get there in time, to make it possible for subcommittees of five members, which would be within the rights of Parliament, to visit different—

An hon. MEMBER: We have already done that.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: You are right; we have that. Actually today we are trying to arrange the trip to these two reserves; and when they come back they will make a general report and possibly, as has been suggested, leave it to the steering committee in consultation with the department, to see what we can do across Canada. Is that the idea?

Mr. BALDWIN: May I complement that by saying that if you wait until you have had your trip and have come back and had this committee meet—time is not really on our side, now. We do not know just when the session is going to end. The government house leader has expressed a certain view about next month, but we do not know whether or not we will reach that objective. I must point out, however, that once that date arrives this session ends and we will start a new session this Committee collapses—the members have finished their work—and we will have to go through the procedure of constituting the Committee and coming to the House and asking for terms of reference; and it may well be a very considerable period of time, under our present system—for which I really blame no one but ourselves, as a whole—before we are competent to start again.

I would hope that contemporaneously with arranging the trip to these reserves close by the steering committee would give immediate attention at this time, in consultation with the Minister and his officials, to setting up one or two other trips with other subcommittees, because they are going to take some time to arrange. I say quite confidently that if this is not done at once, we will not get off the ground, other than the trips to the reserves close to Ottawa.

If we are going to do anything along the lines suggested by the Minister—with which I thoroughly agree—of picking out areas some distance away this will have to be initiated immediately.

Mr. LAING: If I may say so, our officials will help you with that at once.

I think that you have to get down to a regional basis. In Mr. More's area there are large land holdings which are at least productive, in many instances. Southern Alberta is full of them. I am supposed to be the executor for Indian estates. Last year we had a situation where an Indian left an estate of half a