

or take such other action as may be deemed advisable. I do feel, however, that the matter is one to be settled by mediation and that you, as trustees for the order, will feel disposed to recognize and carry out the obligations of the seminary to the Indians.

As I understand the provincial government is directly interested in the properties of the seminary, I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the attorney general of the province.

The JOINT CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Grenier*): Would you tell the committee whom this letter was addressed to?

Senator STAMBAUGH: Again, he is talking about a reservation. My understanding was that there was no reservation there.

Mr. COLAS: That is correct.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Then there is no reservation.

Mr. COLAS: Unless I am wrong.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Representatives of the department are here at the moment, so, on behalf of the Oka Indians, that is not a reservation.

Mr. BROWN: That is correct.

Mr. COLAS: It is not a reservation, and that is why the Indians want to have this question—and I repeat for the nth time—clarified once and for all, so that they know what their future is on these lands.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Then what you term the common lands is legally the property of this Sulpicien order?

Mr. COLAS: Correct—for the benefit and enjoyment of the Indians. It has to be qualified. It is all property on which there is some obligation attached to it.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Then these other citizens, the French that are situated there, have bought their property, or leased it from this order?

Mr. COLAS: That is correct.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Then these people have a right to be there?

Mr. SMALL: I think when he was talking before, he said the Sulpicien order were charged with the spiritual welfare of the Indians, and they were given the property under that basis.

Mr. COLAS: That is right.

Mr. SMALL: They did not control the property because the Indians were on it, and I can see that this is where the question comes in, of the right.

Mr. COLAS: And you see also, in 1941 the Hon. Mr. Crerar knew that the government could do something, too, to force the Sulpicien order to help the Indians; and now finally in 1945 they purchased the land. What the government thought at the time, I don't know. Maybe they thought they were discharging their responsibility to the Indians, and that it was not the responsibility of the Sulpicien order. But we maintain and we respectfully submit that the responsibility of the Sulpicien order is still existing, and that it should be enforced at the request of the attorney-general for the benefit of the Oka Indians. I think our position is very clear.

Mr. CHARLTON: It would appear that there is no set rule in the case of who owns this land, because the Sulpicien order has sold, according to Mr. Crerar's letter, what originally amounted to 12 lots.

Mr. COLAS: No, 12 parishes.

Mr. CHARLTON: Eleven of which were progressively sold off.

Mr. COLAS: That is right.

Mr. CHARLTON: I wonder if the department officials could give us any idea of what was paid for this remaining 1556 acres, and what were the