

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Noseworthy I think has two letters which he wants to bring to the attention of the committee.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: There have been two requests to me from members of this House, as the result of correspondence with them. I have been asked by two of the members if it was my intention to invite the Indians to appear before this committee. My answer was, it was not; but that that was a matter for this committee to decide. I have had no request from any Indians.

Mr. FULTON: There have been no special problems brought forward?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: No. There have been representations which have been incorporated in our records as we went along since we started.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It looks as though this might require a certain amount of study, Mr. Chairman; I wonder if we should suggest that you should adjourn the meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: No, no, we are intending to sit until one o'clock.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The members will want to have a chance to study this, don't you think it should stand?

Mr. SIMMONS: As the minister stated in respect to this Act, all the objections and submissions made by the Indians and others with respect to bill 79, are now before us, together with the report of the conference of representatives of the Indians held on February 28, March 1 and March 2 of this year. I am of the opinion that the new Indian Act should be put into operation without any further delay, and I do respectfully suggest that in view of the clear and concise explanations given by the minister and officials of his department that it will not be necessary to invite any further witnesses to appear before this special committee. Mr. Harris has clearly demonstrated that he brings to his duties a truly christian understanding of the Indians, and his ability to deal with them, as well as his evident end earnest desire to do a good job, has undoubtedly impressed every member of this committee and in fact every member of the House. What is even more important, he has succeeded in gaining the trust of the Indians themselves and I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation, and to extend my congratulations and compliments to the minister for the excellent job he has done in regard to Indian affairs. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move as an amendment to the motion by Mr. Fulton, the following:

That—having in mind the desire of the minister to give this Act a trial of two years when it will again be considered for amendment, and

Having heard the evidence of the minister and departmental officials as to the submissions made by the Indians and others with respect to bill 276 of the 1950 session and bill 79 now before us, together with the report of the conference with representative Indians held on February 28, March 1 and 2, 1951, and

Having in mind the desire of this committee to bring into force the provisions of bill 79 now before us during the present session of parliament; this committee is of the opinion that no further evidence is now required for our purposes, but that we recommend that further consideration be given to the Indian Act in two years' time.

Mr. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw to your attention that what purports to be an amendment is a direct negative of my motion and as such is out of order. It is not necessary to bring an amendment to obtain an expression of opinion, or a so-called amendment, such an expression of opinion can be obtained by voting for or against my original motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, let us see, the motion is that there—

Mr. BRYCE: What about Mr. Blackmore's motion?