

The recommendations of the committee are tabulated in a statement here, and if it is the wish of the committee to discuss them first to see what had been done, we will proceed that way before we come to a discussion of the conference, or as you wish. As a matter of fact, of course, the revision of the Act was based on the recommendations of the investigating committee and the records are available so that I need not go into them again unless the members wish to. What is the pleasure of the committee?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think it would be a good thing to have those recommendations read into the record.

Mr. CHARLTON: Are they quite long?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you think it would take up too much time to read them?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Well, there are six pages of the final report.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: If the printing of these proceedings could be done in time to get them back again so we could use them while the committee is in session they might just be printed, but if it is going to be three weeks before we get the printed record of these proceedings, we should get them in some other way.

Mr. GIBSON: Has the minister any comments to make on the recommendations or is it just a question of reading them?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: I would attempt to show that we attempted to carry out the recommendations or to give reasons why we did not.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you like to read them?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Suppose we have them incorporated in the record and at a later time we could discuss them before we take up the bill itself.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable?

Carried.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Then we might come to the statement I made last year on the introduction of bill 267. As I pointed out the bill was not perfect and there would be continued study of the Indians affairs and amendments would be brought forward this session if it was thought desirable to do so. I want to repeat that assurance for the future, that not only will this committee make amendments to bill 79 but we shall have a few ready ourselves for presentation to the committee. I think that the Indian Act should have a continuing study so that there will be no longer, as the committee said, a lapse of twenty-odd years between committees on Indian affairs.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: So you can take it that what you do now is done for 1951 and that we will continue to study the Act. The representations which were made with respect to bill 267 were quite extensive. Correspondence was heavy and in addition to that, of course, we interviewed a great many of the band councils and the Indians themselves. The letters which came in were largely from Indians' organizations and some white organizations. They were all studied, and we have them tabulated in a booklet so that when the appropriate section of this bill is called I can read you all the objections which were made to the similar section in bill 267 and that might serve as the beginning of your discussions, perhaps, on that particular section. Some of them, of course, are out of date now because the objections have been incorporated in bill 79. As the session approached we thought it would be desirable to have a final consultation with the Indians as to the terms of bill 79 as soon as it was introduced, and for that purpose we called together 18 Indians and one white man for the purpose of discussing the Act after first reading. The persons who were called here were invited on the basis, first, of provincial representation,