

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: As I said the other day, we have drawn to the attention of the agents the revolving fund item and have told them it was there for use and was not something to be protected from use.

Mr. BLACKMORE: And one of the uses would be to guarantee credit?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Oh yes.

The CHAIRMAN: What is your wish, Mr. Applewhaite?

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: To put the amendment.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Just before the amendment is put. If provision for that purpose is made out of the revolving fund then there can be no reason why Mr. Applewhaite's amendment should not be inserted because it could not work against the credit of the Indians, could it?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Well, it may be that you would be restricting the power and authority of the Governor in Council to obtain repayment of the money that he owes under the revolving fund.

Mr. BLACKMORE: If the idea in this section is to protect the department, I can understand, but if the purpose of the section is to strengthen the position of the Indian seeking credit, and the validity of the suggestion embodied in Mr. Applewhaite's amendment should not be accepted, then I still can see no reason why the Indians' credit should not be guaranteed by the department and at the same time why protection should not be afforded the Indians as regards their lands. It seems to me in a general way that as the Indians develop their economic activities, as they undoubtedly are going to do because of many factors, they are going to require much more flexibility in respect of credit, but it seems to me they will at the same time have to have much more protection against possible encroachments on reservations. I may say that I would like to see that the right of the Indian to have his reserve maintained inviolate should be protected by every conceivable means, and as Mr. Applewhaite's amendment will aid in that direction I certainly will recommend it to the department.

The CHAIRMAN: You realize we will have to go over many other sections of the Act to make similar changes.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think that would be a very minor matter considering the advantage which might accrue.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is an advantage.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I beg your pardon?

The CHAIRMAN: If it is an advantage.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think there is no question of its being an advantage. I hope we can all be impressed—I may be a little extreme—but I hope we become impressed with the fact that the Indian's reservation has been set aside as a refuge to which Indians might retreat as long as refuges are needed, and consequently the Indian reservations should be maintained inviolate for future generations.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: There is a very simple way out and that is to have an embracing definition of reserve land in your definition section.

The CHAIRMAN: What is that, Mr. Applewhaite?

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: There is an alternative and that is to have an all-embracing definition of the expression reserve lands in the definition section.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: What would it be, "reserve lands are all lands in a reserve?"

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: I think it should be more specific than that so as to make it clear to sheriffs and others who are perhaps not Supreme Court judges that lands are still reserve lands even though they have been allocated to the exclusive possession of individual Indians. I do not think that has been made secure in the Act—that is the point that is worrying me.