

The Address—Mr. Reid

practice or traditions of the house that a document of this type should be printed without being read. I respectfully submit to Your Honour that it ought not to be printed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Do I take it that there is not unanimous consent to have this document printed?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In that event, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may briefly summarize the conclusions of the brief. It called, first of all, for the establishment of a special mayor's committee made up of Indians and non-Indians to act as a medium for the adjustment of grievances between the Indian and the non-Indian people, and to promote long-range racial co-operation. Second, it asked for some of the specifics I mentioned before; an extension of the fur trapping season; a request that the Alcoholism Research Foundation involve itself in the fight against alcoholism in the Kenora area; and lastly it asked for a radio-telephone communications system between Kenora and the local Indian reserves.

I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that to my knowledge the last three requests have been accepted almost in total. The mayor's committee has been formed and is currently in operation. As a matter of fact, since that time two meetings attended by both provincial and federal officials, the townspeople and the Indians have been held; and even today a meeting is taking place in Kenora, made up solely of Indian chiefs and councillors, along with supporting help from the federal and provincial governments, wherein the Indians are attempting to work out solutions to their own problems.

In the short time left to me, Mr. Speaker, I should like to suggest some of the lessons which have been learned from this march. First of all, the Indian is beginning to look upon his condition and to find that it is not satisfactory; and he is attempting to do something about it. This, to me, is a most encouraging sign. Second, the Indian recognizes that he cannot do it alone that he needs our help; and this was the central message in the brief. Third, what is going on in Kenora now at all these meetings is an attempt to join the townspeople and the Indian together in order to look for a joint solution to their

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

problem. This is an exciting development in what might be called a community development program.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that Kenora has been maligned in much of the publicity received over this incident. I think that this could have happened in many places outside my own constituency and in some cases it is a miracle that it has not happened before. What is going on now in Kenora is an attempt by all concerned to work out joint solutions which will help the Indian to make his life easier.

I should now like to say a few words about the fuss there has been in the newspapers over the agreement between the federal government and the Ontario government with respect to community development and welfare payments. When this fuss arose in Kenora and when the march took place, an ad hoc committee made up of provincial and federal officials swung into action; and basically they have been the ones who have been able to provide the resources which have been made available so far.

My own objection to this type of agreement, sir, is that in some cases I think it is out of date. It was negotiated prior to this march in Kenora, and I think in many cases it is obsolete. First of all, I have no objection to the provinces taking over welfare payments to the Indian, so as to integrate them into the provincial welfare system. I think that the system we have of a division in welfare services between what the Indians get from the federal government and what everybody else gets from the provincial government is bad, and has led, in part, to the development of a class system within the welfare field.

I should like to see the provinces take over complete control of welfare payments to Indians, but I do not want to see this done on the basis of the provinces setting up a separate organization to handle this welfare. However, I think it must be fully integrated with provincial welfare operations.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I should like to see welfare cut away from the community development programs that are going on. I do not think it is a good idea to mix the two. I think we are much better off if the province takes over welfare, and if the proposed department of Indian affairs concentrates its full resources on community development, on providing support and services for Indians going to universities and Indians going to high schools, and for Indians trying to get employment. I think the department of Indian