

Supply—Northern Affairs

obtain information relative to all matters affecting Indian peoples. I am sure that for this reason hon. members curtail their natural desire to go into the estimates in a more thorough manner.

I think the cart has been put before the horse in this regard and that there has been some mismanagement on the part of the government, although perhaps this is not overly important. The committee, having dealt with the estimates in the manner it did, now finds itself in the position of giving the same scant attention to these estimates during their consideration by the committee of the whole, in view of the expectation that the second report which seeks permission to travel will be adopted.

Mr. Aiken: May I ask the hon. member a question? The hon. member is a member of the committee that considered these estimates. Did he not approve of the passing of them and of the reports that are now before the house?

Mr. Howard: If my hon. friend will show some patience he may realize the point I am making. Certainly I endorse the passage of these estimates, but let it be remembered that I proposed initially, in reply to the opening statement of the minister, that the committee should divide itself into committees and visit the communities of these native peoples. We are now giving the same token consideration to these estimates that was given in the committee, on the presumption and expectation that the committee will be given authority to do those things which are set out in the second report. I suggest that the cart has been placed before the horse in calling these estimates before the committee has been given that authority. I am sure the authority will be forthcoming, and that is why I suggested that the mismanagement was not extremely important.

I would urge the adoption of the second report of the committee. It was in anticipation of the adoption of that report that hon. members paid perhaps less attention to the estimates than they deserve. Hon. members I am sure felt that a great deal more about Indian affairs would be obtained as a result of visits to their communities than could be obtained by a formal discussion of the estimates, and that is what prompted the report seeking permission to do those things therein contained. The committee would be in a better position to make an enlightened, sensible and intelligent report as to the conduct of

Indian affairs at the federal government level, having visited these places and having obtained information about the attitudes and concepts of the Indians themselves.

I should like to make a few brief comments, repeating what I have said on numerous occasions in the past, with the hope that parliament will keep uppermost in its mind a few basic things in respect of our native population. I am sure the minister will subscribe to these suggestions.

The first relates to the worth and value of the human being. That concept is of prime importance in our social relationships with anyone, whether he be of native Indian or any other origin. There must no longer be adopted the concepts of paternalism and integration, as they have been developed. Integration is not a one-way street. There must be a mutual and conscious desire for respect among peoples, regardless of their racial background. We must also be implicit in our understanding of the principle that there should be government by, for and on behalf of the people. The efforts of the Indian affairs branch and parliament should be directed toward the realization of self-government for our native population. There must be a lessening of curtailment, by ministerial and governor in council authority, of self-determination by these native peoples.

Let me conclude by posing one or two questions to the minister. The first relates to the unfulfilled provisions of treaties Nos. 8 and 11 in respect of the territories. I preface that question by saying that when Mrs. Fairclough was the minister of citizenship and immigration some years ago she recommended an inquiry by way of a travelling commission to ascertain the views of the native Indians as to what should be done in respect of the unfulfilled provisions of these treaties. That commission made its report and an interdepartmental government committee was established to study it. I should like to hear the views of the minister about the prospects of dealing with these unfulfilled provisions.

● (4:10 p.m.)

I would also ask the minister when we may expect some report or declarations from the committee which his predecessor, the present Minister of Labour, established respecting the hunting and fishing laws as they relate to native people.

Mr. Orange: Mr. Chairman, I should like to take the time of the committee for just a few