

up of additional teacher training and teacher assistant training programs.

In the city of Brantford there is located the Mohawk Institute, formerly an Indian residential school. In its time it served its purpose, but today the trend is away from such institutions and the institute was closed well over a year ago. For the past year the Six Nations band council has been negotiating with the federal government for possession of the premises for the purpose of establishing a cultural and educational centre. It is also anticipated that part of the premises will be used as headquarters for the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians.

Earlier this month the Six Nations band council won their battle for possession of the building. The Six Nations band council has obtained \$25,000 toward the cost of operating the institute. Some \$5,000 of this was contributed by the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians; \$10,000 came from the Indian affairs local office and another \$10,000 came from the Indian Department headquarters. A spokesman on the reserve has said that this sum of money would likely carry the institute through until the new fiscal year which begins April 1, 1972.

In view of the fact that it is costing \$60,000 a year just to maintain it as a vacant building, and that it costs approximately \$250,000 a year to operate the institute as a residential school, it is quite obvious that a great deal more money will be needed for the many objectives which the Indians in my riding are seeking to achieve.

I now come to a very important point in my support of the establishment of an Indian cultural and educational complex within the old Mohawk Institute. Last Sunday evening on a national television program, Harold Cardinal, president of the Indian Association of Alberta, produced a document which he alleged was a copy of a confidential cabinet statement, part of which I will now quote:

(c) The departments of the Secretary of State and of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be authorized to establish jointly a five-year renewable financing program for the support of native cultural and educational centres. This program should provide up to two million dollars in the fiscal year 1970-71, one million of which must be provided to the Secretary of State in supplementary estimates. In each of the subsequent four years, up to ten million dollars would be included for the program in financial estimates.

For the purpose of my address this evening I am not concerned about the alleged leakage of this document. If section (c) which I have just quoted is correct and authentic, then I congratulate the cabinet, and in particular the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), for providing this money for the purpose of the promotion, development and maintenance of centres for Indian cultural and educational activities.

What I would particularly like to emphasize are the obvious advantages of establishing such a centre in the old Mohawk Institute in Brantford. To begin with, the Indian people already have the building. The building is in good shape. It has historical ties in the community. The Six Nations band council now has possession of the building. Some funds have already been granted.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to act as soon as possible to accede to the request made by the Indians of the Six Nations reserve to establish the Mohawk Institute

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as an Indian cultural and educational centre. I do not wish to sound patronizing or emotional, but we do owe a great deal to the native peoples of our country. When the first white settlers arrived, the Indian gave to them his best skills, without which they could not have survived. Our forefathers, to a substantial degree, gave the native North American their worst characteristics and qualities. I submit to you that the day is long overdue for us to rectify this situation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from a document entitled "Statement of the government of Canada on Indian policy, 1969"—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize, but I must interrupt the hon. member. Perhaps the quotation might be used in a subsequent representation by the hon. member. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Danson).

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I hope that if I cannot have equal time I can at least have equivalent overtime so that I can read the statement prepared in response to the statement prepared by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn) who made a very touching appeal and, I think, a very genuine one.

The Mohawk Institute was Canada's oldest Indian residential school, organized in 1831. For many years it was operated under the able direction of the Anglican Church of Canada. In more recent times, operation of the Mohawk Institute was the direct responsibility of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, with the continuation of a co-operative relationship with the Anglican church.

The Mohawk Institute ceased to be used as a residence or day school in June, 1970. Other arrangements had been made for the education of children from the Six Nations reserve. At that time the Six Nations band council was asked to consider alternate uses of the buildings and property of the Mohawk Institute in order to be of maximum benefit to the residents of the reserve. The band council referred this question to its lands committee.

An officer of the department of land, and a band member of the Six Nations reserve, was loaned to the lands committee to carry out some preliminary studies. I am told that Mr. Hill's studies led to an interim report which was presented to the band council in late July. This preliminary report indicated a plan of possible involvement, along with the band, of educational and cultural agencies of the province of Ontario, and similar federal government agencies. The minister has been informed that Mr. Hill's report was taken under advisement by the Six Nations band council and its lands committee.

In October of this year the minister was approached by the Six Nations band council requesting that the council should immediately take over buildings and property of the Mohawk Institute and that the department should assist further in developing a detailed and final plan for the use of the facility. At the minister's direction, the property was made available to the band, along with funds for maintenance until the end of this fiscal year. Also, a teacher from the minister's staff on the Six