

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

bringing about an improvement in the economic conditions in which our Indian people find themselves. I stressed particularly the need for scholarships. The minister at one point made the statement that the government has in operation a program of scholarships for Indian students which includes girls entering the nursing profession. Will the minister indicate to what extent this program has been implemented, how many scholarships have been awarded to Indian pupils during the past year—if she has these figures—and particularly the number awarded to girls going into training in a hospital school of nursing and the amount of these scholarships? I would be particularly interested to know if any scholarship has been awarded to any young pupil from northwestern Ontario and more particularly in the district of Thunder Bay.

The minister did make some statements with regard to vocational training. This is an important matter which perhaps exceeds in importance even the need for higher learning, so far as young Indians are concerned. I should like to know if there is anything in the estimates of the department to provide for the establishment of vocational training for young Indians in the district of Thunder Bay and more particularly in the lakehead cities of Fort William and Port Arthur.

These are some of the questions on which I should like to hear the minister's comment. The hon. lady has been very generous in her remarks and answers. I do not wish to repeat all that has been said during the discussion. I believe the minister has been very explicit with respect to some points brought out but the questions of scholarships and vocational training are of great importance to me and to the district in which I live. I hope the minister will be in a position to give these answers particularly with respect to the amount involved in these scholarships.

Mr. Speakman: Mr. Chairman, it is not very often that I find myself in agreement with the hon. member for Skeena, but he did comment on a facet of Indian affairs this morning that I should like to touch on as well, and I can do no better to emphasize what the hon. member has said than by quoting from what an hon. member said in the other place. I have to read two paragraphs to make it clear. I am quoting from page 349 of *Hansard* of the Senate:

Canada may be justifiably proud of her record in her dealings with the Indians. Her record is not spotless, of course, but it is the cleanest in the world. A foremost authority on Indians pays tribute to the Canadian record when he says, "It means much that there is one commonwealth in the western world—there is only one—which

[Mr. Badanai.]

from beginning to end has shown moral integrity in dealing with Indians and has kept the faith." It is to Canada that this authority refers.

Honourable Senators, this is probably higher praise than we non-Indian Canadians deserve. Canada has in the past made mistakes in dealing with our Indian population.—

And this, Mr. Chairman, is the part of the hon. senator's remarks that I should like to emphasize:

—in that our paternalistic attitude and laws have taken from the Indian his self-sufficiency and independence.

Mr. Howard: May I ask the hon. member a question? I just did not get whom he was quoting.

Mr. Speakman: An hon. member of the other place.

Mr. Howard: Name, please.

Mr. Speakman: Honourable Senator Fergusson.

I have several matters which have not been raised during the discussion of this item which I should like to raise now. One is a matter of very great concern certainly in the district from which I come, which I have the honour to represent and which has a fairly large and quite prosperous Indian population. I refer to the constant sale of spirituous liquor to Indians, which is contrary to the law. I have taken this matter up with the Department of Justice on several occasions, because it is the Department of Justice which, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is responsible for the police supervision. I would suggest that in addition to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Indian constables with the power to arrest be appointed, because these are the people who are best known to the Indians on the reserves and they are the people who would best be able to guide them. We have an infestation—and I call it that—of both white and breed people on the fringes of our reserves who make their living by selling liquor to Indians. I would also suggest to the government that the penalty for such offence be increased very materially, because this is very serious indeed and leads to a serious impairment of the morals of our younger Indians.

I should also like to ask the minister whether she could provide more technical training for our Indian students? By this I do not mean reserve or separate schools of any nature. I should like to see our brighter Indian students given the opportunity to attend existing and proposed technical and vocational schools and be taken into those schools. We have excellent schooling facilities for our Indians up to a point in the province of Alberta, and I am particularly proud that on the reservations in my constituency we