

good many of us of that committee—a number of the Indian reserves, and we heard not only Indians but we heard others interested in Indian affairs; and we heard from doctors and professors and from educationalists—we heard everybody; and we must bring some—I don't want to say termination—but we must bring it to finality in some form by making a recommendation upon the matter we were called upon to consider and as we were asked to do by the House. In connection with the consideration of this particular draft bill we have before us, as you know, the minister brought in representatives of the Indians from coast to coast and he had a long conference with them. Now, we can go on indefinitely with the hearing of Indians and never do anything.

Mr. CHARLTON: I still think, Mr. Chairman, in view of the amendments brought forward, that there are still certain sections of the Act which do not comply in full with the wishes of the Indians.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: I reported on those to you and we discussed them at the conference.

Mr. CHARLTON: Yes, that is so; but I do submit that the Indians at the conference did not have a chance to study completely the new bill with the amendments which we have made here.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: No complaints have been made by any of the Indians to that effect.

Mr. CHARLTON: Have they had sufficient time?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: As I said, they have made no complaints so far to me that they did not have sufficient time.

Mr. FULTON: There are at least two sections in connection with which I have reservations, and without repeating what I said in respect to them a short time ago, I do think that we should hear from the Indians as to their views on the sections and to see whether or not we can improve them without detracting in any way from the Act. Having in mind what the minister said in his statement, I think we should give the Indians the chance to discuss with us their views on the two sections, and others which I am sure that other members will have in mind. It is not as though we were now in the last days of the session, because, as perhaps you noticed from a recent statement in the press, we have at least six weeks before the end of the session, and possibly two months before the session comes to an end.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that a prophecy?

Mr. FULTON: Yes, you can take it for that if you wish. I think the committee should arrange for the hearing of Indian delegates. I move, that in addition to any other witnesses to be heard, the committee should call and hear evidence from representative Indian delegates on their desires and opinions with respect to bill 79. That motion, Mr. Chairman, is very similar to one which I made earlier except that I have left out any suggestion as to where the delegates should come from, as to how many there should be, so that the hands of the committee will not be tied by an expression of opinion in line with the motion I presented. I make no suggestion as to whether four, or fourteen, or how many delegates should be called, and that is the reason I have purposely left out any suggestion of the number which should be heard or where they should be called from.

Mr. BRYCE: Have you or the minister got any recent applications from anyone who wants to make representations before the committee; and, in asking that, I do not want you to go away back over the years, I just want to know whether any such requests had been received recently, a request asking for the right to meet the committee?