

*Concurrence in Committee Report*

renewed. Why did all these people leave? This is something the committee should look into. I hope the committee will look into this matter in depth after we have had the opportunity to visit some of the reserves.

I will support this motion. I hope the committee will get on and do its work not only in the next month or two but very early in the 1967 session.

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic):** On this issue, my hon. friends and I agree entirely with what the hon. member for Skeena has stated. I do this even at the risk of being called an N.D.P.'er. I do not mind that. I have been called worse than that; I have been called a Liberal.

The minister himself might well do something about this matter. Possibly he would agree to the establishment of a permanent commission to look into these problems and follow them up day after day so that parliament may have a correct understanding of whatever measures may be called for. It occurs to me that such a commission might not only be set up immediately, but that it might be carried on in the session which lies ahead so as to avoid any interruption to its work.

• (3:40 p.m.)

The committee was in favour, as pointed out by the hon. member for Skeena, of making contact with these people, who at the moment are under the impression that they are completely forgotten by the federal government and their fellow Canadians. After all, Mr. Speaker, they were the first citizens of this country, and I think they should receive justice and that the demands they have the right to make should receive attention.

I think the minister should take under due consideration at this time the representations made by hon. members, including his own colleagues in the committee, to the effect that the committee could very well be set up now. I am only sorry that it has not been set up before this date because it could have been making very useful reports. We have lost many months, and it would be a shame to lose more time as a result of procedural difficulties or because someone is holding the cart from behind. I say, get that guy away from the cart, get the wagon rolling and let this committee do its work.

Whether this should be a standing committee, a special committee or whether a royal commission should be appointed does not matter so long as it is able to do its job. I do not see why the minister cannot agree to its

[Mr. Orlikow.]

establishment today and to its carrying on its work in the new session. For my part I wish to state that I entirely agree with the remarks of the hon. member for Skeena and I also think that this is the opinion of my colleagues.

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I am a member of this committee and I can endorse everything that has been said by those who have spoken up to this moment.

There is one observation I should like to make which I think has some significance. One of the reasons for the difficulties into which this committee has fallen arises from the fact that the members who are interested in Indian affairs are to a large extent also interested in the activities of another committee which covers the functions of the new Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I serve on both the northern affairs committee and the Indian affairs committee. During the past year the northern affairs committee has been most active in travelling through the north and visiting some of the national parks. It is for this reason that many of us who found ourselves on both committees were unable to divide our interest and participate in the planned itinerary of the Indian affairs committee. I have raised this point before, and it is the responsibility of the government to resolve the dilemma.

Many of our committees are still functioning on the basis of the old organizational set-up of the various government departments. I believe we can partially resolve the dilemma of the Indian affairs committee if we organize a single committee to cover all the activities of the new Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Hon. members have mentioned the point that the announcement that subcommittees of the main Indian affairs committee would be making personal visits to reservations was received with great enthusiasm by the first Canadians across the country. Nothing has happened and a sense of disillusionment has inevitably resulted.

This has been the case with other announcements which have been made during recent months with respect to Indian affairs. Elaborate programs for housing and other amenities on reservations have been announced, but up to the present time it has not been possible for the people on the reservations to get details from Indian affairs officials in the field about these programs and how they are being implemented.