

the Steering Committee's recommendation for the trip, I happened to be on the verge of writing a little weekly report that I write for my local papers, and made reference in my report to the fact that the Committee was going to visit two reserves in the Comox-Alberni constituency.

I will say that immediately on receipt of the news of the postponement, I made a phone call to the editors of the papers most involved in this area, and asked them to do what they could to correct the statement that had been in my column; this they agreed to do, and also to immediately phone the chief counselor of the reserve that was most immediately involved. So, I hope that this will not have created any difficulty.

On the question you raised about the similarity of Indian problems, based on my own experience with the people in my own area, I have found that the citizens in St. Regis and Caughnawaga have both some very interesting similarities and also some very interesting contrasts in the outlook and attitude of the people.

There are two problems that I think the Committee will find when we visit the British Columbia area. While there is quite a basic similarity, there are, on the other hand, some very real differences of attitude and outlook between the St. Regis people or the Caughnawagas and the attitude of the people in the coastal areas of British Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if it would not be useful, prior to the trips that are projected and particularly if this Committee is reconstituted as suggested by Mr. Orlikow, for a member like yourself to brief us before the trip starts. In other words, you might prepare a paper on it and indicate the contrasts, and perhaps Mr. Dinsdale might know of an area where there might be—

Mr. DINSDALE: The Prairie Indians would be my area.

The CHAIRMAN: I would imagine that on basics the complaints are the same; there might be local issues perhaps that might differ, but I think basically the complaint is the same all over. I am not prejudging the value of the trips. I think what this Committee ought to do is try and think of solutions rather than seek out the problems, because I think that the problems are fairly well known; the question is, are there solutions to these problems, and if there are, what are the solutions?

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, my reply to that question is that the main value of visits of members of a Committee, to meet with Indian people in their own bailiwick, is that it gives us an opportunity of getting some understanding of what is in the minds of these people.

It is very easy to read a report about statistics on housing conditions and levels of income and all this sort of thing; we could do this sitting in Ottawa. My own experience is that it is only when one gets to know Indian people quite well that one begins to get glimpses of what they are really thinking and feeling about their position.

I think that if Parliament is to pursue a course of action which will be successful in helping to solve the problems, this is a sensible way to go about it.