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leader in this country who felt that it was anything other than a public staging of that conference. There was no legitimate forerunning of negotiations between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) or the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), to really get the kind of benefits out of such a conference which there could and should have been. That is well known.

Second, I want to deal briefly with the chronology of "The Buffalo Jump of the 1980s", but before I do that I think it is important to put certain things on the record for Canadians, so that they have some understanding of what kind of mentality has been involved in the task force and in the preparation of the Nielsen document.

I was surprised to learn that so few people in the news media knew what the buffalo jump was. Certainly people from the west who have travelled either on the Prairies or on the edge of British Columbia know that historically the Indian people used natural devices, natural forest breaks, or whatever, and either on foot or on horseback—particularly prior to the introduction of firearms—drove the buffalo to cliffs or river banks where they went off the edge and were killed by the fall. One has to try to understand for a moment what kind of mentality and approach was being taken to the 395-page report that the provincial and federal people involved, particularly members of the task force, would use the buzz words "buffalo jump" not only as a coffee table slogan, but actually put it into their report and then into a Cabinet document. One has to stop for a moment and go back in time to the 1969 white paper, which was known as an assimilation document, and various other measures which have been taken in the horrible treatment of our first citizens in terms of extermination policies, such as there were in Newfoundland of the Beothuk people.

We are talking in terms of this document of a kind of mix of assimilation, passing certain powers to provinces, and extermination of many Indian and Inuit cultures around the country. I find almost everything within the Nielsen document to be repugnant. I hope that this afternoon the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will take the time to respond to the issues I want to raise with respect to this document because we have had no success during a whole week of questioning of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), the Minister responsible for housing and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development himself, in flushing out where they are going in this document.

When one reads the media strategy included in the document, it becomes clear that this process has evolved so far, that the Deputy Prime Minister has exercised so much power in terms of this task force process that it seems unlikely now that the Government will turn back. In fact, the media strategy talks about the possibility of some leaks and how to deal with them and to simply forge ahead and make what I think would be the most reprehensible and wrong-minded decisions on policy which would affect Canada's first citizens.

I would now like to take as a starting point, Mr. Speaker, something which is well known by the Hon. Member for

Cochrane-Superior and my colleagues who are here. When we are talking self-government, it is not enough to just put it on a piece of paper and then into the Constitution. Self-government has always existed in this country among the First Nations. If one goes back to the potlatch one finds that that was a parliamentary system. There are transmissions of title. They deal with the states. They deal with every imaginable law including property law, common law and criminal law. It is a very highly evolved process of Parliament which is still in existence. It was outlawed by this Parliament and by provincial legislatures. But I think we have to get down to the nitty-gritty. This document talks about the \$3 billion spent by the 11 Departments which deal in one way or another with Indian and Inuit programs. It talks about delaying and deferring negotiations on comprehensive claims which would save \$8 billion over the next five years.

We have to understand why the native communities in Canada have the highest rate of suicide, infant mortality, unemployment and the lowest life expectancy. Every negative sociological factor which you could possibly find amongst a minority group anywhere in the world is symptomatic in the Indian and Inuit communities of this country. We have to ask ourselves why? They have been deprived of their traditional cultural livelihoods in many areas of the country. The people of Canada have to come to understand that title is the key, giving back to the Indian people their rights to their land. They need a natural resource base because self-government will flow naturally from title and having their rights again over the natural resources in their area. I do not think we should beat around the bush any longer about how to set things right.

I honestly believed the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development when he told me both in the House and outside of the House that he had not read this 395-page leaked document before it was leaked. He has read it now. It is unfortunate that he could not get himself enmeshed in that task force process and slow it down because I am quite confident in my own mind that the process which is now before this House is progressing and it is going to be very difficult for the Minister alone to stop it. It is going to require the mobilization of all of the honest, genuine-thinking Hon. Members of this House to bring pressure on the Cabinet, in order to bring that whole process to a screeching halt.

● (1250)

We have to stand still for a moment in time and ask ourselves how we can honestly deal with this. Not through the Federal Business Development Bank, not by transferring it to the provinces, not by going through a bunch of jiggery-pokery in assimilating Indian and Inuit people into the "mainstream" of Canadian society. There are pillars we can lean on. There is the Calder decision in the Supreme Court of Canada, the Nishga case, where the court split three-three on the issue of title. Half the justices who sat on the case agreed that the aboriginal people hold unfettered title to the land, but this Parliament continues year after year after year to say we will come up with some new programs, we will do this and that.