

Mr. HATFIELD: In a case of a vote on selling a block of land we have seen land sold for \$1,000 when it was worth \$100,000.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: I do not think that has been in recent years.

Mr. HATFIELD: I know of it happening.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: In recent years?

Mr. HATFIELD: Not recent, no.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: If you will give me the reference I will look it up and see who was at fault at that time.

Mr. MURRAY: Which political party?

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we pass section 39? There are sections 40 and 41 here too.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Have we passed section 39?

The CHAIRMAN: We are down to subclause 5, anyway.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I move that we stop.

The CHAIRMAN: There are just two more before we get to the next page. Can we not pass those?

Mr. HATFIELD: I would like to know what investigation is made before the land is sold?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: If you are thinking of something in the past, if it is a complaint against administration we can deal with it at any time.

Mr. HATFIELD: It is pretty easy to influence some bands of Indians to sell property. They may get something on the side and vote to sell it.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: We have rigid provision here for protection in the taking of a vote and ascertaining the opinion.

Mr. HATFIELD: That is what I want to know. What investigation do you make?

Mr. MacKAY: The Indians themselves, Mr. Hatfield, set out the conditions in the surrender, the conditions under which the land is to be sold. For instance, we had a case in Vancouver. We hoped to get the surrender through or that surrender would be given, and the offer was quite good—an offer of about \$60,000. However, when the Indians found out what it was they rejected it and would not surrender. When they do surrender, the conditions they want imposed are placed right in the surrender. Usually it is stated that they will not accept less than a certain amount.

Mr. HATFIELD: That goes back to the Indians again, but I want to know what investigation the minister makes?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: To cite one example, a more recent one, several independent real estate brokers were asked to give an opinion of a valuation just the same as a trustee selling land for an estate is expected to get opinions about the land. However, remember that it is not the minister's land, it is the Indians' land. They have the right to sell.

Mr. GIBSON: Is it usual that you plead for or against the matter?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: We take an impartial view but if we see what we think is a ridiculous price we do not let the deal go forward.

Mr. GIBSON: And what if you think it is a good deal?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: We would say so.

Mr. HATFIELD: What do you do to make sure that it is a good deal or a bad deal?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: We get a real estate valuation.