

The committee resumed at 4 p.m. The Deputy Joint Chairman, Hon. Mr. W. H. Taylor, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, shall we come to order. I might say, first of all, that I want to thank the honourable members from the Senate for asking me to be the deputy chairman, while our chairman is away, and to express to them my thanks and appreciation. They could have done the work much better.

This morning we heard Major MacKay, and it is my understanding that we were to ask him questions for information that we might want, and we were going to do it in an orderly manner by taking certain headings and asking questions with respect to those headings, and getting the answers so that our committee report could be orderly. Now, those headings were discussed, and I believe it was agreed this morning to accept those headings as a basis for questions this afternoon. Could we have Major MacKay now?

Mr. CASE: Just before we get under way, I would like to have something clarified. I understand that we retained counsel for the benefit of the committee as well as for those who might appear before us, the Indians and others who might make representations, and that the counsel would act in an advisory capacity for this committee. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN: Would you mind repeating your question?

Mr. CASE: I suggest: we are retaining counsel for the benefit of the committee, and he would represent us and be able to clarify anything we might expect from him in a legal sense, as well as to represent any Indians who might appear before us. Is that correct?

Mr. BROWN: Yes, that is right.

Mr. CASE: Well, could he sit at this table which is not occupied here, where we could see him; because there might be an occasion when we might want to address ourselves to him, and he might care to make notes.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, the order of topics suggested this morning, as I took it down, I believe was: reserves and Indian lands. Are there any questions?

Mr. MACNICOL: I beg your pardon, we said that the first was administration.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, the first is administration. All right.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Before we mentioned the procedure, would it be a suggestion worthy of consideration if Mr. Lickers, after each witness has spoken to us, ask him any questions he believes would be a good thing to bring out which, for one reason or another, we overlooked. In that way, he would be constantly in touch with everything that is going on, and he could give us help.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Lickers and I discussed it at noon, and he has several questions he would like to ask the witness too, if he might be permitted, and if that is the intention.

The CHAIRMAN: We will start with administration. Are there any questions in regard to administration, from the committee?

Mr. MACNICOL: Yes. I would like to ask Major MacKay: you said, in effect, although I may not be quoting you just exactly in your own words, that the staffs of the British Columbia agencies are too small adequately to administer, in the best interests of the Indians, the 25,515 British Columbia Indians, divided up amongst 1,609 reserves, I believe it was, of which some 12,000 are under seventeen years of age?

The WITNESS: Seventeen years of age and under.

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. Yes, seventeen years and under, the result being that the work is attended to in a more or less haphazard manner. I believe you used the words