

Q. And then in the other direction there is Muncie and there is Kettle Point, so around you there are four reserves?—A. Kettle Point and Stony Point are one. There were two reserves but there is only one there now.

Q. Now you have a brief to present before us here. Would you like to present that brief now?

Mr. CASE: Mr. Chairman, just before he commences, I would like to ask Mr. Adams on what authority he speaks for the Indians.

The CHAIRMAN: He was appointed.

The WITNESS: I speak because of being a member of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Mr. CASE: A member of the Union of Ontario Indians, thank you.

By the Chairman:

Q. Would you like to proceed Mr. Adams?—A. Yes.

Q. You may sit down if you care.—A. Honourable members of the special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. We are exceedingly thankful to the members of this parliament who made it possible for the Indians of Canada to be able to introduce their wishes to the investigating members of parliament. I am sorry that I have not got the brief here that I was supposed to present to the committee but the party who was doing it is sick. He claims it will be ready in a few days and he will send it down for the file.

The Southwestern Indians of Ontario have the honour to present for your earnest consideration the within brief. The subject matter thereof considers Indian administration in general, and in particular the matters specified and numbered one to eight in the Orders of Reference of both the Senate and the House of Commons made on Thursday the 13th day of May, 1946, at Ottawa.

The representations, respectfully submitted of the Southwestern Indians of Ontario are as follows:—

1. *Treaty Rights and Obligations*

It is the wish of the Indians that Treaty rights and obligations be honoured and respected by the Canadian Government.

2. *Band Membership*

Regarding band membership, it is the sincere wish of various bands that the powers of the Department of Indian Affairs in respect to admission and expulsion be abolished, and that the right of membership, both as to admission and expulsion be placed under the jurisdiction of the bands, who are the undersigned owners of the land and money, which the admitted would participate.

3. *Liability of Taxes*

The contention of the Southwestern Ontario Indians regarding income and custom tax is that they should be exempted by virtue of their treaty rights, but if the government has the right to impose taxation on the Indians, then such social benefits that are enjoyed by other than Indians, should be granted to the Indians, such as:

- (1) Old age pensions
- (2) Mothers' allowance
- (3) Home for the aged and blind
- (4) Social welfare

4. *Enfranchisement of Indians*

Regarding enfranchisement, it seems unfair when an Indian becomes enfranchised, he must relinquish his birthright merely for a vote.