

Indian Land and Treaty Claims

have squatters rights on the lands where their forefathers dwelt for hundreds of years.

On looking through some of the records of this House one finds that far from having given any recognition to the fact that the Indian people have basic rights, the reverse is true because the last recorded opinion of this chamber was in 1927 when the House rejected the proposition that the Indian people had any real rights. That decision has not yet been reversed, even though there have been debates in the House and attempts have been made to have Parliament make a declaration that such rights do exist.

I cannot for the life of me understand how anyone who has read the document entitled "Native rights in Canada," to which the hon. member for High Park (Mr. Deakon) referred in his speech, could say that what I am saying is not the basic truth. To appoint a commissioner with responsibility not to the Indian people but to the Governor in Council is by its very nature a rejection of the real rights of the Indian people.

Mr. Gibson: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have been listening to my hon. friend and I submit that his remarks are irrelevant for two reasons: one, that he is not speaking to the substantive motion before the House and, two, that he is slandering a public official who is conducting an inquiry, I submit that on both grounds his remarks are irrelevant.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): If I were to consider seriously the point of order put forward by the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Gibson) I would be inviting him to make a long speech. However, I do not consider the point of order to be well taken. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) has the floor.

Mr. Barnett: I was going to suggest that if the hon. member would do a little listening with his ears, and a little reading with his eyes, instead of using his mouth so much—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Order, please. The hon. member has only a few minutes left. I am sure he would like to use the time to discuss the motion.

Mr. Barnett: —he might understand the relationship of what I am saying to the motion. Members of the House and the Canadian people should know exactly what, if anything, the commissioner has been doing since his appointment. I am sure that hon. members who have followed the developments leading up to the tabling of the white paper are fully aware that this is not the kind of action for which the Indian people have asked. They asked to be enabled to establish their rights and to have assistance to do so. Never at any time have they requested that a commissioner charged with reporting to the Governor in Council in secret be set up to deal with matters concerning them. I think this fact makes valid the request of the hon. member for Skeena for the immediate production of these documents, if any, for the information of the Indian people and members of the House.

[Mr. Barnett.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Hon. members will forgive me if my remarks are of a serious nature this evening, but in view of the tragic death of so many Canadians in the horrible tragedy at St. Jean Vianney yesterday I will confine my remarks to an expression, on behalf of hon. members and myself, of deep sympathy and condolence to the people concerned. May those who have died rest in peace and may their faith be rewarded in safer land.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

PRAIRIE GRAIN ADVANCE PAYMENTS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING RATE PER BUSHEL, EMERGENCY PAYMENTS, EXTENSION OF APPLICATION TO RYE, FLAXSEED AND RAPESEED

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lang that Bill C-239, to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, before private members' hour I was outlining some of the side-problems that we are running into with a depressed agricultural industry. Again I say to the minister that we all agree on the provision of cash advances, but there are many other problems that we should be solving rather than dealing with stop-gap measures such as cash advances.

I wish to quote some of the remarks made by the former head of the Board of Grain Commissioners, Mr. Hamilton. I will read some of his suggestions which I submit should be looked upon as alternatives to stop-gap measures such as cash advances. An article in the *Edmonton Journal* of April 5, 1971, quotes Mr. Hamilton as saying:

● (8:10 p.m.)

Ottawa must sell grain more imaginatively. "If industry can negotiate 15-year contracts surely the same can be done for grain." Ottawa should also be willing to ship grain in 1,000-ton lots as requested by developing countries, control ocean freight, place grain in position where it is needed, and lease storage space in vicinity of markets or help customers build it.

I emphasize that we should put grain where it is needed, in position to ship it. This was brought home to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board during the recent rail strike when the storage facilities at the coast were not full and as a result we lost about a week's supply of shipping. We need to keep this in mind as an insurance measure. Mr. Hamilton continued:

The Ottawa bureaucracy is more interested in efficiency than effectiveness. "The question is not how well we are doing things but are we doing the right things." The bureaucrats are out of touch with reality.