

*Supply*

not enough in many cases. Never should those people be denied that.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Questions or comments?

Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom).

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a few words on the motion filed by our colleague, the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner). First, I am not quite as optimistic as the Member who just sat down about the intentions of the Government across the way. I have known the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) for many, many years. I have known him for 17 or 18 years and I suspect his recommendations might be a bit more draconian than the Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Holtmann) believes them to be. He was a tough guy in the opposition in this House for many years. He was a rather conservative Conservative. He believed in a lot of restraint and cut-backs. He did not have too much sympathy for social spending and programs of the sort. I just want to caution the Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake that he should not get himself too far off on a cliff because he is liable to fall off in a few weeks, a few months, or a year or two years' time when we see some of the ramifications of this paper put out by the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

I think that the memorandum is very serious. It is a memorandum to Cabinet under the name of the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. It is dated April 12, 1985, which was four weeks ago. This is a report of the ministerial task force on native programs. As one goes through this particular task force report one finds example after example of possibilities of really severe cut-backs to programs for the native people of Canada. These seem to fly in the face of the rhetoric, the style and the image of the present Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie).

I wish the Deputy Prime Minister were a little more honest and direct and I wish he would confirm that this is his document. It is under his name. It has his in-put and he is responsible for it. It seems to me to be a rather cynical and hypocritical document from a man who, when in opposition, was so quick to condemn the Liberal Government of the day for not being honest, above board, not having freedom of information laws, not being more direct, not having openness in government. All of those things were very big issues for the Deputy Prime Minister and indeed for the Leader of his Party last summer during the election campaign. Now this Government is carrying on in the same old way. The faces on the front bench have changed. The Government has not changed. We have the same old bureaucrats, the same old consensus and the same old studies.

I think the time has come in this House for a back-bench revolt by members of the Conservative Party. Where are those who have the individualism, guts and willingness to get up and say no? That revolt will have to come some day, Mr. Speaker. It has come before in this House when we had massive majorities, insensitive and uncaring majorities that trampled

on the rights of ordinary citizens. It will come again, Mr. Speaker. We are already seeing signals around this country of shifting sentiments in provincial politics where Conservatives in many provinces are losing support. I refer not only to Ontario, but to Newfoundland, the by-elections in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia where our Party picked up two seats last fall. We see the signals all over. Even in Saskatchewan, the Conservative Government of Premier Devine had its popularity drop from 62 per cent to 42 per cent in the riding of Thunder Creek in a by-election to replace Colin Thatcher. All of these are signs that people do not like big, insensitive government and muted, quiet back-benchers who are afraid to speak their minds. If there is ever a better issue, it is an issue like this.

I will take you very briefly through some of the important things in this report, Mr. Speaker. Even the code name in this report is one that I do not think is very complimentary to the Indian people of this land. The code name is "Buffalo Jump of the 1980s". I have eight Indian reserves in my riding. I grew up on a small farm adjacent to one reserve, a mile and a half from the second. I went to school all my life with Indian children, into high school and university as well. I know that kind of attitude is not one that is appreciated by the Indian people. They want Members of this Parliament in all Parties to stand up and speak out against this type of a document.

In terms of things that are substantive in this report, let us look at page 17. There is a recommendation to eliminate around \$300 million worth of spending from 1986 to 1988. In 1986-87 the amount is \$134 million, and in 1987-88 it is \$178 million. Perhaps even more seriously the report says on page 17 that one of the objectives should be to contain the rapid escalation of future costs that would derive from leaving existing programs unchecked.

We have just heard a very passionate speech delivered by the Hon. Member from Manitoba about the Indian people not having enough money for food, bedding, clothing and medicine and that his Government would not touch programs to harm the native people of Canada.

**Mr. Manly:** We will see.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Yes, we will see. Here is the most powerful Minister in the Government of Canada, the Deputy Prime Minister, the guy who has the hammer in terms of the controls, recommending in his memorandum that a look be taken at cutting existing programs, that they should not be left unchecked.

Let me go further, Mr. Speaker, on to page 23 of this report. Here is another argument why there should be concern. On this page, in Section No. 7 the Government calls for "a review of the practice of funding Indian groups to clarify points of law".

We have a tremendous debate in this country with the Charter of Rights, the Constitution, Indian self-government and the aboriginal conferences. We have a practice in this country of helping to fund some of the legal costs of native people. That is being done by the federal Government. It is a