

These are excerpts which I thought might be of interest to the committee. I think that is, perhaps, the best pat on the back our department has had, and it came from outside, and from an official source.

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. That was quite a pat on the back!—A. Yes, it was; but it does illustrate the fact that they had encountered a lot of difficulties in the States, and that they thought they could learn some lessons from us, and on the other hand we might learn some lessons from them.

Q. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, to the committee, that the committee obtain authority to send either yourself along with the superintendent?—A. No, I am secretary of the Indian Affairs division.

Q. Well, send somebody from the Indian Affairs Branch to Albany, where they have, or did have—I do not know whether they have it to-day, because it has been quite a few years since I was there—an Indian Affairs Branch, and also to Washington to the Indian Bureau Department of Interior there, to interview them so that we might get a picture to be brought back here to the Committee of what they are doing. It might help us towards the end of improving the lot of our own Indian citizens. I do not say this in criticism of our own department, but I would be interested in seeing, or in getting, all the information we could. It would be well to have everything we could put before us here. I think the chairman should equip himself with that knowledge, or such knowledge as could be obtained in the U.S.

The CHAIRMAN: I think, Mr. MacNicol, we probably should refer that as a notice of motion to the subcommittee on procedure.

Mr. MACNICOL: Well, you can carry that suggestion to the subcommittee.

*By Mr. Castleden:*

Q. If you like to make that a notice of motion, I will be glad to second it. It has a great deal of merit. The recent changes in the United States, the recent reports from the United States department, indicate that there has been tremendous improvement there, and I think it started about 1934?—A. Yes, that was when the present enfranchisement or advancement policy of Indians was adopted.

Mr. CASE: I would suggest that a more profitable plan would be to extend a proper invitation to one or two of the people from the United States department concerned to come before this committee, so that we would have the benefit of their knowledge.

The CHAIRMAN: That too could be incorporated in a notice of motion; I would suggest that it too be a matter to be considered by the subcommittee on agenda and procedure.

*By Mr. Richard:*

Q. No doubt the solicitor acting for the Indians would have a lot of information on the practice of the department in the United States. Now, you spoke about some treaties entered into by the military governors in years gone by, with certain Indians in the maritimes. Are those treaties held as still binding, or what is the practice with respect to those treaties?—A. No, those were not considered as formal treaties, and those Indians are not considered as treaty Indians to-day; they were really just peace agreements between the military commander and the Indians whom he encountered at that time. They did not set out, in perpetuity, any promises or assurances to the Indians.

Q. Did they not grant them certain fishing and hunting rights?—A. There was a reference in some of the conversations between the generals and the