

Caughnawaga one day, and as St. Regis is 60 miles from here by car it might be a good idea to drive down from Ottawa to St. Regis for an afternoon visit.

When we made the trip across the Arctic, Mr. Chairman, you were among us, and we spent several very useful evenings meeting with citizens of Cambridge Bay, Frobisher, Tuktoyaktuk and two or three other places. We took perhaps three or four hours to do this, and I think we dealt with each of those communities pretty thoroughly. We walked around and then gave the citizens about two or three hours in which to express their criticisms.

I think this idea of spending 16 hours on a reserve is a little ridiculous. I do not think we need to do it. Let us not go overboard on it.

Mr. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I do not disagree with Mr. Watson. I think that after we have made this first trip we may have a better idea of what we want to do. We certainly cannot visit every reserve and spend a day in each one.

However, there are problems. St. Regis has not been visited as often as has Caughnawaga and there are some real problems there. I am not going to express any opinions at the moment; I am just going to recite facts. The department dismissed, or failed to renew the employment of, the community development officer at St. Regis some months ago. About two weeks ago the band's secretary was dismissed either by the band council or by the band council on the urging of the department. There was a meeting there on Saturday night, attended I understand by about 250 people at which they passed a resolution calling for the resignation of the whole band council. I understand that they had 400 signatures on Saturday demanding the resignation of the band council so that new elections could be held.

This is a reserve in which there are problems and I, for one, think that the members of the Committee, or those who go, should have enough time there so that they can form their own opinions, by listening to everybody who has an opinion, on what is happening there and what, if anything, is wrong.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Do you think, Mr. Orlikow, we could visit these on a trial basis?

Mr. BALDWIN: I feel that there is a certain degree of truth in what Mr. Orlikow has to say, but is this not a matter which would be better left to the subcommittees themselves once they become specially charged with the knowledge of the peculiar situations which they are going to investigate? We hear a lot of talk about the Indian problem. I think it is more a case of a lot of Indians who have problems and that their problems differ in the areas and places where they live.

I have been in touch for some time with Mr. Orange, the member for the Northwest Territories, and we have been particularly anxious to mount a trip with a subcommittee into the northern part of Alberta, Saskatchewan and into the Northwest Territories.

Not so long ago, the Committee may recall, we had two witnesses who came down and appeared before the Committee and who were allegedly representing the interests of the band in what is known as the Fox Lake area. They made certain representations and received quite a lot of publicity when they went back. I have been in touch with that situation, both before and afterwards, and I