

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

of training among the Indian girls. I wonder whether they could establish a policy of taking them into established hospitals and training them as nursing aids, and even at this point encouraging them, and perhaps even establishing scholarships for this purpose, to take nursing training so that they could return to the north and not only make a good living but set an example for those who may wish to follow.

I would also like some statistical information from the officials of the department, if it is possible, on this matter. I would like to know what the contribution has been by the Indian affairs branch to education generally in the Yukon territory. If that could be broken down to a per capita figure it would be even more useful, so that I could compare it with education costs generally in the Yukon and with the contributions made by other federal departments on a per capita basis.

I would like to know also what those contributions have been in respect of separate schools as opposed to non-denominational schools. Does the policy of making these contributions extend beyond those made strictly to schools; does the policy extend to the establishment of hostels and other boarding-in institutions which may be set up in the north?

While I am dealing with that point I would be critical, if I may, of the policy of the branch with regard to the rigid interpretation and the technical application of the act in so far as it affects Indian children attending Indian hostels. I feel there could very well be exceptions made here. In fact, in my view there are exceptions which could and must be made to the application of these regulations.

I have a current case in mind which I should like to relate to the minister. The case concerns Rosemary Lowe, who is the daughter of an Indian woman in the Yukon, Mrs. Mary Etzertza Lowe, who by her first husband had several children. Her first husband died and she remarried a white man four years later. Of that marriage there was the one issue, Rosemary Lowe. Three months or thereabouts after marrying the white Yukoner she left simply because circumstances would not permit continued living as a family unit.

The children have grown up to the point where they are attending school. Rosemary's three brothers are in the Roman Catholic hostel at Whitehorse. Mrs. Lowe worked there and I suppose because she was working there she was allowed to keep Rosemary in the hostel. All these children were attending the same school. Now Mrs. Lowe has left the

hostel and has a permanent job in the hospital, and it appears there is some doubt as to the status of Rosemary and some doubt as to whether she will be allowed to remain in the hostel.

If the department cannot make exceptions in these cases we will find that Rosemary will be taken out of the wholesome atmosphere of the hostel, away from the affection of her brothers, away from the family unity that exists in the hostel and will be required to live in some miserable, squalid shack on the outskirts of the city.

I think these circumstances are sufficiently compassionate to allow a discretionary sympathy to be extended toward people who find themselves in these circumstances. While I am writing to the minister separately on this particular case, I certainly would like to know the over-all approach of the branch in the future to problems of a similar nature, because this case is not isolated; it can be repeated and repeated.

One further point that I wish to raise for the minister's consideration concerning education is the policy of the territorial government to recommend the cessation of family allowances paid on behalf of children, including Indian children, in the Yukon for irregular or non-attendance at school. In these cases the superintendent of education, as the minister knows, recommends to the family allowances division that the family allowances cease to be paid because of the non-attendance or irregular attendance of the child. In the case of Indian children I would strongly suggest that the minister speak to her colleague or someone in the family allowances division with a view to having a procedure set up whereby before making this type of recommendation the superintendent of education should check with the superintendent of the agency in Whitehorse, because there may be special circumstances which justify the irregular or non-attendance of these children. It does cause hardship among the very low income earning group at the best of times when these family allowances are abruptly cut off.

I would also like the minister to bring me up to date on the considerations which have been given by the branch to the Teslin co-operative society which I first suggested in June of 1959. The minister will recall that at that time I suggested that a big game guide co-operative be set up for the Teslin people. I would also like the minister to give me her assurance that the trapping grounds of the Old Crow people will be held inviolate for the use of those people.

I would also suggest that the branch investigate the feasibility of setting up a co-operative among the Yukon Indian people to manufacture and market Indian handicrafts.