

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**

INDIAN AFFAIRS—INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE IN
OTTAWA MAY 29

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Did the hon. gentleman address a meeting of Indians at a conference yesterday afternoon in Ottawa?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): The answer is yes, sir.

Mr. Bryce: Did you say "yes"?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Bryce: Mr. Speaker, arising out of that answer I want to raise a point of privilege. On May 4, 1956, I wrote as follows to the hon. gentleman:

Dear Mr. Pickersgill:

I have had some letters regarding a conference that is to be held in Ottawa very shortly in connection with the Indian affairs branch.

Would you be good enough to inform me of the date of this conference or convention, and who has been invited to it.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

W. Scottie Bryce.

I have the hon. gentleman's answer of May 8, in which he says:

I have received your letter of May 4. I have no knowledge, nor has the director of Indian affairs, of any official conference to be held in Ottawa, in the near future, to deal with Indian problems.

Now I find the hon. gentleman addressed that delegation or conference, or whatever you call it. I say, Mr. Speaker, that he deliberately deceived me when I asked for that information. The hon. gentleman has no right to refuse me such information. I again say he deliberately deceived me.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think I can disabuse the hon. gentleman very easily. This was an annual meeting of a private organization. It was not an official conference at all, and it had no official connection whatsoever with my department. I was merely asked as a courtesy to come and speak to them, just as I might have been asked to go and speak to a Kiwanis club, and occasionally have been.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask the hon. member for Selkirk, because he knows it is against the rules to say that an hon. member of this house has deliberately deceived another hon. member, to take the corrective steps? In the circumstances will the hon. gentleman be good enough to take the corrective steps?

[Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East).]

Mr. Bryce: Mr. Speaker, why should I take back anything that I believe is true?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Because the Speaker of the house—

Mr. Bryce: I am going to stick—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. gentleman will take back the expression because the Speaker of the house is asking him to do so, and I understand him always to be respectful of the authority of the Chair.

Mr. Bryce: Mr. Speaker, I hope you understand that if I withdraw it is for your sake; it is not for the minister's sake. Never did I think I would be subjected to such a thing as that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. One should not generate more indignation than one can control—

Mr. Castleden: Can't help it.

Mr. Speaker: When I say something from the chair I would ask hon. members not to interject remarks that at times I do not hear and which I find later in many instances are remarks that are disrespectful, and which I should ask hon. members to withdraw. Now, this must stop.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, do I understand from your remarks that you are now suggesting that offensive words be not used in this house? If so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know why it is that offensive words used in the past with respect to myself were not drawn to the attention of the house by the Speaker, nor asked to be withdrawn by hon. members who used them?

Mr. Speaker: I have no knowledge of the incident to which the hon. member is referring. Is it one of recent date? Would the hon. member be kind enough to explain the incident to which he is referring?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Perhaps I can save time by saying that now the heat of the moment is over I shall quickly withdraw.

SHIPPING

GREAT LAKES—LICENSING OF SMALL BOATS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the news report over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation news this morning which referred to the remarks of a senior official of the Department of Transport made before the great lakes search and rescue organization in Toronto last evening, is the government contemplating the licensing of small boats on