

whole idea of visits to Indian reserves, which I think are important and necessary, has been dogged by a series of unfortunate incidents, which has led to virtually no progress in this respect. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you could convey to the House Leader—I hope it would be unanimously supported—the feeling of this Committee that the Committee should be reconstituted almost immediately that the new session starts so that the Committee can do its work.

I say this seriously, Mr. Chairman. It is a lot easier for committees to do the kind of thing that the Committee is planning to do—going away from the House—early in the session, than it is late in a session when the work piles up. I think it would be to the advantage of the House business, and all the parties, if the government would agree to this.

The CHAIRMAN: I think this is a very valid suggestion and if it meets with the approval of the Committee, we will bring that to the attention of the House Leader.

Mr. DINSDALE: With reference to the cancelled trip to Manitoba—

The CHAIRMAN: And British Columbia.

Mr. DINSDALE: —and the Indian Metis Conference in Winnipeg, there were at least two members of the Committee present at the conference in Winnipeg; Mr. Orlikow was there, and I was there.

I know I expressed regrets to the people concerned, arising from the unfortunate but necessary cancellation of the trip. But I am wondering if there had been any notification to the band councils in B.C. that we were coming out?

The CHAIRMAN: No, as a matter of fact, if you will recall, the first time we had the experience of having to cancel a trip—I think to Caughnawaga and St. Regis to which we subsequently went—preparations were made with the band councils.

On this occasion no preparations were made, and no appointments were made until the trip was actually sanctioned and proceedings initiated to go on the trip. So, there has been no cancellation of any appointments because the trip really never got under way.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think this is an unfortunate thing, because it produces a sense of disappointment and disillusionment with the people.

The CHAIRMAN: I quite agree, and I think Mr. Orlikow's point is well taken. Whereas it is true that these trips have had an ill-fated experience, nevertheless I think that those who did go on the trip to Caughnawaga and St. Regis found it a very valuable experience.

What struck me about the trip, since we may have a few minutes to discuss it, and perhaps it is only coincidental because of the fact that both the reserves are so near each other—is that the complaints and the grievances, and the subject matter, in both instances, were almost identical. I do not know whether this is true generally throughout the Indian reserves in the country; perhaps you would have a word on that, Mr. Dinsdale.

I do not say that a person visiting St. Regis and Caughnawaga becomes an expert on Indian affairs, but it would seem to me, and was pointed out to me,