

them. One day they are your friend and the next day there is a knife in your back and this has happened consistently, sir.

The Chairman: It happens to us whites, too.

Mr. Drummond: Yes. I can't understand their ways. Even though we think we know them I just don't understand them.

Senator Inman: What principally do you black people work at in this town? What do you really make a living at when you are working?

Mr. Drummond: In this community most people here work either at the CPR on the docks or over in the pulp and paper company, and the sugar refinery has been the principal employer ever since its erection. All you have to be is black and go there and you can almost get a job like that. There have been a few who broke through into the skilled fields, very, very few. Some who have have forgotten their roots in the black community and they become what we call black men in a white mask. They have completely forgotten their brothers and sisters who have not been able to break through.

Senator Inman: You find no discrimination in those industries you speak of?

Mr. Drummond: I will ask brother Hodges, down there. Perhaps he can answer.

Senator McGrand: You don't get the skilled trade at the sugar refinery. You get the manual labour.

Mr. Hodges: In the textile refinery since the Fair Employment Practices Act in the province they have been elevated to supervisory staff. In other places where the agreement does not have a seniority clause we have to battle for the supervisory staff. All companies have their prejudiced supervisors, after all they haven't been trained to recognize the fact that there are others in the community that have the right to certain jobs because of their ability and not because of their race or religious principles. We have yet to break them all down.

The Chairman: Mr. Hodges, as a labour man you would be the first to insist on seniority over colour or anything else, would you not?

Mr. Hodges: It is advantageous.

The Chairman: This is what you would do—you would insist upon seniority.

Mr. Hodges: As long as it is advantageous, yes, I would.

The Chairman: The contract would call for it.

Mr. Hodges: Well, seniority and all these things...

The Chairman: You mean they don't mean anything?

Mr. Hodges: As a lawyer, do they?

The Chairman: Of course they do. To me they do.

Mr. Hodges: I may say, senator, that we have lost quite a few arbitration cases on seniority.

The Chairman: I don't understand this view at all. It puzzles me to learn that there are people who enter into contracts and have no respect for them the minute they enter into them.

Mr. Hodges: Honourable people.

The Chairman: All people as I find them are honourable people. I find very few dishonourable ones.

Senator Hastings: Does this subtle discrimination or racism, as you have described it to us and as it exists in Saint John, exist only against the black people, or are there other groups suffering the same?

Mr. Drummond: We are the largest minority group who are non-white. I would assume that it would exist between, shall we say, the native peoples if they were here. I shall assume it would exist between the metis if they were here. It does exist against some other groups who accept it so long as it is not a physical thing. Saint John is not the only place it exists, it exists all through Canada.

Senator Hastings: I can only conclude by trying to answer your question. You asked the committee if we have any views or desires to change the system. I think the chairman of this committee has said many times in his report to the Senate that our purpose in being here is to change the system and eradicate poverty and anything that has contributed to poverty.

Mr. Drummond: We used to ask in a little song, sir, an old slavery spiritual: How long, oh lord, how long?