

Supply—Indian Affairs

that is, if we act wisely, achieve the co-operation of the Indian people and expend our money in such a way that we encourage the Indian people to regain their pride so they will introduce themselves to the modern economy of this country, we will have begun to break the back of this problem in the next generation. Today, out of a total budget of about \$100 million, we are spending \$47 million on education. I believe most members of this house will agree with me when I say that the gold ore among the Indian people today exists among those who are under the age of 20. We are endeavouring to integrate our Indian people into the educational systems of the provinces as rapidly as we possibly can, so that when they go to school they will go with a section of the Canadian population of that age group instead of going with their own people. We have found remarkable improvement in the many cases where this policy has been adopted.

I should like to say to members of this house that in respect of Indian education and co-operation with the provinces we enjoy absolutely 100 per cent co-operation. I believe there is among the Canadian people today, as I sense there is among members of this house, a desire to do the decent thing for the Indian people. In doing the decent thing I have told the Indian people I will not accept, and I hope Canadians will not accept, a general condemnation of the white man for all the troubles of the Indian people today. I think so far this attitude I have adopted has struck a commendable note with those Indians whom we wish to take over the leadership of their people in Canada today.

We hear a great deal about integration and what will happen to them in the future. I do not know what will happen. I believe it would be premature for anyone to say that the Indian people will become totally integrated and lost as Indians in this country. I think it is premature to say this. There is the difficulty today that so many of the Indian people want to restore the glories of their people and return to their own administration within their own tribes and their own areas. At the same time there are others who say they must become modern and have jobs and high wages just like other Canadians. Then there are others who say "Go away and leave us alone".

Many people today condemn the red tape and intrusions by the government into the affairs of the Indian people. There are those

who say "Don't go away and leave us: Remember the historic treaties, the indispensable lifeline we have in the commitments that were made in the historic past". So here we have a people who require help but who, in my view, require the right kind of help.

While I am asking and will continue to ask for money votes in respect of Indian affairs, I have stated to my Indian friends that if we misspend this money or waste it, we will do the problem far more harm than good. Today we are spending in the order of \$16 million for welfare among the Indian people in Canada at a time when I feel we could reduce that amount by two thirds if we were doing the right things.

This is pretty much all I have to say about Indian affairs. We have a national Indian advisory board which I believe is representative of the various areas of Canada. We are consulting more and more with the members of this board. We are endeavouring to encourage them to develop the Indian lands, which total six million acres in this country. Some of these lands are extremely valuable. There are some still undeveloped Indian lands in Canada today of fantastic value. Some of these are within our cities. Under the provisions of the Indian Act today we are not permitted to force the Indians to release these lands for development purposes. We can, however, encourage them to do so, and we are doing this. In many instances the Indians themselves are taking a hand in the development of these areas. In some cases they are entering into contracts involving amounts as high as half a million dollars. They are receiving these large amounts in respect of development leases they have granted for the purpose of building houses and so on.

A difficulty exists in respect of the more remote reserves. There are reserves in Canada to which there is no access other than by air. Yet there are Indians in these places. We are of the opinion that as time goes on we may well have to offer these Indian people the opportunity to move from these ridiculously remote areas down to other areas where there is productive land.

I have endeavoured to be cautious in my work with the Indians because I had not greatly familiarized myself with the Indian problems, although I did know a great number of Indians in the province of British Columbia. I am not pessimistic about the progress we have made in the last year. Rather I am optimistic. I believe the much appreciated interest I have noted on the part