

Indian Affairs

to settle the problem, I would suggest you recognize one who is half way between, that is an independent member.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I might do so after six o'clock. The hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Nesdoly).

[English]

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, this is my third attempt to speak in this debate. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) indicated in his speech one hour ago that there were white men on every reserve when he was appointed in 1968. Let me tell the minister that there was not a white man on such reserves in 1968, although there were some before that date. I live in an area where there are many reserves, and many of the Indian agents had started disappearing from the reserves in the fifties and early sixties.

Mr. Dinsdale: That is right. Let us keep the record straight.

Mr. Nesdoly: The minister also indicated that Indians of this land have been told many things. I immediately ask, who has told them so many things, if not previous Liberal and Conservative administrations? The minister also mentioned British Columbia and said that the province does not want to settle some of the land claims of the Indians. Let me ask this of the minister: What about the Northwest Territories, where the federal government has complete jurisdiction?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply, if the hon. member wants me to. I have offered the Indians the choice and they have decided to choose their land—

An hon. Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Chrétien: Just let me complete my answer. Do not ask questions if you do not want answers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member for Meadow Lake, in the little time available, should be allowed to complete his remarks.

Mr. Chrétien: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member does not want interruptions he should not ask questions but should make a speech.

Mr. Nesdoly: Saskatchewan treaty No. 6 provides:

The said Indians shall have the rights to pursue their avocation of hunting and fishing throughout the tract surrendered as herein before described—

That treaty refers to the fact that Indians were being given lands for their use and livelihood in addition to their traditional hunting and fishing rights. Now, it seems to me, the Indian people of the Prairies are pretty well confined to their reserves and have lost the fishing and hunting rights which are part of the aboriginal title of the Indian people. Many groups in Saskatchewan also maintain that they have been robbed of much land in their reserves since the original treaties were signed. Let me point out that the minister, in his memorandum of June 21, 1972 said:

Some bands particularly in the prairie provinces have not received their full land entitlement under treaties. Some have entitlement in areas which are now wholly settled, others have difficulty in deciding on what remaining land they should select. A separate memorandum will be submitted on partial land entitlement.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

Mr. Chrétien: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that a member of the NDP just killed this debate.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Lefebvre: Six o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock p.m.

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.