

Mr. ROXBURGH: We have done quite a lot for the Indians but maybe we have not done as much as we should. I think, as is being said here now, things are changing, and by visiting them we may get repetition. We were having repetition in immigration, a great deal of it, and the more repetition we have the better our position to sell the department. At least that is the way I look at it.

I think we have to take a sort of over-all look and find out exactly about what you are saying. I am not disagreeing with you on that point about problems and doing something about them because I feel that that is what this Committee is for. I think we can sort of iron them both together and then go from there. I just want to get that straight. I am not saying that we should not do something about their problems but I think they are going to be easier to work with. I know from my trip to the far north that the Eskimos are much easier to work with and more intelligent and more balanced than they were, say, 25 years ago.

The CHAIRMAN: I am only throwing this out as a suggestion. I wonder whether it might not make sense for the Parliament of Canada to provide representation in Parliament for the Indian people. I do not know to what extent, but maybe a seat or two. Perhaps the House ought to be increased by a seat or two in order to have Indians sit in the House to express themselves. I think this is what they need. They need to express themselves. I think we have been trying to do things for the Indians instead of trying to persuade and help the Indians to do things for themselves.

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, many interesting avenues for discussion are being opened up here, but it does seem to me that perhaps the most immediate question, in view of the hour, is the suggestion about the reconstitution of the committee. I would like to point out that I think we should be practical about this, realizing what is involved in the reconstituting of a committee.

When the new session opens, one of the first motions is the setting up of a striking committee, and while I think you will find—I have had a little informal discussion—that the House Leader seems to be quite sympathetic towards reconstituting committees, the members of this Committee should realize that part of the responsibility rests with the various party groups. In other words, I think we should have an understanding that the members of this Committee from the various parties will see to it that, through their whips or whatever channels are used, the striking committee be provided immediately with a list of the members who are to go on the Indian Affairs Committee for the new session. I think this is perhaps the most immediate consideration.

The other thing I would like to say is that I could not agree more with your suggestion that one of our first jobs, when it is feasible, would be to take steps, if it can be arranged to have the St. Lawrence Seaway authority—

The CHAIRMAN: I respect the opinion of Mr. Dinsdale that the trips should have top priority. I respect that opinion. I am not trying to influence the rest of the Committee, but if it were up to me and I had to decide between trips and taking this report and going through the complaints item by item, I would say that this would have top priority, as far as I am concerned, to see if we can find solutions to the various problems of the two reserves that we have here.