

Indian Affairs

The second point I would like to raise is that I am advised as well that this matter is presently being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Some Hon. Members: So?

Mr. Nunziata: In a committee meeting there were allegations by the Hon. Member of attempted murder. He suggested corrupt practices by—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. member is bringing up something that has nothing to do with the debate today. Therefore, I recognize the Hon. Member for Cariboo—Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway).

Mr. Greenaway: Mr. Speaker, first of all I must apologize. If I had known you were going to be in the Chair I would have made my motion much shorter. On the other hand, perhaps I would have put it in the other official language because you are becoming so practised in that language.

I should tell my hon. friend across the way that the supposed legal case has to do with parliamentary immunity. There have been three letters from the Law Clerk of this House stating very clearly that I do have parliamentary immunity, and it would then of course move to privilege. I do not think you, Sir, want to stop anyone from stating what they feel is the truth in this House of Commons.

Having said that, I would like to start my remarks by saying that in—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I hope the Hon. Member will address his remarks through the Chair and therefore carry on with the debate.

Mr. Greenaway: I do apologize. In 1982, as a member of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs, I became aware of a very serious case of impropriety involving the B.C. Regional Office of the Department of Indian Affairs and the Westbank Indian Band near Kelowna. My friend, the Hon. Member for Okanagan—Similkameen (Mr. King), was the first Member to become aware of the complaints involved here. He was approached by tenants and owner-lessees of several mobile home parks on the Westbank Reserve. The owners claimed the chief and band council were taking their authority from a 1977 agreement approved by the DIA, of which the owners knew nothing. It also became apparent that the chief of the band, Ronald Derriksan and his brother, Noll, were involved in some very questionable transactions and were receiving large amounts of money through the B.C. Regional Office, even though both men were known to be very wealthy. We wanted more information to determine if the Department was acting in an irresponsible manner and if, indeed, brothers Ron and Noll Derriksan were, in the words of the Hon. Member for Prince George—Peace River (Mr. Oberle), favourite sons of B.C. Regional Director General Fred Walchli and becoming

rich at the expense of other Indian bands and Canadian taxpayers.

As a result, I took the natural step of placing a question on the *Order Paper*, a notice of motion for the production of papers requesting correspondence and documentation between the Westbank Band and the Department.

Mr. Nunziata: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata).

Mr. Nunziata: It is a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we in this House have parliamentary immunity in order to facilitate debate. However, at this point the Hon. Member is alleging criminal activity. I dare the Hon. Member to go outside this House—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nunziata:—rather than hiding behind the cloak of parliamentary immunity. There are limits.

Mr. Oberle: Look who is calling the kettle black!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I find no privilege there.

Mr. Greenaway: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Hon. Member to hear me out.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. Members are taxing the Chair. Take it easy. This is Friday, we still have a few more minutes to go, and I would appreciate it if Hon. Members behaved like Hon. Members, please.

Mr. Greenaway: Mr. Speaker, I would just ask the Hon. Member to hear a little more and then he can make his judgment.

The question I placed on the *Order Paper* languished there for two years. It never received a response of any kind and I was put off by the Minister several times. During that time there were at least two major reviews done of the Westbank Band: A review of financial transactions and relationships between the band and the B.C. Regional Office, called the Hobbs Report; and a review of band by-laws, the 1977 agreement, and the activities of the band council, by a Vancouver law firm called Lawson Lundel.

Let me add that it was not just Conservative MPs who felt that this affair needed greater investigation. The fifth report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs, in 1982, unanimously requested “an independent inquiry, specifically with regard to all activities carried out by the B.C. Regional Office in conjunction with Indian band members and officials of the Westbank Indian Band.”

As I said, I received nothing from the previous Liberal Minister or his Department, and the information I have has been compiled through my own efforts and those of my colleagues.