

DELIBERATIONS

(Recorded by electronic apparatus)

FRIDAY, March 17, 1967

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see a quorum.

I would like to make a statement in connection with the trip to British Columbia that was postponed. I would like to put on the record that, as you know, on March 2, 1967, this Committee had decided to visit Indian reservations and communities in British Columbia.

The proposed trip was to have commenced on Friday, March 10, 1967, by a prior visit to Winnipeg for the attendance of the annual meeting of the Manitoba Indian Metis Association. This was to have been followed by the British Columbia trip, which was to have convened in Vancouver on Sunday, March 12.

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee was requested to communicate with the House Leader to advise him of the proposed trip, but the latter was out of town and was not expected back until Monday March 6. In the interim the Committee will recall that on Sunday, March 5, 1967, Canada suffered the loss of its revered Governor General.

The following morning on Monday, March 6, I received a telephone call from the clerk of the Committee asking for instructions regarding the proposed trip. It is to be noted that time was of the essence, since the Department of Indian Affairs required an almost immediate answer in order to make the necessary arrangements for the itinerary.

I called the House Leader to inquire whether the House would sit. I was informed that the House would adjourn that day until Thursday, and that no Committee would sit prior thereto, out of respect for the memory of the late Governor General.

In the meanwhile, it was announced on the radio that morning that the government had proclaimed a period of seven days, that is, from noon Sunday, March 5, 1967, as a period of mourning and to honour the memory of the late Right Hon. Georges Vanier.

Under the circumstances, it was impossible to call a meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee in order to determine what course of action the Committee should take under the circumstances. It seemed to me that the better part of propriety would be served if the trip were to be postponed, and I took that decision.

Gentlemen, if there are no comments, I take it that we should proceed with the other order of business.

Mr. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, this is arising out of your statement. I do not think either you or anybody else can be faulted, but it is unfortunate that the