

*Supply*

which no other group of Canadians would submit. If we tried to impose the Indian Act on half a million other Canadians in any part of the country, just think of the demonstrations we would see on Parliament Hill. No group of people would live under a totalitarian piece of legislation like that one.

This all began a long time ago before any of us were around. However, we are the ones who are left with the problems. Perhaps there is a lesson there for Parliamentarians to learn. It would be nice if once in a while we solved a few problems and did not create so many problems for the future. The Parliamentarians of long ago assumed control of Indians and lands reserved for Indians under Section 91(24) of the British North America Act. In so doing, they completely ignored a guideline that was already there. There was a shining beacon telling the Fathers of Confederation, the Parliamentarians and the decision-makers how to proceed, and that was the Royal Proclamation of 1763 which was totally ignored. What was that guideline? It was not very complicated and not hard to understand at all. It was very simple and indicated that Parliamentarians should recognize Indian Governments; they exist already, recognize them. It told Parliamentarians to proceed by way of negotiations leading to agreement on a government-to-government basis. What is so difficult or hard to grasp about that? However, it was ignored.

It is only in this decade, the decade of the 1980s, that we have made even moderate and modest moves to bring the aboriginal peoples of the country into Canadian confederation as partners and as full participants. Is that not what we all want? The patriated Constitution recognized aboriginal rights but did not get around to defining them. The purpose of the constitutional process is to undertake the task of definition. That process too has failed. Why does everything related to aboriginal peoples in this country have to fail? We can succeed in so many other things but if we want to do something right for those people, it is failure after failure.

The last meeting of the First Ministers' Conference held in April of this year, as witnessed by those of us who were present or who watched it on television, was nothing more than a public relations exercise. We have to admit that the aboriginal peoples at that conference were used. They were like props in a play and the theme of that play was, "look how well our new Prime Minister can get along with the provinces". There is nothing wrong at all with getting along with the provinces, but for goodness' sake, don't leave us with the idea that the Premiers are the ones who are running the country. There is nothing wrong with getting along with the provinces provided that something tangible, concrete and useful is arrived at. If the result is nothing more than agreeing that we all love Mom and her cinnamon-laced apple pie, to what avail then is agreement and concord and goodwill?

There may have been some small measure of accomplishment at the last First Ministers' Conference, but if we look at it carefully, we will realize that the accord upon which a number of the Premiers were prepared to agree was so weak and watered down that there was nothing in it of any value or

interest at all to the Indian and Inuit peoples and quite rightly they rejected it. Of course they rejected it. As a matter of fact, there are some who argue that it would have been a step backward instead of a small, modest step forward.

The theme of the last federal election was: It is time for a change. That is okay, but a change to what? The Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party who is now the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) acted like a real estate agent. He went around saying that we should move out of our house and into a different one. Perhaps it is a good idea to do that from time to time but there are a couple of questions that ought to be asked. What will the new structure be like? What plans are there for this new place in which the Prime Minister wants us to live? Incidentally, what are the costs?

During the election campaign, did we know about these plans for change? No, they were either not known by those who were advocating change or they were kept a dark secret. We still do not know the plans for the change but the Canadian people voted for change. Only now are some of the architects and their draftsmen beginning to leak out some of these plans. They are letting the blueprints be known and some of them, I suppose, will end up in jail because of it. That is how we got the Nielsen "Buffalo Jump" report on native peoples.

How different is the mood and temperament of the Nielsen report from the beautiful words of the Prime Minister spoken at the First Ministers' Conference? How different is the emphasis in this document from the responses of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie), our happy wanderer who moves around the country responding positively to the aspirations of aboriginal leaders? The plans contained in the Nielsen "Buffalo Jump" report are quite different. They are sombre and more like a haunted house than an exciting new structure in which aboriginal peoples can live.

It is time for a change. So far we do not like the plans and blueprints we are seeing. As well we fear the costs. The costs will be made known on May 23, budget day. I would say that we should get ready to pay a lot more for considerably less.

I am sure my hon. friends on the Government benches are construing my remarks as being the negative-minded approach of an Opposition Member. This is not so. Let me refer the House to the press release put out by the Assembly of First Nations, one of the most distinguished of national Indian organizations in this country. A document that it recently released says the following:

The Prime Minister, along with his government colleagues . . . , has a cynical blueprint for the elimination of the First Nations as unique peoples within the Federation of Canada. This plan is documented in a Cabinet Memorandum of April 12, 1985. The plan is characterized in that document as: "the Buffalo Jump of the 1980's". The Prime Minister stated on April 18, 1985 that he was disowning the Nielsen Report. The actions now being initiated by his government clearly show that he is not withdrawing the Nielsen Cabinet Memorandum.

This Cabinet Memorandum shockingly outlines a strategy to assimilate Indian people beginning with the 1985 budget speech. The "Communications Strategy" outlined in the document indicates that the plan of the government is to tell the Indian people and the Canadian public one thing; and meanwhile to begin to implement the opposite.