

Mr. BARNETT: Within the framework of the discussion that Mr. Watson has initiated about Caughnawaga and St. Regis, I think he would probably agree with me—I think he has already made this point, in a sense, arising out of our experiences on the Northern Affairs tour—that for a visit to be worthwhile it has to have two essential elements in it: First, an opportunity, in daylight, presumably, to see the actual physical situation; and, second, an opportunity either in a daytime gathering or at an evening meeting to hear and talk to the people. It seems to me that there should be little disagreement on this and that it should also be recognized that we are going to get only a glimpse, as it were, within the scope of that kind of an arrangement.

In determining visits to any of the reserves they should be planned in such a way as to fulfill those two essential conditions, and if they are fulfilled then the exact number of hours is not important. This will vary according to the particular circumstances of the reserve.

I was not in on the earlier discussions of the Committee about the tour, but as I understand the basic point, without going into the details, that my colleague, Mr. Howard, was trying to make—I think this was it—this could not be done simply by flitting in and out of a large number of reserves in a short time. It would be better to concentrate on representative reserves and at least go a little bit below the surface.

Mr. ORANGE: On the previous trip, though, Mr. Barnett, we visited eight reserves in two or three days, which involved about 1,000 miles of travelling.

Mr. LAING: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to interrupt too often, but the problems are very diverse. I would like to see the Committee visit a reserve where the problems are not peoples' problems but commercial problems. We have a reserve at Walpole Island and Georgina Islands where the Indians will tell you that the chief requirement is the setting up of a multi-million dollar development fund so that they can develop these immensely valuable properties. I would like to see the Committee get some taste of this sort of thinking among the Indians, too, because this is in the direction in which we want them to go—of assuming their own responsibilities and developing properties. In both of these reserves we are going to be confronted with this, where governments, either federal or provincial, or both, are going to be approached by them to enable them to unlock the door and make a lot of money, if you like to put it that way—but at least develop the properties. At least one of these should be visited, I would say.

Mr. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, we have an area in Saskatchewan where the land is just being used for pasture and where people are crying for sites for cottages. They have not been able to do anything with it.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish to comment? Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. BALDWIN: May I make a motion to bring things to a head?

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. BALDWIN: My motion is that the steering committee, after discussions with departmental officials, immediately establish three subcommittees to visit areas which are regionally distinct and which require urgent consideration and to report back to this Committee with their plans.