

*The Address—Miss F. MacDonald*

programs in health, education and employment opportunities without linking them to adequate housing. I commend the statistics on native people in "Perspective Canada" to all those who are tempted to categorize and dismiss Indians as lazy, drunken and good for nothing.

A further indictment of the way in which successive governments have treated our native people is contained in a recent non-Canadian publication now exposing Canada's treatment of its native people to the world. Capsulizing 400 years of betrayal and neglect in hard hitting, factual terms, report No. 21 of the Minority Rights Group in Britain deals with Canada's Indians. The aim of this group, whose sponsors include such eminent humanitarians as Barbara Ward and Gunnar Myrdal, is to secure justice for minority groups suffering discrimination. Perhaps this devastating recital, by a highly respected London-based educational trust, of discrimination against Canada's Indians will shame us into taking the action that we have heretofore avoided.

● (1650)

Phrases such as paternalistic, bureaucratic deadweight, excessive administrative and government control, occur and reoccur. The report examines the dollar outlay on native people in the light of the benefits provided them. It states:

The increasing expenditure on the Indian, and the creation of programs in new fields like community development, had less beneficial effect than might be expected from looking at the sums involved. Not only was the money still being spent for the Indian rather than by him, but remarkably little was actually being spent on Indians at all. In 1970-71, for instance, of \$228.3 million expended in the Indian and Eskimo affairs program, \$175.4 million was classified as "operating expenses". The main beneficiary of the increased budget, therefore, was an expanded government department—

The report quotes one Indian leader as saying:

One wonders if the Indian people are not used to provide well-paying jobs to non-Indians.

The report also charges that:

There has still not been a major transformation of Indian life. The Department of Indian Affairs is still a huge and costly vested interest and may wittingly or unwittingly obstruct the movement of power and resources to the Indians.

But more than money is involved here. There is the question of Indian rights and self-respect. As the report states:

It will in the long term be far less costly, as well as more generous and more just, to let the Indians themselves try now, even if this means making them a special case for economic assistance for some years to come. They have been a special case of a different sort for 400 years. The government will have to be patient and courageous and far-sighted enough to realize that the symptoms of such deprivation will not, even in the most favourable circumstances, disappear overnight, and that another attempt to solve the Indians' difficulties with cut price solutions imposed from outside will inevitably create more intractable problems and necessitate still more expensive remedies in the future. There is a long history of failure, parsimony and neglect to be made up for.

The publication recounts how, immediately following his appointment in 1968, the former minister of Indian Affairs announced his intention of holding a series of consultative meetings with Indian leaders to discuss a radical overhaul of Indian administration. Two months later the government published its white paper on Indian policy, without consultation. The Indian leaders, so the

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report states, were surprised and disappointed. And I might add, angry at another betrayal by government.

I mention this, Mr. Speaker, because we have seen in the wake of the demonstration on Parliament Hill a ministerial meeting with Indian leaders, initiated by the National Indian Brotherhood. Regretfully, the government did not seize or see the opportunity to initiate such discussion itself. The outcome of this meeting, according to press reports, is that the leaders of Canada's registered Indians are to have regular and frequent access to a federal cabinet committee to discuss their problems. Optimistically, Indian leaders reported "It looks like we made a breakthrough". That is what they thought in 1968, and they were disappointed. Six long frustrating years of dealings with the Department of Indian Affairs followed, while their housing and health deteriorated.

The new minister has a heavy responsibility to assure that these meetings are designed to lead to the resolution of problems, and not just another mechanism to diffuse their impact. If this should occur Indians will seek other avenues through which to express their frustrations. This could lead to confrontations and violence which none of us want to see.

No amount of tinkering with executive and constitutional mechanisms can substitute for political leadership. Let the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) show us that he has the political will to tackle substance and not mere form.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[English]

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External affairs—Representation of Palestine liberation organization at Geneva conference—Canadian position; the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan)—Transport—Suggestion federal government join in Urban Transportation Development Corporation; the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan)—Manpower—Development of new community employment strategy—Inquiry as to government policy.

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## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Duclos for an address to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

**Mr. Alan Martin (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset of my remarks that this auspicious