

Mr. GIBSON: In the meantime they are segregated on that reserve. It seems to me they could be absorbed into our population out there, which must be the eventual objective or goal of the Indian administration in Canada. Or what is their goal?

Mr. HARKNESS: They have as much opportunity to work in the factories and various other industries that are established there while living on the reserve as if they were living amongst the general population, as far I can see.

Mr. GIBSON: If you go ahead and build them good homes to live in, I would say that is all right.

Mr. HARKNESS: I think that would be much better.

Mr. RAYMOND: How many Indians are there?

Mr. GIBSON: I have no idea. A couple of hundred, maybe. Would that be right, or have you the figure, Mr. MacKay?

The WITNESS: I could give you the correct number in a minute or two.

*By Hon. Mr. Stirling:*

Q. Until they become enfranchised, they are still wards of the government?—A. Yes. I cannot see how they would have the same protection in the municipality on land subject to taxation as they enjoy today on tax-free land in the reserve. They have something there that they certainly would not have in the city, in the municipal limits. Of course, if you want to enfranchise them and give them the full rights of citizenship, that is another thing.

Mr. GIBSON: That is what we are trying to do, of course.

Mr. LICKERS: In connection with that property up there in North Vancouver, is it the intention of the committee to work out a process by which the Indians would be better off? Might it not be that in the next 10 or 15 years you would see the results of this committee and Indians might require the site of this particular land for themselves?

Mr. GIBSON: If you want to keep on segregating them, I would say you are right. But what is the eventual objective of Indian administration in Canada? Are we trying to absorb the Indians eventually into our population?

Mr. RAYMOND: The objective is to make good Canadians out of them. That is my opinion.

Mr. GIBSON: Yes.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Would not the absorption occur just automatically and spontaneously; and where the absorption does not so occur by young people falling in love, it is a good deal better that we should not try to engineer it.

Mr. LICKERS: You will not get any absorption until everybody is on the same level. Then the situation will look after itself.

The WITNESS: There are 506 Indians in North Vancouver; but what would be the difference in subdividing the North Vancouver reserve into proper lots, with sewage disposal system, improvements to existing homes and supply of new homes? What would be the difference in doing that and moving them into other parts of the municipality? I should think they would be better off, and they would certainly be more secure in the matter of ownership of non-taxable land, than they would be in a municipality where they would face loss of land for non-payment of municipal and provincial levies.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. Hear, hear. Would they be any better off if they had their own peculiar industries, such as handicrafts?—A. Well, the Indians of North Vancouver are mainly longshoremen, and very, very good longshoremen because the work is intermittent. The Indian does not take kindly to our philosophy of life which