

Indians down there who own and control a very desirable piece of Indian territory close to a water resort and a lot of people in that vicinity would like to acquire the operation of that for the public in British Columbia. Under the Indian Act they are prevented from doing so, but here is the situation. These Indians by going across the line pick up an American Indian wife and they keep this band growing. I am wondering if that has been taken up with the American authorities. It has been claimed by many of our people that the Indians on the Canadian reserve are really American Indians who move back and forth. They live three or four months on the Semikmoo reserve and then move across and live on the Lumni reserve. Probably at one time they were American Indians and others here have brought back American wives.

The CHAIRMAN: Are we concerned particularly with the United States? What we are concerned with is the Indians who are considered to be Canadian Indians, are we not?

Mr. REID: Yes, but I had in mind if they keep adding to the band by bringing others in from outside Canada, we must be interested, and I think that we should seriously discuss the matter with the American authorities and clarify the condition.

The WITNESS: What objection should the government of Canada have to an Indian marrying an American Indian and taking her to a reserve in Canada any more than the people of Canada should object to a white man marrying a white woman and bringing her here?

Mr. REID: No more than this point, that we are in charge of Indians in Canada and they are under our jurisdiction and authority and if they step out of line I think it is to our interests and their own that we should understand whether on our reserves they are Canadians or Americans.

The WITNESS: Do you suggest some barrier be placed between intermarriage of Canadian and American Indians?

Mr. REID: No. But we would like the situation defined. If they are American Indians, that is strictly American citizens, they should be under the care of the United States government and the real status of all our Canadian Indians should be known.

The CHAIRMAN: Probably that will become clear to us as we go along with our report.

Mr. REID: I am not going to hold up the committee but Major MacKay comes from British Columbia and I think if we want to discuss it we should do it while he is here.

The CHAIRMAN: I don't think there is any desire to close off anybody but I think we might get along with the report.

Mr. CHARLTON: You wish us to hear Major MacKay.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. CHARLTON: I have some questions but I will hold them until he has made his statement.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee is going to govern this. I am not trying to close off anyone, and have no desire to do so, but we would like to hear Major MacKay.

Mr. MACNICOL: Without interruption and question him this afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Is that your desire?

MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, Major MacKay.