

Suggested National Indian Day

were to inquire of most Canadians they would probably indicate that according to their understanding the Indians are a drain on the federal treasury, a problem everyone would like to eliminate if only someone would suggest an easy solution, one which would not cost too much money or take too much time. This attitude is not in keeping with the facts and we need only look at some examples of the kind of man the Indian population of this nation has been able to produce. I should like to name just a few. Many of these people will not be quickly associated with the Indian communities. Indeed, some Canadians would be much more anxious to classify them as white men.

In the Senate we have Senator Gladstone who was outstanding as a leader in Alberta, I understand, before he became a senator and was a prosperous rancher. In the British Columbia legislature we had Frank Calder. I am glad to hear the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) say he is still a member of that legislature. In Ottawa we have had for many years Dr. G. C. Monture, a distinguished civil servant and world authority on mineral resources development who at the present time is an adviser to the Atlantic Development Board. There is Jack Beaver, a nuclear engineer; Leonard S. Marchand, the first Indian ever to be appointed to the personal staff of a minister of the Crown; Mrs. Mildred Gottfriedson who in 1963 was selected mother of the year and, from the Eskasoni Band in my own constituency, a number of young men and women who have shown promise of making further contributions of significance. Among them are John Lewis who received a \$1,500 scholarship to study engineering at St. Francis Xavier University, Joan Johnson who received a scholarship to Mount St. Bernard College and Janet Morris, now working in the civil service here in Ottawa who was chosen "Miss Indian Affairs Branch" for 1965.

I should also mention Miss Kahn-Tineta Horn, an outspoken and talented model; Dr. Ahab Spence, a clergyman, the first Indian to receive the degree of doctor of law; well known artists such as Gerald Tailfeathers and George Clutesi, and a great number of clergymen, lawyers doctors, dentists, school teachers, nurses, stenographers, hairdressers as well as members of a variety of other trades and professions. At this time of the year perhaps it is fitting to give special recognition to George Armstrong, a Mohawk Indian who has been an outstanding hockey player, a man who has gained a special status

by being selected as captain of his team and who has always proven to be a gentleman both on and off the ice.

As I say, it is my hope that the government and all hon. members will give serious consideration to the merits of my proposal. It is definitely non-partisan in character and I believe there will be no dispute among members of the various parties in the house as to the value of the action I propose.

• (5:10 p.m.)

I have taken only a few short minutes in which to deal briefly with the resolution before us and the aims intended for it. My purpose has been to allow an opportunity for those who wish to speak on the resolution to do so while still enabling us to conclude our discussion before the time allotted for the private members' hour expires at six o'clock, at which point we could possibly vote on this motion. It is my hope the government will take the unique step of saying the resolution can be adopted today and that the necessary action will be taken, in keeping with the commendable announced intentions of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, to set aside one day during our one hundredth year to give Canada's Indians the recognition they deserve.

Mr. Enns: Would the hon. member permit a question? What action does he envisage which might properly take place on such a day? I ask this question in support of the resolution; it is not my intention to be critical in any way. What steps does he think can be taken so that the whole country can properly recognize this day? Does he visualize using the services of television and other media?

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I have many suggestions in mind and I would be pleased to outline them once the resolution has been adopted. The hon. member mentioned the news media—radio, television and the press. I think we should devote that day to the Indian people and take the opportunity to do a proper public relations job on behalf of the Indian people. We should explain, as I have tried to do in a few short minutes, what has been done by the Canadian Indians and the contribution they have made. This is a function which could be performed right across this country from one end to the other. I think this should be done in a serious way as an annual event to instil into the minds of the Canadian people regard for the traditions and culture of the Indians and an