

Mr. CASE: I suppose it is under the National Registration Act.

The WITNESS: Yes. On page 7 it has this to say. "Registration officers will abstain from attempting to advise or settle whether registrants are or are not British subjects. The registrant must decide that question for himself". No Indian had that privilege under this national registration. They were forcibly registered as British subjects. Now I hate to take up your time in other small matters but I would like to bring to the attention of this committee one other glaring instance. I have here a summons issued to one Raymond Leslie Johnson.

Mr. CASE: Is he an Indian?

The WITNESS: Yes, a Six Nations Indian from Six Nations' territory. It is dated February 8, 1947. This young man of about thirty years of age has worked out for several years and saved his money. He came back home to a deserted and dilapidated farm and tried to build it up. He built a tremendous new barn about the size of this hall. He bought a tractor and implements and began to farm. This winter, desiring to erect another building, he got some logs off the territory and took them up to a sawmill with the intention of bringing back the lumber to erect this building. The Mounted Police in consultation with the Indian superintendent issued this summons. As a result of that he was fined \$100 and costs, a total of \$155. This man had done more to improve our Indian reservation than our Indian agent and all the Mounted Police put together, yet he was fined on the Indian reserve. He was, of course, brought under the Indian Act.

Mr. MACNICOL: In what way?

The WITNESS: He drew logs off the reserve to a sawmill in order to bring them back as lumber.

By Mr. Little:

Q. Had he the right to take the logs in the first place?—A. He was not selling them.

Q. Had he the right to take them in the first place?—A. Not according to the Indian Act.

A short time ago this House was very magnanimous to a British war-bride who was fined \$25 under the Indian Act. That fine was reduced to \$1. Gentlemen, this is a much more worthy cause than the second one that I have cited.

I would have liked to take more of your time, gentlemen, but I said I would try to be through in half an hour. I would have liked to have gone into more of what the Indian department officials have said and it is my desire to change our brief and add a lot more to what I had intended to say. In the near future we will make a presentation of the brief.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. Smith, I appreciate the effort you have made.

Now, is Chief William Pine here? Chief William Pine not being here, then I presume we will proceed with the questioning of the witnesses. Is it your wish, gentlemen, to take them in the order that they have been heard? Is that agreeable?

Agreed.

Mr. Reginald Hill, would you come forward please.

Mr. REGINALD HILL: If it is in order I should also like to have the questions put to the other delegates who have come with me.

The CHAIRMAN: I was going to suggest that you and your delegates go to the centre table and be seated there. The reason for that is we want everybody to hear, and especially the official reporter. Shall we limit the time of the members in asking these questions? Is it agreeable to say ten minutes? We only have twenty minutes left.