

*Indian Affairs*

Chief Ronald Derriksan in dealing with a proposed development with myself made false statements to entice myself into a development... Chief Ronald Derriksan required a deposit of \$15,000.00 before permitting engineering studies of the site... The Chief agrees to terms and conditions of the lease but when lease is presented it fails to describe the agreement. When the developer refuses to sign the lease the Chief refuses to return the funds.

The following is from another prospective leasee who stated:

Chief Ronald Derriksan demanded and received a \$5,000.00 deposit from myself and T.W. Foodstuffs Ltd. who were partners in a proposed motel site... When the lease was presented it did not contain the agreed terms. Funds were not returned and therefore the project was cancelled.

There about 10 such instances.

In conclusion, I would like to read the recommendation was made by Mr. John Tennant of the law firm Lawson, Lundell which conducted extensive research into the situation of the Westbank Indian Band. He said:

—we recommend that a public inquiry and/or departmental investigation be authorized by the Governor in Council and/or the Minister. The person making the inquiry or investigation should have full power to summon witnesses, to require evidence on oath and the production of documents.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired. The Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi).

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I guess I feel obligated to participate this afternoon in this debate. I qualify my remark with the word "obligation" simply because I think the House, with the representations from two government Members, has certainly lowered itself to a really sleazy, bootleg type of practice. What we have before us is really an academic exercise. A Member of Parliament from Cariboo has stood in his place and requested through his motion that correspondence and documents concerning the Westbank Indian Band in B.C. be released. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development stood up and agreed to his request.

As an individual Member of Parliament I have no objection to requesting and having released any type of documentation. After all, on behalf of all Canadians, that should be the normal course to follow. However, if the Hon. Member chose to pursue this through the House then one would at least expect that, if there was a sense of genuine decency on the other side, the debate would end there.

The point is also academic because I believe there was an agreement in advance of the debate that those papers and documents would be released. Therefore, I must ask the question, why was the debate necessary regarding allegations, criminal activity, fraud and assassination attempts? I think the asking of such questions brings the House to a level which makes it look ridiculous in light of the new civility promised by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and in light of the reforms which received the unanimous agreement of the House.

It is unbelievable and incorrect for a Member of this House—in this case two members of the Conservative Party—to make criminal allegations about individual Canadians on

the pretext of soliciting documentation. That should not be tolerated. It is unacceptable. I say that because we are witnessing today in this Chamber a double standard. When members of the Government Party stand up and speak concerning irregularities, conflict of interest or information that should be shared with the public, what we see is a number of trained seals who cheer the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) or the Prime Minister in their attempts to block and diffuse. But they have more morality when it comes to controlling their own tongues and their own aspirations when they concern individual Canadians. They are quick to use this one hour of parliamentary time, under the pretext of acquiring documents, to deal with something that is already undergoing a judicial process. Members are quick to take the place of the RCMP and to pretend to be a jury. We should not take up the time of Private Members' hour with that when there are a number of important issues affecting the entire country with which we may deal.

● (1650)

It is no wonder that two of my colleagues and I have had the courage to rise to set the record straight. We do not argue with proceeding with this matter in the proper way. It has already been suggested that if the RCMP are investigating the matter, the Hon. Member and others have played their roles. They have flagged the issue and it has gone through the proper channels. If the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) is considering initiating a public inquiry, the Hon. Member and his colleagues have done their jobs.

Hon. Members know that their cabinet colleagues are undertaking the proper investigations, and I question the sincerity and motives of individual Members who have risen to speak. I question their allegations that those on this side of the House simply want to block information. That is the furthest thing from the truth. We want to let the information rise, but we want to let it rise through the proper course of the law. We do not accept the shoddy, sleazy tactics we saw today during the course of Private Members' hour. We do not condone those tactics.

If Hon. Members are prepared to use this place as a court of law and are prepared to be jurors, where were they during the last two years when opposition Members raised much more serious allegations of Government improprieties? They simply cannot have it both ways. It is unfair and undignified for a Member of Parliament from that side of the House to make allegations about individual Canadians when other Canadians are already looking into the situation in the proper light. It is simply inexcusable that this forum be used in such a shoddy, sleazy way. It is intolerable that this should happen when the Prime Minister and other Hon. Members, with the support of all Parties, have introduced a reform into the House of Commons. Of course, Canadians who are seeing this mockery will laugh.