

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my caucus I should like to indicate that we are quite willing to follow the procedure as outlined. We will deal with all clauses of the Bill under Clause 2, and the vote on Clause 2, could apply to the other clauses.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pinard: I would like to rise on a point of order very briefly concerning House business. I should just like to inform the House that on Monday we will be dealing with Bill C-34 but, contrary to what I indicated yesterday, starting Tuesday morning, Wednesday, Thursday and so on, we will be dealing with Bill C-9.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Surprise, surprise!

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CREE-NASKAPI (OF QUEBEC) ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed consideration in committee of Bill C-46, an Act respecting certain provisions of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement relating principally to Cree and Naskapi local government and to the land regime governing Category 1A and Category IA-N land—Mr. Pepin (for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development)—Mr. Corbin in the chair.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. In the Alberta legislature we quite often followed the practice of taking the title, Clause 2 and the preamble together, and unless a member asked for any other particular clause, agreement was given to passing them all. In that way no one had a comeback to say later that he did not have a chance to speak on Clause 24, Clause 28 or whatever.

The Chairman: There being no further points of order, the Chair will take it for granted and make it an order that the discussion on Clause 2 will encompass discussion on all other clauses, and when the question is put on Clause 2, it will apply to all remaining clauses.

On Clause 2—*Definitions:*

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions which I should like to direct to the Minister this afternoon. The Cree and Naskapi represent about 25 per cent of the Department's regional office in Quebec. Because of the fact that the area involved is isolated, perhaps the figure is slightly higher. I should like to find out from the Minister whether, with the passing of this Act, any person-years will be decreased within the Department. What kind of monetary saving from a departmental point of view will take place? This concerns the entire area of self-government and the taking

James Bay Agreement

over of responsibility for their own affairs by the Cree and Naskapi, which they have so ably demonstrated they can do. What in fact will happen within the Department? Will the person-years be reduced?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, I just want to say to the Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown that we very much hope after a few months to reduce the personnel of the Department. That is my desire and it is the general aim of the Department.

It can be said that the Cree and Naskapi, even before this legislation, were already exercising a *de facto* type of Indian self-government, knowing that this was the spirit of the James Bay Agreement, knowing that both levels of government agreed, and knowing that there was almost unanimous support in the standing committee for this, as expressed by the Hon. Member, his colleagues and Members of the NDP. We stretched the Indian Act to its outer limit in this particular case in order to accommodate the self-governing practices of the Cree and Naskapi. We must keep that in mind when we say that much of the personnel of the Department, unless almost specifically invited by the Cree to involve themselves in some area, was not preoccupied with matters of the Cree and the Naskapi because they were self-governing in many real ways.

Mr. McDermid: I do not want to put words in the Minister's mouth. He may want to correct what I have to say. Is he saying that when the Cree took over their own responsibilities as far as education, health and social services were concerned, in fact there was a reduction in man-years in the Department for the Quebec region? I think that was what the Minister was alluding to, that that has already been done and, therefore, do not expect any further reduction in manpower staff.

• (1440)

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, not only will there be further reduction, but the case is even better from the Hon. Member's view. During the last few years we have been reducing personnel quite dramatically. I will get the figures for the Hon. Member. For example, we closed the Val d'Or office completely in my colleague's constituency. Before all this occurred it was a very active and significant office. We have been cutting down all along and intend now to accelerate the process as a result of that.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Chairman, if that is the case, could it not be reflected in the manpower of the Department which over the last few years has in fact increased? Although the Val d'Or office was closed, those jobs were not lost. Those person-years were shuffled to the regional office and to the head office in Ottawa. What should have happened did not happen.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, I will carve out for the Hon. Member how this applies to Quebec in particular. Over the last four to five years we cut the personnel of the Department in absolute numbers by 1,200 people. That is the over-all reduction in staff. I suppose a rough rule of