

The WITNESS: No sir. A number of reserves in an agency. The province is divided really into nineteen agencies, seventeen of them under the jurisdiction of the Indian Commissioner for British Columbia and the other two, Fort St. John and Fort Simpson, the former under the Alberta inspectorate and the latter included in the Northwest Territories administration, the reason being, I suppose, that the Indians there are treaty Indians. I have no treaty Indians under me in British Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions any member of the committee would care to ask?

Mr. REID: I would like to ask a question. Particularly in the constituency that I have the honour to represent—I do not know whether it prevails in other parts of Canada or not—we notice claims of Indians to two nationalities. There is a small reserve called the Semikmoo Reserve with a small group of Indians who at certain times of the year move across into the United States to a small reserve called the Lumni Reserve where they claim to be Americans and to come under the jurisdiction of the American authorities. If they get into any trouble in the United States they move over to our side and they then become Canadian Indians. I understand that the band owns property in the state of Washington and also this small reserve in British Columbia called the Semigmo Reserve. I wonder if you could look into the history back of that or tell me if there is any band or tribe in a similar condition in Canada involving both American and Canadian Indians.

Mr. MACNICOL: May I ask if the reservation is on both sides of the line?

Mr. REID: It is all on one side of the boundary. The other reserve is the Lumni reserve, probably fifty miles from the boundary line. The authorities have considerable trouble trying to sort out their nationality. If they get into trouble on one side they cross over to the other but they claim they are both American and Canadian.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: Is that not common to other bands in British Columbia? I would say that difficulty arises with regard to Indians in the Okanagan Valley and the Similkameen Valley. Perhaps Major MacKay will pick up that statement and tell us how right it is.

The WITNESS: I think I can deal with that now. We in administration are not concerned with the status of Indians outside of Canada. I have no information that Indians on the Semikmoo Reserve have any double status or that they have been over to reserves across the American border line. I presume that they move pretty freely across the boundary line. We have had studies and investigations from time to time to determine the responsibility for Canadian Indians on Indian reserves in the United States and that has come before the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. As far as the status of our Indians in British Columbia and those in the United States, we as an administrative unit I do not suppose have shown any great concern through our department, any more than you consider the white men in the United States as compared with other whites on our side. I do not know that a Canadian Indian can at the same time be a member of a band of Indians in the United States. I am quite sure on that point.

Mr. REID: There has been quite a lot of intermarriage.

The WITNESS: There has. You have a very typical example in the Indians of the St. Mary's Reserve in Cranbrook. They originally came from the prairies and from bands in the United States and settled on the Semikmoo reserve and intermarried and eventually became Indians of British Columbia and were accepted as such by the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. REID: One of the particular reasons we are interested in the matter—I do not want to say from an ulterior point of view—there is a small group of