

Routine Proceedings

being asked in this House on behalf of those aboriginal people.

If that reflects the kind of promises that are made by this government and by previous governments, who in this House will defend the honour of the Crown and the government's agreements with aboriginal people? Are we saying that this government has no honour?

We now have an opportunity, 50 years after the fact to go to the Stoney Point people on April 16, the 50th anniversary of when that land was seized, make amends and return the land or at least indicate that the land will be returned to them.

That camp has been open since 1945. It was used to train people who went to Korea and then when it was no longer needed for war purposes, it was used to train militia corps and cadet corps. Now it is very seldom used at all. In fact, the camp is closed for a good part of the year. In spite of that, the government still refuses to return that land to the Stoney Point people.

I do not know what it is about this government, but a promise seems to mean nothing to them. The honour of the Crown seems to mean nothing to them in terms of its relationship with the aboriginal people. All we have been asking for, all the Stoney Point people have been asking for over these many years, is that the government keep its promise and return the land that was seized from them under the War Measures Act.

It is not much to ask. All the minister had to say in the House today was that the Department of National Defence understands that a wrong has been done to the people of Stoney Point and that the wrong needs to be corrected, that the government is phasing down the number of bases it operates through the Department of National Defence gives them an opportunity to correct that ancient injustice that was done to the Stoney Point people. It is not much to ask, Mr. Speaker.

On April 16, the Stoney Point people plan to make a peaceful demonstration in front of the gates of Camp Ipperwash which is now the CFB camp located at Stoney

Point. At that time, they are hoping to present to the people from the Department of National Defence an eviction notice, the same kind of notice they received so unceremoniously 50 years ago. They hope on that day the government will be prepared to right this wrong, to make amends for what they did and to make sure, through an announcement, that the land is going to be returned to its rightful aboriginal owners.

That is all they ask and that is why I am rising in the House today on this important issue, a week or two weeks before this event is to take place at the gates of Camp Ipperwash.

I call on this Parliament to support the report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs calling on the government to return the land taken from the Stoney Point people back in 1942 to its aboriginal owners and their descendants who have been waiting for so long for justice to be done.

I hope that Parliament has heard these words. I indicated that I intended to be brief on this issue. This grievance has been outstanding for 50 years. I hope members will support this concurrence motion and get the Minister of National Defence off his duff so that he understands what the principles of justice are all about and that he makes an announcement today or at least within the next week or so to indicate to the people at Stoney Point that justice is going to be done; that the land seized from them 50 years ago is going to be returned and that the honour of the Crown will be restored.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the House do now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion agreed to.