

The CHAIRMAN: I assume that this is unanimously carried?

Mr. MACNICOL: I want to see the Indian have representation in the House directly, if he can have it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think it would only be fair to Mr. MacNicol to tell him that when we were considering the possibility of having Indians elect an Indian, or two or three Indians across Canada, it was pointed out that it would be next to impossible to have an Indian travel the whole of Canada and present himself before the Indians. The same difficulty would surround a white man who was trying to represent the Indians as a whole across Canada.

Mr. MACNICOL: It is not impossible to direct that some member for whom the Indians were going to vote would represent them. They could vote as is done in South Africa.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not going to open up the debate again, but my thought on it would be the same as was stated by Mr. Bryce, that if the representative does not represent the people in his constituency he should no longer be a representative. If he does not represent the Indians in his constituency he will no longer be their representative, and that will be proved in a very practical way at the next election. He will be defeated if he does not represent the opinion of all the people in his constituency. We are not going to open up the debate; we went into all that.

Mr. MACNICOL: I am not opening up the debate. I said this was not done on the basis of the South African system.

The CHAIRMAN: We did not discuss the matter on the basis of the South African system; we did discuss the New Zealand system; but in my opinion the same principle applies.

Mr. MACNICOL: I am not opposing giving them the right to vote.

The CHAIRMAN: Are we unanimously agreed that this report should be made to parliament?

Mr. MACNICOL: I am not opposing that.

Mr. FARQUHAR: The motion has been carried.

The CHAIRMAN: I was wondering if it was unanimous. It is unanimously carried. We will continue in camera.

The committee went into camera.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
May 18, 1948.

The Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to examine and consider the Indian Act met this day at 4 p.m. Mr. D. F. Brown, M.P., (Joint Chairman), presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, will you please come to order. Before proceeding with the work of the committee I should like to make one reference of importance, and that is to the passing of Senator Johnston. Senator Johnston, as you know, was a member of this committee from its inception until the time of his passing. He was the first Senate co-chairman of the committee and carried on the work of co-chairman for the first session in which the committee operated. Since that time he continued to be a very valuable member of our committee.

Senator Johnston passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 9, at Regina, Saskatchewan. He had been in attendance at meetings of the committee during the week preceding his passing. I know the committee would wish me to express