



Bulletin

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THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CANADIAN INDIANS EXPLAINED

Last June, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced federal proposals for a new Indian policy (see Canadian Weekly Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 30, dated July 23, 1969, P. 1).

In a follow-up statement in Regina, Saskatchewan on October 2, the Minister said that although he had hoped "a vigorous debate" would take place on the proposals, discussion had "become clouded because of misunderstandings, misinterpretation, and a lack of knowledge on the part of the Canadian public of the Indian situation".

Mr. Chrétien elucidated the Government's proposals as follows:

...The policy statement is pretty clearly written. The English, French and Cree texts agree with each other. It is a straightforward document. But in this age of instant communication everyone knows within minutes that an announcement has been made, but they never seem to find out what it was that was announced.

Let me explain.

The statement is *not* a final policy decision to be implemented regardless of what anyone else says.

The statement does *not* propose or suggest that Indian reserves should be abolished.

The statement does *not* propose that the provincial governments should take over responsibility for Indian land.

The statement does *not* propose to disregard the treaties and end them unilaterally.

The statement does *not* propose that the Federal Government "abandon" the Indian people to the provinces without ensuring that the provinces have the

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resources to maintain and improve upon the existing level of programs and services.

The statement does *not* suggest that Indians, or Indian bands should be given clear, freehold title to their land within five years – or indeed within any period of time at all.

The statement does *not* advocate any weakening of Indian culture or identity. It does *not* advocate the assimilation of Indian people.

The statement is clear on all these points. On many occasions, both privately and publicly, to Indian and non-Indian people alike, I have tried to clear up these misinterpretations.

TRUE MEANING OF POLICY

Now what did the policy say?

It says that the time has come to change a system which has been discriminatory and paternalistic towards Indian people.

It says that the proposals contained in the policy statement are to be discussed with Indian people, provincial governments and the Canadian public before any of them are implemented.

It says that provinces should extend the services to Indians that they extend to others who dwell within their domain, and that the Federal Government will transfer funds to help them do it.

It says that representatives of the Indian people

should be involved in discussions with the provinces.

It says that federal departments will do this concurrently with those provinces which agree.

It says that the Indian people should control their own land.

It says that those bands which want title to their land should be able to take it.

It says that if the provinces extend their services, and other federal departments extend theirs to Indians, the Department of Indian Affairs would be phased out of operation. After all, Indian Affairs has been attacked by everybody. Who could complain if the Government believed that the critics had meant what they said?

The statement says that it hopes this could be done in five years. It goes on to say that the matter of Indian control of Indian land will take longer. Among the numbers of years which are greater than five, there is a wide range of choices. But everyone has fixed on five years, which is impossible. There are 550 bands. There are over 2,000 reserves. An Indian Lands Act is necessary to protect the land. Such an Act will have to be talked about, consulted about, drafted, made into law and put into effect. In five years? Not at all. It was never suggested. We know, and Indian people know, that this will take time.

The statement said that the treaties would be reviewed by the Indians and the Commissioner for Indian Claims to determine the best way of adjudicating claims arising from them.

The statement said that the Government recognized that all Canadians should acknowledge the virtues, strengths and richness of Indian culture and languages.

The statement said that the Government would develop, with the Indian people, programs to enrich their cultural heritage and their sense of identity.

Are these proposals to be taken as an abrogation of treaties? Are they cultural genocide? I do not see how anyone can suggest that they are.

As soon as the policy proposal was out, there were headlines about "turning the Indians over to the provinces".

Shortly after the headlines, there were editorials about the problems involved in doing that which was never suggested should be done.

At the same time some Indian leaders began telling the Government it ought not to do that which many of them had sought for years.

SENSIBLE DISCUSSION NEEDED

What is needed now is a sensible and meaningful discussion about the step to be taken and to separate the principal components of the problem so they can be dealt with appropriately.

We want to talk. We want to have a dialogue with Indian spokesmen and we want the provinces to join in the talks.

I can well appreciate the reaction of Indian people towards the policy proposals. The proposals

represent a dramatic break from the past. Spokesmen for the Indian people have asked for time to consider the proposals and to draft alternative proposals of their own. This is a reasonable position to take.

Indian people, because of past experiences, have a deep distrust of governments, both federal and provincial, and tend to regard the proposals with suspicion. In private meetings with representatives of the Indian people, I have explained the policy proposals and I have listened to their comments and criticisms. These meetings have been helpful, and many more will be held.

There is room for disagreement about what is to be done. There is room for a great deal of discussion before anything is done. There is no room for rejecting out of hand that which was never proposed at all.

Last year a series of meetings with spokesmen for each band of Indian people were held. It soon became apparent that the Indian Act, as such, was not the first priority of many Indian people. It also soon became apparent that the restrictions imposed by the present Act had outlived their usefulness. It was clear that the Government could not sit back. It had to respond to what Indian people had been saying.

It was clear to the Government that many Indians were preoccupied by considerations of their treaties and rights. It was equally clear that this is a complex matter which cannot be resolved quickly.

The Government does not believe that the whole matter of the Indian people's well-being should be set aside pending resolution of treaty problems and claims. It is the Government's view that the various elements of the problem should be separated. Treaties include land entitlement. This major factor is dealt with as one which must be worked out on a band-by-band basis over an extended period of time.

CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF LAND

The Government recognizes that many Indians want to see some safeguards which will ensure that their land is not alienated from Indian occupancy, remains with the band and will not be open for land speculators to grab from them. The Government hopes that an Indian Lands Act can be evolved to provide Indian people with both control of their own land and the degree of protection for it which they feel is appropriate. The legislation will have to be flexible so that the degree of control and protection can be worked out and applied band by band.

Indian land will stay Indian land. It will not be up for grabs by speculators. This does not mean that the present federal trusteeship for Indian land — which is both bureaucratic and paternalistic — should remain. This does not mean that the Minister of Indian Affairs has to make every decision about every summer cottage site leased on Indian land.

It does not mean that Indian people should have to turn to Ottawa every time they want to act.

I should like to see a vigorous debate about what

WHEAT TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.

Mr. Otto Lang, Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, has issued the following statement concerning conversations between himself and Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on the one side, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko of the U.S.S.R. on the other, during Mr. Gromyko's visit to Ottawa on October 2 and 3:

The two sides exchanged views on the further development of trade relations between the two countries. As regards trade in wheat, the Canadian Ministers emphasized the importance of early fulfilment of the outstanding Soviet commitment to purchase wheat under the long-term wheat agreement of 1966. The Soviet Foreign Minister agreed that EXPORTKHLEB would resume discussions with the Canadian Wheat Board within the next one or two months. The discussions would cover the modalities of the fulfilment of purchases under the 1966 agreement as well as future trade in wheat and the further development of co-operation between the two countries with respect to grains. The Canadian side suggested that the talks between the Canadian Wheat Board and EXPORTKHLEB might be arranged for the end of October, the exact date to be mutually agreed. It is our expectation that EXPORTKHLEB would purchase from Canada the amounts of wheat and flour specified in that agreement; as the Soviet side had previously confirmed, there was no question of cancellation of the wheat contract.

AID TO CAMBODIA

Canada will provide a grant to Cambodia to help construct a \$27-million power and irrigation project on the Prek Thnot River, about 45 miles from Phnom Penh, the country's capital.

A grant of \$2,160,000 will be provided through the Canadian International Development Agency for the purchase in Canada of certain construction materials and equipment.

The Prek Thnot project is part of the Mekong River Basin program for development, which involves the four countries through which the Mekong and its tributaries flow - Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Construction will include a rock- and earth-filled dam about six miles wide, a smaller diversion dam, a power-station with an annual output of up to 50 million kilowatts, a transmission-line, and an irrigation system providing water for about 12,500 acres of land. Work is expected to be completed in three-and-a-half years.

Canada, as one of 12 countries assisting Cambodia in the Prek Thnot project, has made two previous contributions to the Mekong River development program. Canada is contributing to a fund administered by the World Bank to develop a hydroelectric project on the Nam Ngum River in Laos, and an earlier Canadian grant financed a mapping and aerial survey of the Mekong and its tributaries.

POLAR PEAK HONORS BARBEAU

The highest mountain in the Canadian Arctic, a peak rising 8,760 feet over the frigid landscape of Ellesmere Island, has been named after the late Dr. Marius Barbeau, the anthropologist whose research into Indian and Eskimo cultures preserved them from oblivion and gained him international acclaim.

The decision to name the mountain after Dr. Barbeau was made recently by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, after representation by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The mountain, to be called Barbeau Peak, is located at the tip of Ellesmere Island, about 450 miles from the North Pole. Ellesmere is the largest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands, the most northerly lands in North America. A Canadian-British expedition discovered and measured the peak in 1967.

BARBEAU'S CAREER.

Dr. Barbeau, born in 1883 at Ste. Marie de Beauce, Quebec, and a Rhodes Scholar in 1907, devoted his career to anthropology and Canada's native peoples. Nearly 60 books and more than 800 articles on the Indian and Eskimo cultures brought him international recognition in anthropological circles. He also collected 13,000 texts and 8,000 melodies of Indian, Eskimo, French-Canadian and English-Canadian folk songs. The National Museum in Ottawa, which Dr. Barbeau joined in 1911, houses most of his collection. He retired from the museum in 1948 but continued his research.

Following Dr. Barbeau's death in February 1969, the *Ottawa Journal* said:

"Marius Barbeau's full contribution to Canada is measured not only by the amount of folklore he saved from vanishing forever but by his pioneering belief that the oral tradition of legends and songs was something worth preserving. In today's rage for Canadiana nothing could seem more natural than recording this heritage. But half a century ago, Marius Barbeau was mining unknown and unvalued ground. In recent years recognition and deserved honors have been forthcoming and it is too easy to forget the long years in which he worked almost alone and unsung. His collections of folklore are the gift to his country of a "miser of time" who elevated anthropology to a humane and liberal art. His work is now his memorial."

(See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 24, No. 13, dated March 26, 1969, P. 5.)

ANGLERS SEEK NEWFIE TUNA

Big-game fishing for bluefin tuna has in recent years given Newfoundland a world reputation and attracted wealthy anglers from as far away as New Zealand. According to reports received by the Newfoundland and Labrador Tourist Development Office,

the 1969 season maintained the international flavor of the guest registers in tourist establishments serving game-fishing areas.

The town of Lewisporte is the major base of operations for charter boats fishing in Notre Dame Bay. Last July and August, registered guests at the local hotels included fishermen from all over the United States and Canada, as well as from England, South Africa, Spain and Mexico. In fact, the entire Mexican fishing-team spent nearly a week in Notre Dame Bay *en route* to the International Tuna Tournament, which was held in Nova Scotia.

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

The widespread popularity of big-game fishing in Newfoundland's coastal waters has raised the sport from its modest beginnings as an experimental project begun by the Tourist Development Office in 1956 to its present status as a major tourist attraction. Its economic importance is emphasized by the fact that the international sportsmen willing to travel thousands of miles for good fishing are the biggest spenders among the various types of tourist visiting Newfoundland.

The "bread and butter" of the Newfoundland tourist industry remains the average family group, usually travelling by car. A large number of these visitors are camping and trailer tourists on an economical holiday. Higher up the dollar-value scale are the visitors who occupy conventional tourist accommodation and pay regular rates for hotel or motel rooms and restaurant services. Clients of the licensed hunting and fishing outfitters make a heavier investment when buying the "all-in package deals" that cover camp accommodation, food and guide services.

At the top of the scale is the big-game fisherman. His minimum commitment is the chartering of a boat that costs from \$100 to \$125 a day. In addition, outlay for food and lodging, tips and gratuities, local transportation, and miscellaneous shopping and entertainment is considerable.

Many big-game fishermen have been visiting Newfoundland waters regularly for a number of years, their charter bookings often ranging from a week to a month or more. The value of this type of traffic to the economy of the tourist industry is obvious, and more than justifies the persistent efforts of the Newfoundland and Labrador Tourist Development Office to promote and expand tuna fishing as one of the principal sporting attractions in the area.

MULTI-NATION STUDY OF ESKIMOS

The 735 Eskimo residents of the Igloolik region, a remote community on the edge of Melville Peninsula, close to Baffin Island and about 750 miles north of Churchill, Manitoba, will be the subjects of increased scientific scrutiny during the next four years.

Under the terms of an agreement among scien-

tists from Canada, the United States, Denmark and France, three native communities lying along the ancient Eskimo migration route from Alaska to Greenland have been chosen as areas for a major five-year co-ordinated study of the genetics, physiology, pathology and ecology of the Eskimo. The study is being conducted within the framework of the International Biological Program (IBP), a 60-nation program of fundamental research into the problems of biological productivity and human survival in a world undergoing rapid technological change.

The Canadian Committee for the International Biological Program (CCIBP) selected Igloolik area as the site for Canadian participation in the multi-nation study of the Eskimo's ability to adapt in a swiftly-changing world. This decision was based on a feasibility study of the Igloolik Eskimos.

FIRST RESULTS ENCOURAGING

Preliminary results obtained in the feasibility study indicate that the Igloolik Eskimos are in a generally good state of physical and dental health. Tuberculosis is not as significant as expected, and no gross malnutrition is in evidence.

A survey of the population shows 56 per cent to be under the age of 16. In 1961, the percentage under 16 was 34 per cent, indicating a greatly-accelerated population growth in a short period. In 1961, 80 per cent of the total population was living in camps during the summer, whereas the figure is now less than 50 per cent. More and more, the Igloolik Eskimos choose to live in houses provided by a building program of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Initial observations indicate that the problem of alcohol, a cause of some concern in many Eskimo communities, is not yet of any significance at Igloolik. Skin studies indicate that the Eskimo is capable of tanning in the summer months almost as dark as the negro. Although four Eskimos were found to be obese, this is attributed tentatively to biochemical disorders. Data tend to confirm other studies that show the Eskimo as being by no means obese but rather being typically muscular and stocky.

A finding that the teeth of older persons were in much better shape than those found in children is being attributed to such things as soft drinks and candy introduced into their lives as part of the current transition from native to Western food. An unexpected finding was revealed during examinations for eye defects. Several of those with vision defects for which glasses had to be prescribed were hunters.

CCIBP projects, such as the one at Igloolik, are large co-operative undertakings involving scientists of different disciplines from several university and government laboratories. The Igloolik project is supported by the National Research Council, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Canada Council and the University of Manitoba.

DIPLOMAT HEADS RCMP SECURITY

The Prime Minister has announced the appointment of Mr. John Kennett Starnes, who is at present Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, to be Director-General of Security and Intelligence in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with the status of Deputy Commissioner. The appointment is effective January 1, 1970.



Mr. John Kennett Starnes

In announcing this decision, the Prime Minister recalled his statement in the House of Commons on June 26 on tabling the Report of the Royal Commission on Security:

"It is...the Government's intention, with the full understanding of the RCMP, to ensure that the Directorate of Security and Intelligence will grow and develop as a distinct and identifiable element within the basic structure of the Force, and will be more responsive, in its composition and character, to the national security requirements described by the Commissioners. The basic aim will be to develop the security service so as to draw on the Police services for personnel of suitable qualifications and character, and to retain administrative, research, documentation and other services in common with them. The security service, under the Commissioner of the RCMP, will be increasingly separate in structure and civilian in nature. New and more flexible policies in relation to recruiting, training, career planning and operations will be calculated to ensure that Canada's security service will be capable of dealing fairly and effectively with the new and complex security problems

which we shall undoubtedly face in the future, and also to ensure that it clearly reflects the nature of our cultural heritage. Under the new arrangements it will be possible, for example, for an increasing number of university graduates from all parts of Canada to join the Directorate in a civilian capacity and to aspire to positions at the top of that organization, thereby making the kind of contribution referred to by the Commissioners. Nothing in the proposed changes will unfairly prejudice the career expectations of people already in the service."

The Prime Minister said that the appointment of Mr. Starnes to the new position with the RCMP would be a major step in the achievement of these objectives.

Mr. Starnes, who is 51, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1944 as a member of the Canadian Legation to Allied Governments in London. He has served as Canadian Ambassador to Germany, to the United Arab Republic, and to the Sudan. He was for four years head of the security and intelligence liaison division of the Department, and has been Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of the general administration of the Department since November 1967.

CMHC INTEREST RATE INCREASED

H.W. Hignett, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, announced recently that the rate to be charged by the Corporation on direct loans for new and existing housing had increased to 9½ per cent effective September 15. The rate had been 9 per cent since January 1969.

In making the announcement Mr. Hignett said: "With the freeing of the interest-rate under the June 1969 amendments to the National Housing Act the CMHC interest rate was set at 9 per cent. While we have maintained our rate at 9 per cent we have noticed a gradual increase of the average interest rate of approved NHA lenders, which had risen to 9.61 per cent for the week ending September 5.

"It is our view that, as a residual NHA lender, CMHC should establish its lending rate of interest somewhat in line with that being charged by the approved lenders and this is what we are doing."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

During the 1966-67 school year, almost 560,000 Canadians attended publicly-sponsored vocational classes on a full-time basis, an increase of almost 25 per cent over the figure for the preceding school-year. This large increase came during the final fiscal year during which the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act of 1960, involving financial agreements between the Federal Government and the provinces, was in effect.

Vocational students attending vocational, technical, composite and commercial high schools com-

prised almost half the above enrolment. The second-largest group of well over 25 per cent was made up of unemployed persons receiving assistance in the form of occupational training under the federal-provincial agreements. The remaining trainees attended technical institutes and related institutions, provincial trade schools and adult vocational centers, retraining classes in industry, were in a registered apprenticeship program or were enrolled for training in minor programs sponsored under the agreements.

Not included in the above figures were 24,000 students in RN diploma nursing programs and another 5,000 training as nursing assistants. In the private sector, 25,000 attended proprietary trade schools and business colleges.

AGRICULTURE IN 1980

Three federal economists have projected current Canadian agricultural trends into the future to find out what the industry might look like in 1980.

If the trends don't change - a big "if" - food production and population will increase by about 30 per cent, Canadians will be spending only 18 cents from their dollar on food compared to about 20 cents now; there will be about 315,000 farms with a trend to bigger and more specialized operations; and the family farm will continue to be the dominant rural organization with more things rented, including land, custom work and services such as spraying, dusting and fertilizing.

MORE PALATES FOR POULTRY

Consumption of chicken in Canada is increasing rapidly, far surpassing the rate projected in 1965 for the following ten years.

According to A.D. Davey, director of the federal Department of Agriculture's Poultry Division, the rate of 32 pounds *per capita* projected for 1976 should be reached five years earlier.

In an address to a recent convention of the Canadian Hatchery Foundation at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Mr. Davey noted that *per capita* consumption of chicken amounted to 29.4 pounds last year and, by mid-1969, had increased by an estimated two pounds.

At the projected rate of 32 pounds, consumption of chicken will amount to 768 million pounds a year - the equivalent of 230 million broiler chickens.

In 1965, with a *per capita* rate of 22.2 pounds, a total of 433 million pounds of chicken were consumed.

It must be chicken every Sunday - and Monday and Tuesday too - for many Canadians.

THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CANADIAN INDIANS EXPLAINED

(Continued from P. 2)

is proposed and what is needed. I have tried today to explain our proposals simply and clearly. I hope I have cleared up some of the mist which clouds the present debate over our proposals. I am not very enthusiastic about a debate based on badly written headlines and misinterpretations about the proposals. If people have alternative proposals, they should make their views known.

One thing is certain - the time has come for basic and fundamental changes in a system which works against the interests of Indian people. The Federal Government has made a series of proposals, aimed at creating a non-discriminatory society, for discussion with Indian people, provincial governments, and the Canadian public as a whole.

We have made these proposals in good faith, knowing full well that they would be controversial, but knowing as well that, if an attempt was not made to break the pattern of discrimination and paternalism of 100 years, no progress could be made in solving the problems which have plagued Indian people for so long.

At the root of the Indian reaction to the proposals is distrust of government and Canadian society as a whole. This must change. Concerned Canadians should consider this problem, to be certain that each of us is doing his part to open the doors of opportunity and remove the blight of discrimination from this country.

It is Canadian business that has the jobs to offer Indian people. It is Canadian society which must break down the barriers of misunderstanding.

We cannot solve our problems in isolation. Everyone has a part to play.

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