

HERE AND THERE - Cont'd.....

## OHSWEKEN, ONTARIO

If accepted, Mr. Chretien said, the definition would have far reaching financial and land implications and could lead to settlements that the Indians themselves do not expect to achieve.

He said the issue at stake is far too complex to solve with a single policy or approach. Instead, solutions must be worked out on a region-by-region basis, taking into account the particular factors involved in each case.

Flora MacDonald, sponsor for the motion that sparked the debate, said this government is the first since Confederation to refuse to endorse the principle of aboriginal rights.

"Previous governments may have failed to fulfill their obligations... but never questioned the principle."

The Chief Conservative spokesman for Indian Affairs, Mrs. MacDonald said the qualified recognition proposed by Mr. Chretien is not adequate.

"It is not strong enough; it is not honest."

Frank Howard (NDP) said the debate offered Parliament a unique opportunity to admit past abuses and neglect and "set a course for future redress."

Rejecting an invitation from Mr. Chretien to define aboriginal rights, Mr. Howard said the House should merely recognize that Indians do have some rights by virtue of the fact that they inhabited the country before the White man arrived.

Once this is done, he said, a settlement could be negotiated jointly by the government and the Indians.

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"Whenever a man exclaims that all mankind are villains, be assured that he contemplates an instant offer of himself as an exception"

FROM THE INDIAN VOICE - The All-Indian Magazine dedicated to the preservation of the History, Culture and Heritage of the True Native Americans.

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(Above printed by request from the Managing Editor of Indian Voice)