

Poem—

While My White Brothers Speak

"One for me (oil wells for leasers and businessmen),
one for them (oil companies)..."

The FIRST AMERICAN says, "Where is mine?"

Upon the face of the whole earth,
There's no land so great and good.
Under clean air and sky, birth after birth.
From time immemorial, our life and food.

Peace with Mother Nature for all these years,
No trophies or idle sport we sought.
Now, from peace on land to frustrating tears,
In the death grip of ruthless progress we're caught.

Some say we are a detriment to America's health,
Unloyal because no oil lines can cross our lands.
Until we get equal distribution of potential wealth,
Our sacred land must remain in our hands.

Dear Public, does it matter this land is ours?
Already leases and oil wells you are staking,
None for us who own the land, all is yours.
Lawfully and morally is it yours just for the taking?

One lease and well for me, one pair for them.
This dividing all by parties second and third,
While the First Party sings the age-old anthem--
When, oh Great America, will we be heard?

Scientific reports and interminable hearings,
The ultimate goal, take out the oil and gold.
You take our land like wool from sheep at shearings,
The Rich own and sell, we stay poor and cold.

Until that bold and earthshaking day
When our lands are recognized by all,
You'll understand we've come well over half-way.
"Who is really guilty of a 'grandstand' stall?"

These are days of serious and sober thought.
We must let reason and love overcome our natural greed.
America--generations for her honor did fight,
Land of justice and equality, a beautiful creed!

One day an architect showed me some plans,
Scientifically developed, technically sound.
Agreed, his plans could benefit many Alaskans.
One ingredient lacking, for free he wanted my ground.

ARE OUR PLEAS FOR JUSTICE ACTS OF INFAMY?
You say, we are holding back development and jobs,
That we act like we are America's enemy,
Because oil is the lifeline of America's heart throbs.

Capitalism! Obstructionism! Emotionalism! Preservationism!
And other such words to describe differing stands.
Let's share our resources equally! Remove Alaska's schism!
Oil wells? YES! Is also one is ours, as you divide, on our lands.

—PETER P. THREE STARS
Ogalala Sioux
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