



GOVERNOR AT KAKE--Gov. Walter J. Hickel is chatting with two elderly men of the village of Kake. They are standing with the backdrop of a giant spruce tree trunk that the Kake artisans will carve into a 130-foot totem pole to commemorate

the 100th anniversary of Alaska, the Centennial Year 1967. When completed, the Kake totem pole will be at least two feet longer than the one at Vancouver, B.C., which is presently a world record at 127 feet long.

Hickel's Kake Day Speech Impressive

(Editor's Note: Although Governor Walter J. Hickel was not able to deliver the following speech personally on Kake Day, January 8, at the village of Kake in southeast Alaska, we think it is significant as well as refreshing for our readers' attention)

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Kake Day has meant something to the people of Kake for a long time now. This year, I think Kake Day is even more important than ever and I'm glad to be here on THIS Kake Day.

On the first Kake Day....a silver nail was driven into the last board of a wooden sidewalk. That ceremony was supposed to mark a big turning point for the people of Kake....a turning point in their way of life.

The Indian culture you knew was supposed to come to an end. Costumes, pictures and drums had been destroyed.... and all of your fine totem poles burned.

All of your culture was somehow supposed to disappear.... and you were supposed to adopt what had loosely been called the "White Man's way of life."

Let's look at that "White Man's way of life" for a minute....

There is no such thing. The whole story of European history for 3,000 years and more....has been a story of the continued MIXING of different cultures....of different ways of life.

If we start with the Greeks, what do we find? We find that from their crooked coastline....they sailed to ports all over

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the Mediterranean Sea. They traded with several different peoples....who spoke different languages than they did....had different art....worshipped differently.

So the Greeks traded with these different peoples....learned their ways and their languages. And from what they found....they took what was best....and mixed it with the best that was Greek.

The Romans "borrowed" from the Greeks. Much later, Marco Polo traveled ALL THE WAY TO CHINA. The things he brought back....and the reports he brought back....started another of many, many mixings of ways of life.

There is no such thing as a "White Man's way of life." It's a long and complicated history of mixing, borrowing, keeping and discarding.

Some of you knew that....back in the 1920's and when the totems were being burned....and your old way of life being destroyed....you hid away certain relics.

This Kake Day is an important one. We are going to fell a tree....and carve a giant totem pole. This is another turning point....like the first Kake Day.

Only this time, you can bring out any of the old relics you have. Today you are not going backward. You are going forward. You can walk with the strength and pride of your past...mixing with what you find....to take the best of it.

The Tlingit arts will come back to life. I am sure that some of your artists will create fine works...in keeping with your traditions....and others will come up with new creations....mixing your culture with that of others.

But beyond those arts, I would like to see the houses of the Raven and the houses of the Eagle become war-like again. Only I would not have you fight with each other, or with any man....to injure and kill.

I want to see you make war for progress....and fight to develop in the ways which you decide are best. If you must....make war against those parts of your own spirit which hold you back.

You are the judges and makers of your own :

You are the judges and makers of your own destiny. Make war for wisdom....and justice.

Do you want education? It doesn't all come from schools. The most important part comes from inside a man....from wanting to learn....then finding the ways.

Do you want more jobs and more money? Study yourselves. Study the area you live in. Find out what can be done.

Then next time a late run of chums comes in the fall....your cannery will be open. You will find ways to get the gear you need....to have your boats harvest the giant shrimp in your waters.

This is an important day. Today you accept your great past and with the strength of that past....the strength of the Tlingit people....you can accept whatever other ways of life you find....and make the best of both.