

***Who Is Your Anthropologist?—***

## **Social Scientists Irk Eskimos**

So many social scientists have been studying the Eskimos and Indians in Canada's Northwest Territories that the natives are joking about it. A typical family, they say, consists of a father, mother, three children and an anthropologist. In a cartoon variation, one Eskimo asks another, "Who's your anthropologist?"

Behind the jokes is irritation. About 1,000 research projects are being conducted each year, and the Eskimos and Indians are getting tired of being surveyed and analyzed.

The Northwest Territories Council has enacted a new "scientists ordinance" that requires researchers to obtain licences before they go into 56 native settlements. Applicants must state their objectives, and local leaders must be consulted about the proposed projects. Licences will be denied if the Government feels the projects would disrupt normal settlement life.

The social scientist are drawn to remote societies when they are in transition because investigators believe they can then gauge the impact of modern life.

The 11,000 Eskimos and 6,000 Indians in the Northwest Territories are in the process of changing from a hunting and trapping culture, in which they lived by the seasons, to the white man's structured style of jobs, schools and living by the clock.

One study found that the noise created by snowmobiles, which have replaced dogsleds in most

communities, is adversely affecting people's hearing, and suggested remedial action. Another analyzed the growing impact of television as it gives the Eskimos and Indians their first real look at the "outside" world, and recommended priorities for future programming and use.

"But what has bothered the Eskimos and Indians most," says a Government spokesman, "is that they have been answering the same old questions over and over and seldom have seen the results. Under the new ordinance, researchers now will have to report their findings to us."