

Canada's Natives Beginning to Speak Boldly About Problems

(From CBC INDIAN MAGAZINE)

Canada's Indians are moving along a new trail toward an unknown future. Canada is asking the Indians what they want, and the Indians in answering are speaking more boldly than they have spoken since the days of fighting Chiefs Pontiac and Tecumseh.

Omar Peters, president of the Union of Ontario Indians:

"It's the rights they had in the treaties and promises, and if they can't correct the present set-up, where the Indians have been cheated in the past, they can't use words anymore; it has to be action."

Indian leaders are impressed with Robert Andras, the man without a suitcase, as the Indians refer to the minister without portfolio, when he says such things as, "We have still not sufficiently plugged in the Indian point of view to the policy-making process."

Mr. Andras was publicly rebuked by Prime Minister Trudeau for his implied criticism of Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien.

Mr. Andras said Mr. Chretien

had authorized changed in the administration structure of the of the department without consulting the Indians.

"I have felt that, as the very least gesture in trying to re-establish trust, we have to stand up and admit to our Indian citizens that we have broken faith; that we have not fulfilled some treaty obligations; that we failed to consult; but that we do want to change."

In his Toronto speech, Robert Andras stated, "A deep and mistrustful cynicism has prevailed in the Indian community for too long, a cynicism that could lead to further alienation and even violence."

Tony Mandomin, an Indian student, reflects the views of many young people:

"They're a lot of people now, including myself, who more and more are looking upon this as war. Where the Indians are suffering casualties, where Indians can't adjust to society, they're emotionally disturbed, and all the burdens that go with the Indian status, these are being regarded as casualties in a war. The Indians in effect are

winning because they're not getting assimilated they're still different; they're still Indian, and that's what we're fighting for."

In 1912, the Federal Government gave the Province of Quebec 458,000 square miles of territory, now known as Northern Quebec.

The land was handed over on condition that Quebec pay the Indians and Eskimos for it. Indians allege that Quebec has never paid.

In the meantime, mining companies have moved in and dug millions of dollars worth of ore on territory that used to be the Indians' hunting ground.

These are things that worry the Indians most. Lands taken without payment, promises broken, hunting and fishing rights guaranteed in the treaties but cancelled by Parliament when it signed the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Martin O'Connell (Lib., Scarborough E.) is introducing a private members bill to amend that Act:

"The Migratory Birds Convention is a treaty between Canada and the United States. A Canadian Indian is prosecuted if he kills a duck out of season. Had the same duck been shot on a reserve in the United States by an American Indian, there would be no prosecution."

"The law doesn't apply 'equally' in both countries. I'm saying we want a uniform system of protection, and in order to do that in Canada, we have to exempt Indians from the provisions of the Act."

The Indian Affairs Branch in British Columbia recently published and distributed the names of Indian recipients of welfare.

Diana Recalma, welfare chairman for the Southern Vancouver Tribal Federation, and wife of Bud Recalma, Chief of the Qualicum Band, says:

"We're going to be so ashamed of receiving welfare, through no fault of our own, that we won't dare go into a drugstore for medicine because the list is posted and we're shamed in public."

These are some of the issues as Canada's Indians move along a new trail. They want the right to learn the whiteman's skills, the right to choose, and the money and knowledge to make a real choice.

Will they get what they want? If they do, their success may point the way to a new style of democracy for everybody.

If they fall short, their failure will be the failure of all Canadians.

State, MDTA Training Bethel Clerk Typists

The State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Education and the State Department of Labor, Employment Security Division announced that an MDTA training program for clerk typists was started October 28 in Bethel.

The course is being conducted by the Bethel State School and will train 15 persons for 27 weeks.

The training objective of the course is to instruct participants in typing procedures, use of office machines, and other clerical functions to a degree where their speed and accuracy will enable them to be employed as clerk typists.

Trainees will receive instruction in spelling, English, punctuation, and other related skills. The proposed course will be set up to train persons to meet State, Federal, and private standards for entry clerk typist positions.

The majority of the trainees

will be unemployed women from 17 years of age and up with at least a 10th grade level of education.

It is expected that some of the trainees will have had some previous clerical and typing training and experience, but will have failed to develop sufficient skill to meet minimum entrance hiring requirements.

Clerk typists in the Western Alaska area are always in demand due to the fact that many government agency families are transferred to and from these areas frequently, and the residents, who do possess skills, tend to move to the larger cities. Local Employment Security records show that there are no qualified workers to fill the immediate openings for clerk typists.

Most employers require trained personnel as their staffs are not large enough or adequate enough to train new personnel on the job.

Hollywood Finally Hiring, Starring Real Indian Actors and Actresses

(From INDIAN LIFE NEWSLETTER)

Movies are better than ever, at any rate two of them are.

National General Pictures producing THE STALKING MOON will star Noland Clay, 11 year old Apache from White River, Arizona. He will be assisted by Gregory Peck and Eva Marie Saint.

Also, Universal's WILLIE BOY will feature Stephen Shemayne, 27 year old Caddo-Osage now living in Los Angeles. This movie is based on a true incident and is being filmed on the Morongo Reservation in Banning, California, among descendants of the people who figured prominently

in the real story over 60 years ago.

Jay Silverheels' Indian Actors Workshop in Los Angeles is obviously having great effect.

In the future Indian actors and actresses will be playing other roles, too. At this point, we consider it progress just to have Indians playing Indians.

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