

88-49-112

Music by Zed; Jan Keskitalo and Anton Hoem are interviewed by Jeff Kennedy in 1976

Jeff Kennedy, interviewer

Series: Potlatch series

Broadcast in 1977

Song titled Christopher Columbus by William Bluehouse Johnson, Max Swazo and Tom Bane.

Jeff Kennedy said he interviewed Jan Keskitalo and Anton Hoem at the Cross-Cultural Education Conference in October 1976. He said they attended the conference as representatives of the Sami people. He asked Jan Keskitalo whether there was a controversy between developers and subsistence hunters. Jan Keskitalo said there they do have controversy. For example they have a new route from one main village in the interior of Finmark to another village. There were some questions about people living outside the villages since there will be more traffic into the area where they will hunt, fish and gather berries in their traditional areas. The native people want to own the land in Finmark. The Native people are trying to make some kind of agreement with the government. The government would give the land and you would have to have permission to use the land. You have permission to allow other people onto their land. They have to make the decision whether they can allow people to hunt and fish. The government pays some kind of security forces to control that no one uses the land without permission. The security forces are almost always hired from inside the area.

Jeff Kennedy asked whether the schools should train the children in subsistence activities or should they train them to be urban citizens or train them to do both. Anton Hoem said they have to do both. They start with training and culture in their home. Kennedy said they are suggesting an integrated approach but he has heard the children almost have a split personality culturally, they are neither one nor the other. Hoem said you don't have such big differences in Norway between local communities and urban communities like you have in Denmark and Greenland. The aim of their program is to be raised as Sami, but to be able to function in the urban community. He believes it is possible to be both Sami and part of the Norwegian society. He thinks they can combine the good things about both cultures. Kennedy asked how they get government to respond. Hoem said the government in Norway has been criticized for not understanding the Sami people in the past such as in the 40s and 50s. They have been better starting in the 1960s. Norway is a smaller country and the people can control the politics. Now Norway is a rich country and they can afford to do social experiments. They can develop the country where all members of the society are given opportunities. Kennedy asked if they can get the government of Alaska to respond to the people or is the geographic distance too great. Hoem said in his opinion Alaska has all the opportunities to make a good country for the people. He said he and Jan are collecting ideas from Alaska. Kennedy asked if they see more differences between their countries and Alaska or more similarities. Hoem said the main difference is they are not such a state regulated society in Alaska as in Norway. The Norwegian government has much more to say about the development of the society. Each place in Alaska has more

opportunities to do things their own way. This can be a good thing but also make it difficult to make plan for the development for the whole society. In Norway they may be over planned, but it gives the government a chance to do things in a more systematic way. He said that is the main difference between Norway and Alaska, you are not so regulated. Keskitalo said there are similarities in the educational systems. He said it has been good for them to have the opportunity to come together to discuss. In the future maybe they can cooperate in problem solving about education. Kennedy asked if their northern climate is an important similarity. Hoem said he thought it was the main reason to see the programs since we are living in the same natural conditions as they are. He said it is interesting to see how different they are building the houses in Alaska and in Scandinavia. He said in Norway they build a house to stay there for one hundred years or more. He thinks the houses in Fairbanks won't last as long.

Song by Gordon Lightfoot

Jeff Kennedy said flood season is over for Alaska. Snow and melting ice usually causes flooding in Alaska. Cutting down trees in other parts of the world may cause flooding as heard on a report from Radio Canada International. Leslie Bella talked about timber cutting on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Researchers have found out how to change water flow through land use processes. There is no political instrument to manage the inland water resource in Canada since 1973. Forested mountain lands produce 95 per cent of the water for the whole watershed area are controlled by the Alberta Forest Service which is concerned about production of timber. In non-forested areas the land is monitored by the Alberta Water Resources who can predict floods and water shortages and introduce dams. When water crosses a provincial boundary it becomes a federal responsibility while the surrounding lands are the responsibility of the new province. The watershed on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains covers three provinces until it goes into Hudson Bay. Since the agreement between the provincial and federal government lapsed in 1973 there is no one body responsible for the inland water resources either from seasonal flooding or for managing water for irrigation or power production.

Neil Charlie's song by the villagers of Minto