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Tim Wallace, Louis W. Ballard

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Fairbanks, Alaska

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Series: Potlatch series

Jeff Kennedy said the president of the Doyon Corporation, Tim Wallace, addressed the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks on March 15, 1978.

Tim Wallace said it gives him great pleasure to come and address them. He will let them know what has been happening that affects shareholders in the Doyon Corporation. The issue that has affected Tanana Chiefs, Doyon and the entire state has been d-2 legislation. There is a controversy in Washington, D.C. about the Natives, their land and how their land should be treated. There is a feeling in congress that native land should be considered public lands and they oppose that. It is private property. They also feel that they are rich Natives in Alaska. The fact that as the d-2 legislation moves out of the House Interior Committee it may go to the House Merchant Marine Committee chaired by Richard Levitt. He read a quote by Levitt which said the natives have been given everything they want, are rich and why should they be given subsistence hunting and fishing. Wallace thought they could be in real trouble if the d-2 legislation ends up in Leavitt's committee. He said there is a provision in d-2 – Title 8 – which deals with subsistence. It is something similar to what the state is proposing. He and others met with the Governor a few months ago. They had a similar idea to adopt as the state's position. During the course of the discussion they kept bringing up the great amount of cost setting up regional and local advisory boards as well as a state board. Wallace said he told them that he would not support the state and its endeavors, but would continue to support House Bill 39. There's no guarantee that when H39 passes that the state would implement the fish and game board as they propose. The whole idea of H39 is to classify the various federal lands. In dealing with the federal lands once it does pass all federal plans fall into air quality standard 2. A number of the areas such as wilderness lands would fall into air quality standard 1. He said this will have a big effect on their land. The board of directors are concerned. In 1991 the land become eligible for taxation. Doyon has 12 million acres of surface and sub-surface land. It is a sizable amount. If they aren't able to meet those taxes then slowly the land will have to be spun off to meet the tax burden. They are concerned that they have to get the land in a position to pay for itself or lose it. President has approved a proposal to build a gas line from Prudhoe to Fairbanks to Delta and to the Canadian border. Most of it is within the Doyon region. Doyon supported the Alcan Pipeline route. Northwest Gas Line has been approved. He hopes it will generate employment and contractual opportunities. He urged everyone who were members of the union to continue to pay their union dues. They will have further discussions with Northwest about hiring on the pipeline.

Jeff Kennedy said Dr. Louis Ballard visited the Interior of Alaska in mid-March. He taught workshops to encourage the teaching of American Indian music in Alaska schools.

The incident at Wounded Knee composed by Dr. Ballard is played. Performed by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra conducted by Dennis R. Davies.

[24:08] Jeff Kennedy said Dr. Ballard talked about the teaching of music in American schools. Ballard said he thinks it is important that everyone recognize the importance of creativity in music for youngsters both Eskimo and Native Alaskans. He said the future is unlimited in so far as music is concerned. The Native music should become a part of everyone. He said the students should learn their music in school and they will should keep it forever as they grow up. It will give them personal power. His people say it gives them a voice. The instruments and song represent the ancient. The young people will derive strength. The talented should go on and learn about music notation and composing music. He has written many pieces and he is still writing and growing as a musical artist. The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra asked him to write a piece. He composed the piece and titled it Incident at Wounded Knee. There were trials going on at the time for the people who had participated in the second conflict at Wounded Knee. He said is not political. He believes that art should transcend dogma. It does not point to any specific incident. He is striving to reach the universal through the specific. He wants it to be good music primarily. It has been performed so much and accepted. He said this is a voice of a Native American speaking through a form of art that is alien to his people. Can you get to the heart of a culture in forms that are alien to that culture? He thinks you can. He wants to encourage other Native American youngsters to compose music someday. He said it will reflect the voice and the spirit of the indigenous people of this great land.