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Senator Ted Stevens, Dr. Loretta Helia, Chief Peter John

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1975

Jeff Kennedy said Senator Ted Stevens recently introduced legislation that would allow Native corporations to merge. Ted Stevens said this is a bill he introduced after consultation with Native leaders. Under the bill, corporations formed within a specific region would be able to merge with their regional corporation. It would not allow regional corporations to merge together but rather village corporations within a region to merge with their region. It would be an increased efficiency concept and a cost saving measure for some of the smaller corporations that are too inexperienced and have too little money to meet the requirements of the act.

Song from Waylon Jennings.

Public service message.

Loretta Helia is interviewed by Ann Nicolai. Loretta said she graduated from Nome High School. She attended college at Pullman Washington. She was invited to come to the University of Alaska to finish her high school years but she didn't want to leave Nome. She received her doctor's degree at the University of Washington Medical School in Seattle. She said she had four years of college with two majors. She was encouraged to have a second degree to fall back on. Her second major was bacteriology and public health. She is now doing industrial medicine and also has a law degree. She works part-time as a lawyer for her husband's company. Her husband's company manufactures underwater acoustic instruments. They moved to San Diego where her husband had accepted a position at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She did her internship at San Diego. She went into private practice for five years. After her second son was born she was a clinic physician for public health. She talked about her sons. One of her sons wants to attend the University of Alaska. Her children visit Alaska on a regular basis. She is being sponsored by the Association of American Indian Physicians. She is in Alaska to get Native children interested in health careers. She has visited schools in Anchorage, Bethel and Fairbanks. She has been talking to female students about considering a career as a doctor. She talked about the teacher that encouraged her to be a doctor. She said it has been a very satisfying career. She has just returned from an overseas trip and will be returning to San Diego. She would like Native children to consider careers of their own choice. She encourages them to investigate what type of training is needed for a career. Just make life happen and believe in yourself.

Saint Lawrence dancers.

Last June delegates from each section of Alaska came to Minto for the Bush Justice Conference. Chief Peter John welcomed the delegates. He welcomed the participants. He said there are a lot of problems that can be worked out by the participants. He hoped other villages will get some benefit from the meeting.

Song from Johnny Horton.