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Frieda Alexie, Claude Demientieff, Tommy Richards

Moses Wasillie, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1975?

Frieda Alexie is interviewed by Levi Lott in Tuluksak, Alaska about race relations. Frieda said not all Eskimos are lazy and drunks. It is the same with whites and other races when some are lazy or drunks. She said they live a different way in their culture.

Peter LaFarge song

Frieda Alexie talked about the way she got her job as a teacher's assistant. She started teaching Head Start at Kaltag in 1968. She said she attended boarding school in Oregon. She said it was hard when she first arrived. She kept quiet in the classroom. She didn't like being so far away from her parents. Levi asked if it was hard to return to a small village. Alexie said it was easy to return.

Yukon Stars song

An unidentified person in Tuluksak said the white culture has made life easier. White people have brought their culture up here. He has learned how to work with them. It is the way they survive around here. They have to go to the new way.

Buffy Sainte Marie song

The same unidentified man talked about disadvantages about white culture. He said prices have increased on everything. People have to get money to buy things for their families. It isn't easy for them. The gussock culture came up here in the land of nothing. People lived on nothing. The gussocks came to learn about the people and to learn to live off the land. He thinks the white people are up here to make money. He said the white people underestimate the village people. He said people have to work during the summer such as fishing and wood cutting for the winter.

A selection from Frank Brink's "Sounds of Alaska" album

Ann Nicolai talks with Claude Demientieff and Tommy Richards about hiring non-Native people for Native corporations. Claude Demientieff said they can't discriminate against non-Natives under the civil rights act. He said he doesn't think any organization can discriminate against anyone. It isn't a "we-they" world it is an "us" world. Ann Nicolai asked if the corporations should just be hiring Natives or should they hire the best person for the job. He said that is a difficult question. In most cases the Native who is familiar with the people, culture and the environment is most often the most qualified for the job. A lot of non-Natives are more educated. The decision must be made if you want highly qualified expertise or people who are familiar with the trend of living within the region. He finds himself having to make that

decision. He prefers to see people who have lived here before. Tommy Richards said doesn't care for the word discriminate when talking about Native preference when hiring for Native organizations and businesses. He said preferential treatment might be a better choice there. They have had with several Native businesses and organizations he has worked for they have had a number of confident professional people who have come up from Outside and worked for them for a year or a year and a half. They did quality work, but after a while they seem to lose touch of the sensitivity that Native people have working in certain areas. It began to alienate a lot of people and do damage to the organizations they were working for. He feels it is better to have people working especially in journalism it is better to have confident Native journalists work in the field of journalism because they have a better understanding of the people they are serving. He said Native organizations and businesses should hire primarily Natives. Perhaps not exclusively because there are a lot of skills, disciplines and professions that Natives are not trained in at this time. He feels that Natives should be given preference. He feels that Natives should be hired primarily because of a lack of experience in dealing with professional positions. He thinks that the opportunity for this experience should be made available. He thinks they should try to get the Native people as much experience in positions.

Seekers song

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Amoik perform the seal hunt song.