

88-49-69

Richard Frank, Chris Anderson, Georgiana Lincoln

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

Song by the Robert Cormire singers

Richard Frank talked about how New Minto was investing its Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act money at the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska in March 1976. Richard Frank said they had been approached practically from all areas in investing. They have been approached from areas in the lower forty eight and local. The board made some suggestions for investing. They know they have to contend with state and other taxes by 1991. He talked about the road to Minto and how it affected their community. They knew they had to contend with progress. There have been in influx of people. Their younger generation was exposed to problems they never experienced before. He advised anyone planning to move to their community talk with their council in Minto. He said the Native people in Alaska are going into a new trend of life. They know that they must be working. A lot of Native people are being educated. The subsistence life is harder to do now. He talked about opening the Haul Road to the public. He said he didn't think the state was prepared to take the responsibility on the North Slope. He has worked up there and he knows what would be involved. He talked about the Self-Determination Act. He said they classify a lot of areas as a smoke screen. He said they are putting up their own smoke screen. He thinks it will be beneficial in the long run.

Song by Doc Watson

Chris Anderson, executive director of the Tanana Chiefs, describes one of the Tanana Chiefs educational projects. Chris Anderson said the Tanana Survival School is a Johnson-O'Malley funded program. The program funds are to be used for educational purposes for students in K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. The Tanana Survival School got its name because of the purpose of the school. The purpose of the school is to make sure that the cultural heritage of the Interior Natives survives. The kids go to a five to six week training period which is held within one of the Bush villages in the Tanana Chiefs region. The last three or four sessions were held in Tanacross at the old school and the Episcopal Church. In the winter they build sleds, make snowshoes, beadwork and sewing moccasins. About four or five days of the sessions the boys build snares and they set up a trap line. They use the animals fully such as making moccasins or attire. Part of the curriculum of the survival schools is centered on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. They have a teacher who puts together materials for the children. In the summer they go more into things like building canoes, making fish nets, and setting up a fish camp. They are going to try to decentralize the school. Instead of being a regional program they hope that many of the villages will set up their own programs and get funding. The Survival School is aimed at drop outs who could not take the institutional way of education. It brought education back to a village way of life.

Song by Joni Mitchell

Georgiana Lincoln comments about the Indian Self-Determination Act. She said it could be a help to the Indian people but the people have to be careful how they implement it and how they read it. With any new Act you have to read between the lines. She thinks the Alaska Native people have to keep up to date with the Acts and legislation both on the state and federal level. She urges her people to keep up on the news to try to keep up to date to protect their best interests. Lincoln commented on the Interior Department allowing easements on Native lands on highly significant recreation use and a 25 foot easements on coastal lands to allow rights of ways for public facilities. Georgiana Lincoln said her perspectives of roads may not be how the village people view it but she would hate to see any new roads being built into a village because of federal law. She believes the people in the village must have a say. Georgiana Lincoln commented on Indian participation with the Bicentennial Celebration. She believes they should participate, but she said talking with Indian people they wonder why they should participate in a bicentennial celebration when they have been here for much longer. Lincoln commented about opening the Haul Road. She said the people that are going to be affected should have some say in opening up the road.

Song by Roger Miller.