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Gisella Dakima and Larry Naylor are interviewed by Levi Lott

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

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He said the anthropologists getting at questions like this has in mind to attempt some description of an aspect or the total culture itself. To be able to describe that culture you have to cover everything. Anthropology is interested in the total man and the things he does. To be complete you have to get into these private or sensitive areas. The anthropologist if he or she is profession has to have the information to make such a description but will not pass along to everyone else. It allows him to look at the total man.

Native music

Levi Lott asked what cultural anthropology was. Gisella Dakima said it is the study of all aspects of culture that is learned behavior. It deals with tools, housing and clothing. It also deals with kinship and religion or the supernatural beliefs of people. Levi asked what she teaches the people in the villages. Gisella Dakima said she teaches a one unit seminar in the Aleuts of Alaska and the Indians of Alaska. Most of the people taking the class are teachers or people coming to the villages. She said she has been fortunate to have Natives in her classes. She talked about the different villages she has visited. She teaches about all the ethnic groups in Alaska. She has done research on the Koyukon Indians and the King Island Eskimos. She has been interested in the Saint Lawrence Islanders.

Larry Naylor said one of the things he has been concerned about is impact of the pipeline. What it will mean to the groups in the state of Alaska. He is concerned about the impact and the reactions to it. They will be based on a false grouping or generalities. He is an applied anthropologist. He believes anthropology can soften the blow. The impacts aren't just on cities but also on small communities and Natives communities. And they are felt differently on each one of those. He said Athabaskan groups are not all similar. Each community has its own history and experiences. It is also true with the Eskimo. He talked about different languages and groups. He said there are a lot of different Native Alaskans and they have to be included in any program.

Levi Lott asked when you study different groups do you use their verbal history. Gisella Dakima said she collects what she can from written material and also asks the older people. She talked about her research on shamanism.

Levi Lott asked about using folklore, myths and oral traditions Larry Naylor said this is a way to get cultural history. It is a way of getting to some subjects. He said you can pick up bits of history through folklore, myths, and oral traditions. It is a valuable means of technique for the anthropologist. In Alaska it is an important area of research. There is a concern that as the older people die many of the stories

and historical events in those stories will be lost. He would like to see more anthropology being done with folklore, myths and oral traditions. It is an important part of heritage.

Native music

Levi Lott said when someone from outside comes in and starts asking questions they tend to hold back. He was wondering what if a Native person came with them. Gisella Dakima said there is a tendency to stress the good about a culture and leave things out that are not complimentary. Larry Naylor said everyone has an idea about their culture. No one member has all the culture in their head. When an outsider comes in he does it as an outsider. He is not clouded by the idealism. A Native trained anthropologist carries those idealisms. They can be extremely effective but there comes a point where he can't be because he is a member of it. He would like to train Native anthropologists. He has trained people to assist him. He said it has to be clear that the anthropologist because he is an outsider can see things.

Native music

Gisela Dakima said she had recently become interested in adult cross cultural education. She feels in Alaska this is a wide open field. It is very important for the adult Native and non-Native to realize the importance of continuing education. She talked about the Office of Academic Outreach. If a village wants a course in accounting, anthropology or archaeology or other courses they can provide instruction.

Ted Stevens review some of his testimony about implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He said the people that testified covered the issues very well. He is concerned about the great amounts of litigation brought about over the interpretation of the implementation of ANCSA. He has urged that a binding arbitration procedure be set up to resolve conflicts. He is worried about public easements. He believes that BLM needs to have a procedure for public awareness. He has suggested that the state be designated as the entity to present to the Secretary of the Interior the suggestions for public easements for the state of Alaska. They also have to interpret 7i, the distribution of income received by regional corporations. There are problems of taxation and what is income. There should be a compact between the 12 corporations.

Senator Stevens talked about supplemental appropriations for Alaska projects. He said they have funds to enforce the 200 mile zone. They have 12 million dollars to organize the councils and get money for the Coast Guard to bring back into service both airplanes and vessels needed to enforce the limit. They have 400,000 dollars to design the new BLM office in Fairbanks. They have 250,000 dollars to design the new hospital in Nome. The Committee agreed to add money to carry out the commitment to grants to the village corporations. They have added funds for medical contract care. He talked about money for the Akiak and Barrow schools.

Ted Stevens reported on rural electrification loans to improve communications in the Bush. He talked about a regional phone service in the Kotzebue area and the surrounding communities. He said they are

on their way to a Bush satellite program. The rural telephone cooperative could work. The REA is leaning towards this type of project in Alaska.

Senator Stevens comments on BIA funding for Alaska. BIA has proposed that funds be reprogrammed outside and he has insisted that the funds be used first in Alaska. The funds were originally made available for other areas in the state. BIA schools in Kotzebue, Kalskag and Shaktoolik would get funds.

Jeff Kennedy said voting rights extension act was designed for minority groups who need voting instructions in their own language. Stevens thought this did not meet the needs of Alaskan Natives. He said all of the ballots must be printed for each of these Native groups but there are traditional unwritten Native languages.

Stevens talked about housing units for Native villages. There has been a delay for funding because of cost control and construction supervision. He said there are schedules to proceed with the programs after problems are in hand.