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Len Ingels reports on the Trail of Self-Determination group ; Canadian land claims ; Education in Arctic Quebec ; President Ford's position on Native American matters

Series: Potlatch series

Song by Buffy Sainte-Marie

Len Ingels from the Bureau of Indian Affairs said fifty-four members of the Trail of Self-Determination were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct in Washington, D. C. They had requested a tour of the building and were offered tours in groups of five. This was rejected. Employees of the building were sent home for the day. The group refused to leave the parking lot and were arrested. The next day the group met with members of the Department of the Interior to discuss grievances that the group brought to Washington to discuss with the White House and Congress. Len Ingles said Lafayette Butler Indian tribes must be allowed to pursue their own destiny and there was a time when Indian tribes did govern themselves. Ingles said Butler talked about the Indian Self-Determination Act and it should be regarded as a process and not as an end.

Song by Johnny Cash

Adam Inukpuk and Noah Inukpuk participated in the Cross-Cultural Education in the Far North Conference sponsored by the University of Alaska Center for Northern Educational Research. It was held October 6-8, 1976.

Jeff Kennedy asked Noah Inukpuk if there was a Native land claims movement in northern Quebec. Inukpuk said yes there has been a land claims going on for four years and the agreement has been passed. It said in the agreement that the Inuit people would be responsible for the land above the 55 N parallel. They will have local governance in each community. This involves over 290,000 square miles. There was also a cash settlement of 150 million dollars. This is divided into two groups. The Cree Indians in the James Bay area will have half and the other half goes to northern Quebec. The money will be used for projects in the communities. Corporations will be started.

Song by John Angaiak

Jeff Kennedy asked Adam Inukpuk if there is any control about what is being taught in their schools. Adam Inukpuk (with translation by Noah Inukpuk) said there is one large school board who makes the budget for 14 communities. Jeff Kennedy asked if there were course in the schools about Native culture, history and values. Adam Inukpuk said there is a group of people organizing these programs. This group of people is called “dikit” and they are the ones that are preparing the books and materials. Jeff Kennedy asked if their students attend high school in their area or do they have to go far away. Noah Inukpuk said the high school students usually have to go to Ottawa or Montreal to receive their high school education. Jeff Kennedy asked if there any plans for high schools to be built in your area. Noah Inukpuk said they have plans to build a high school in the north but they are just starting off. Jeff Kennedy asked if students are trained to live in an urban situation or subsistence activities or both. Noah Inukpuk said it is their own culture in general that they learn. Kennedy asked if the government was doing enough for the educational needs of the students. Noah Inukpuk said the government is not giving enough money to provide the cultural programs in the north. They always having a problem asking the government for money for these programs. Kennedy asked if there were enough Native teachers in the schools. Noah Inukpuk said there’s not enough Native teachers but they are looking forward to more Native teachers. Kennedy asked if they have any closing comments. Adam Inukpuk (with translation by Noah Inukpuk) said for the future they are planning to take over the education in northern Quebec. They want to study about how they will run the education program.

Song by Doc Watson

Len Ingels said 200 Indian leaders from throughout the United States traveled to Washington, D.C. to hear the remarks of President Ford. The president asked them for their input so they can be more responsive to their needs. The president also talked about self-determination for Indian tribes. He believes in maintaining a stable policy.

Song by Peter LaFarge