

PM Not Planning Visit To Reserve, Despite Invitation:

For the time being, the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy will have to be content with sending letters to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. The confederacy will be unable to speak with the PM.

A spokesman in Ottawa for the prime minister said Mr. Trudeau has no plans at present to meet with the confederacy.

In February, the confederacy chiefs drafted a letter in response to one from the prime minister, issuing an invitation to him and Gov.-Gen. Roland Michener to attend talks at the Onondaga Longhouse near Ohsweken.

In their letter to Mr. Trudeau, the confederacy chiefs offered to discuss solutions to Canada's problems. Mr. Trudeau had stated in his letter that the confederacy could make a positive contribution to the solution of Canada's national problems.

SIX NATIONS NEWS

Federal Schools Plan Stirs Up Indian Blood - Mar. 6/70

Ohsweken: Six Nations Indians have refused to relax opposition to a proposed administrative consolidation in Indian education that federal officials claim will produce greater efficiency.

The reserve's elected council yesterday told a federal official bluntly that until reserve educators request the move, its motion passed last month opposing consolidation still stands.

Edward Oliver, acting regional director for the Indian Affairs department, was given the ultimatum during a council meeting that produced:

- Criticism of Chief Councillor Richard Isaac for inviting Mr. Oliver to the meeting.
- An emotional appeal by J. C. Hill, the reserve's schools superintendent, to allow Indians to develop a concept of "self."
- Renewed charges that the federal government has failed to communicate adequately with council.
- Threats by some Indian parents to withdraw their children from school if the change is completed.

Throughout the discussion, however, Mr. Oliver maintained that the government plans no changes in the reserve's educational system.

It does propose relieving Mr. Hill of a heavy administrative workload by transferring administration duties of the Six Nations education program to the department of Indian Affairs office in Brantford, he added.

The additional paperwork created during the past three years, union negotiations and minor matters such as filling out vouchers would be centralized under an administrative unit large enough to manage affairs of the large Six Nations Band, he said.

This will allow Mr. Hill to make improvements in education for which he is particularly trained, increase administrative efficiency and keep more records, Mr. Oliver said.

He agreed that the Six Nations educational system is one of the province's finest and that Mr. Hill has been doing a "first rate job."

"We're making no change that would suggest in any way that we're taking the responsibility for education from the reserve," Mr. Oliver said.

However, he told reporters after the meeting that council's protests will have a considerable impact on the department's decision to complete the changes by April 1. "I will have to re-think my position," he said.

The government also has to cope with the threat to withdraw the children from school. Local residents view the affair as the first step in the implementation of the government's new Indian policy which has met strong opposition across Canada.

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