

Indian Cultural Conference: (cont'd)

At present, a division in the Indian Affairs Department looks after cultural affairs among status, or registered, Indians, and Secretary of State Gerard Pelletier's department does the same for non-status Indians. Both departments helped convene and staff the three-day conference.

Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien was asked his view of this proposal when he joined the conference at lunch yesterday. He said he had no objection - it was indeed in line with his policy of "ending the apartheid of Indians on reserves".

But it might not be easy to separate Indian cultural affairs from the educational and community development programs in which his department was still involved. He thought the Indian bands should be consulted before changes were made.

This is where the objections may come. As one delegate pointed out, the move could be seen as a shedding of responsibilities by the Indian Affairs Department before the problem of rights and treaties was solved, and could be a first step along the road mapped out in the Indian policy proposals of last June, in which Mr. Chretien suggested responsibility for all Indian schools within five years.

So far, the federal funds allotted to cultural affairs for Canada's 250,000 status Indians has been meagre; Only \$300,000 has been spent in the area since 1965. But the amount has increased annually, and if the recommendations of this conference are accepted by Government the figure could climb steeply.

He also told the 30 delegates that Indian languages and culture should be part of the syllabus of any school which had a significant number enrolled. Indians, he said should play a greater role in planning school programs; one way to do this was to increase their representation on school boards.

\* \* \* \* \*

J. C. HILL - "GREAT TEACHER"

RICHLY DESERVED HONORS MOUNT FOR INDIAN EDUCATOR:

A prominent Brant County Indian educator is among eight distinguished men and women who will be recognized with honorary degrees by the University of Western Ontario, London, at its spring convocation next month.

J. C. Hill, district superintendent of schools under the federal department of Indian affairs on the Six Nations Reserve, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree on May 26, first day of the university's four-day 206th convocation.

After receiving his degree, Mr. Hill will address the graduating students from the faculties of arts and music and from Huron College.

Joseph Charles Hill, a Mohawk, was born on the Six Nations Reserve, and has devoted most of his life to his people. He received his education at schools on the reserve, in Hagersville, Hamilton Teachers' College and McMaster University, Hamilton.

He has been involved in the educational life of the reserve for more than 30 years, and served as supervising principal and principal of one of the schools there until his appointment as district superintendent.

He has developed, over the years, a school system that now totals 14 elementary schools, with a total enrolment of about 1,400 pupils and staffed almost entirely by Indian teachers. In addition, he is responsible for another 400 reserve students who attend high schools in Brant, Norfolk and Haldimand counties, as well as an additional 60 students taking post-secondary education in colleges and universities.

Through his work, Mr. Hill has introduced Indian history and values into the education of Indian children and in this and other ways, has succeeded in preserving the important aspects of the Indian culture and heritage.

In 1960, in recognition of his years of leadership and service in education, Mr. Hill was awarded the Centennial award of the Ontario Education Association.

Appropriately, he is known to his people as "SKAKORIHONNYENNIHKOWAH - which translates as "Great Teacher".