

HERE AND THERE - Cont'd..INDIANS POSE THREAT OF VIOLENCE

Kenora - Ont. - On Saturday, June 1, 1974, Ontario Cabinet Ministers heard a plea from Robert Major, an Indian representing 23 reserves belonging to Grand Council #3, for a plan of action to prevent possible rampant destruction and violence by Kenora's disenchanted Ojibway population.

"I have a feeling the situation is getting out of hand," said Mr. Major, after delivering his brief to government leaders.

Kenora Mayor, S.N. Davidson minced no words in his brief, saying the problem has become worse and that council cannot cope with it alone.

"The human degradation that results from the abuse of alcohol alone is plainly evident on the main street of Kenora and along the waterfront," the Mayor told the ministers.

"Why do humans of any race or condition in this wealthy province of Ontario eat from garbage cans?"

He said the Indians drink cheap, fortified wine obtained from the Ontario Liquor Control Board in great quantities.

The result was defecation, urination and copulation in public, as well as assorted acts of violence, fires of unknown origin in deserted buildings, unnatural deaths from exposure, suicides and murders.

"These are symptoms of a moral pollution that deserve more attention than all the efforts now being made to eliminate sources of environmental pollution of our air, waterways and land," said the Mayor.

He said the Indians live in a social and economic ghetto with few jobs, little income and no housing. No trace was kept of their movements and "nobody seems to know how many live in town."

Mr. Major said that to expect Indians to get into a white society is to be ignorant.

Their actions reflect their past and with them "violence is the name of the game."

"Little has been done to co-ordinate them to the life of the town," he said.

Afterwards, he said the frustration

HERE AND THERE - Cont'd.....

and anger of the Kenora Indians is now very high.

Both Mr. Major and Mayor Davidson admitted they did not get together regularly to try to work out their problems.

Margaret Birch, provincial secretary for social development promised that her secretariat would conduct a serious study of the problem but gave no commitment.

Health Minister, Frank Miller announced that the province is prepared to provide financial assistance for the establishment of a detoxification centre here. It would provide \$25,000 for purchase of the land, some capital funds for the building and \$128,000 a year for operating cost.

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GOVERNMENT TAKES LAND FROM NATIVES FOR TOURISTS

Conne River, Nfld. - A \$100,000 project is being funded by the Federal, Provincial government to establish a Park at Chibeyeej near Conne River in Newfoundland. Despite the repeated pleas of the Native People in the area, the Park which was started December 1st, 1973 is near completion.

Philip Jedore, 1st Vice President of the Newfoundland Labrador area said "that area is well within our ancestral hunting and fishing grounds, and that the Park will completely disrupt the community of Conne River which has both Indian and Metis People."

An interesting point to note in this situation is that the Minister of Tourism Tom Doyle, who went ahead with plans to put up the Park, without consulting with the Native People, is apparently also the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation in a special division for the Native people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Even though the Native People have repeatedly requested to stop construction of the 2000 acre development, their request has been turned down. The Minister Tom Doyle said "Construction of the Park will not stop." He stated to the Native People that the land in which the Park is to be built belongs to the Crown, therefore it is up to the people to prove