

Metis Frustrated By White Racism (continued)

Dr. Adams said Metis communities are ruled and dominated by whites who allow the Metis little or no say in government and force them into the most menial tasks available.

"In Saskatchewan the rate of pay for fire-fighting is \$6.50 a day, which averages 12 hours, or \$45 for an 84-hour week," he said. "This is less than 55 cents an hour."

The Metis and Indians said the only whites fighting fires were the supervisors.

Reserve Becomes Restless Over New Federal Indian Policy

Until last Sunday morning, Six Nations Indians had accepted the federal government's new Indian policy quietly. Now, the reserve has become a flurry of hastily-arranged meetings and quickly-formulated plans of action.

The people now believe the government will not wait five years as first announced but will remake Canadian Indians into Canadian citizens on Wednesday. Most of the Indians, it is understood, do not want citizenship.

An attack of some form will be made on officials of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. A statement will be sought admitting that the churches have acted as a "conditioning force" in readying Indians for white control since the white men first arrived. How the attack will be made is not clear yet, but plans are being made.

A fear exists among some of the Indian people that no action will be taken by Indians to resist the new policy, or if it is taken it will be too late and everything will be lost.

The "everything" they fear is Indian status. With citizenship comes the loss of status as an Indian (a name they no longer accept). Along with citizenship comes taxes, and the fear that those who cannot afford to pay taxes will lose their land through tax sales or other reasons.

Also feared is the possibility of losing the Longhouse religion. "We have had to go to court to have our religion confirmed," An Indian clan mother said. "We were told our marriages were not legal, our children were illegitimate. What kind of religious freedom is this?"

"If the treaties are broken, according to international law that constitutes the treaties becoming void and nil and the land would revert to its original owner - us," said one spokesman. "And there's an awful lot of land in question."

Until now, another person explained, the Indian people have had a live-and-let-live policy. "But somebody's going to get in trouble here. There will be more snakehills," she said. Snakehills are the mounds which mark the mass graves of ancient Indians.

The attack on the church, she explained, is needed because the church residential schools take the young children and force Christianity on them and denounce the Longhouse faith as being pagan, disorienting the people from their brothers.

A major meeting was scheduled on the reserve. A definite plan of action was to be drawn up at that time.

Saskatchewan Indians Running Programs

A total of 18 Indian bands in Saskatchewan have taken over responsibility for a number of programs previously operated on the reserves by Department of Indian Affairs personnel.

That number compares with seven bands administering their own programs in 1968, under a plan that was initiated two years ago,

The bands now administering a total of more than \$2,000,000.00 turned over to them by the department. The money is put into an account for the band by the department with very few stipulations, the main one being that an audited report accounting for the money be submitted at the end of each 12-month period.

F.A. Clark, Saskatchewan Regional Director, says many of the bands involved now have gone through a full year of operating their own programs and have submitted their audited reports. There have been no major problems with any of them, he reports.

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