

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

Fishermen's Aid Program Renewed - Financed by the Department of Indian Affairs and administered by the Department of the Environment, the program provides loans and grants to Indian fishermen for the construction, purchase, conversion and modification of fishing vessels, equipment and shore facilities.

To help Indian fishermen now renting vessels to purchase their own vessels or upgrade present equipment, the minimum down payment for loans has been reduced. The eligible age for borrowers has been lowered from 21 to 19 to allow younger Indians entry into the industry as owner-operators.

The Fishermen's Assistance Board has been increased by one Indian appointee to ensure a balanced Indian view-point from various geographic fishing areas, bringing Indian representation to three on the six-member board. The enlarged board will meet as quickly as possible to handle applications now on hand.

JAMES BAY HYDRO FILE MISSING

Ottawa - Indian Affairs Department Officials said some confidential files on the James Bay multi-million dollar hydro development in northeastern Quebec, were missing after a peaceable termination, August 31, 1973, of a 24-hour sit-in at the Indian Affairs building.

A group of 200 militants which included Indians and Metis moved into the offices early Thursday morning and left about 9 A.M. on Friday morning.

The group claimed that they occupied the building to show their unhappiness with government inaction on the James Bay Project, on native land claims and government management of other Indian problems. They told reporters that they had no knowledge of any files being removed during the demonstration.

Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs said the real issue was the department's refusal to finance an association meeting of the Native Youth Association of B.C. which was then in session at Cornwall.

CULTURAL AWARENESS MEETING

Sault Ste Marie - A week-long cultural Awareness Conference, the end of August, brought into the Soo five hundred Ojibwa Indians from the midwestern states and Ontario.

The original band of Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa (Ojibwa) Indians and two native American student groups sponsored the "Indian Awareness Week."

Ceremonies began Saturday with an Ojibwa march and continued Sunday with spiritual ceremonies for the dead.

A sunrise ceremony and the opening of an Ecumenical Conference began Monday morning.

Indian problems of today were discussed by the religious Indian leaders and the Indian medicinemen.

GRANTS AWARDED TO INDIANS

Ottawa - On July 17, 1973, Secretary of State, Hugh Faulkner announced that 47 grants totalling \$724,295.22 had been awarded to various Native Organizations and Friendship Centres across the country.

Of this amount Ontario's Indians (including non-status Indians) received a total of \$259,897.50 for their various organizations.

INDIANS SEEK COMPENSATION

[From Brantford Expositor]

Prince George, B.C. - The Stuart-Trembleur Indian band is claiming 1,134 acres of land and a cash settlement of \$7 million from the British Columbia Railway (BCR). The settlement is sought as compensation for damage to seven reserves where band leaders say wildlife has been depleted and land ruined since the BCR line was installed from Frot St. James to Takla Landing in the last four years.

Indians from seven reserves met to decide on the amount of cash to be sought.
