

530

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

Published by
MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION
122 - 388 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

NEWS

VOLUME I
NUMBER 5
DECEMBER 1972

*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced
with exceeding great joy"*

st. matthew 2





President's Christmas Message



President
J. ANGUS SPENCE

The happy fiddler and the dancing couple on our cover page is indicative of the 'great joy' throughout the land - that St. Matthew tells us existed when Christ was born.

In many ways, this happy Metis family is symbolic of the Christmas message, because their joy is also one in poverty.

Christ was born in a manger and thousands of Metis across this land shall dance and sing in poverty stricken shacks.

I am certain that the three wise men were not celebrating the poverty of Christ; nor are the Metis dancers rejoicing because they live in shacks. They are rejoicing at the Christmas message of hope and of renewed dedication.

Looking back over 1972, we in the Federation can see so many disappointments and disillusionments. So many things that we in the Federation wished to have done, but never completely finished. We needed more houses, more jobs, more education, more unity. And Christmas is the spirit that comes along every year to revive our hopes and the promise of getting that job finished.

But nothing will be achieved without unity. Unity is as important to the Metis people of Manitoba as it was to the early Christian Church in the days of the Apostles.

The force and power of unity is like a wedge which your elected leaders use to pry doors open which have been closed to the Metis people.

Our password must be unity. Unity in organization - unity of purpose - unity in action. But this cannot be achieved without your positive contribution and participation in the Federation. In this matter, it is well to remember the words of the late immortal John F. Kennedy in his famous statement: "Ask yourselves not what America can do for you, but what can you do for America".

I wish you, one and all, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the New Year bring a strong, united Federation of Metis people working together for the happiness and success of all.

J. Angus Spence,
President.

Christmas Message

At this Festive time of the year when our thoughts quite naturally turn toward giving and sharing, it is well to reflect for a few moments to the fact that Metis People have always been very willing to give and share with their friends, relatives, and neighbours. This has been part of our culture, our way of life for many generations.

However, in recent years our Society has been moving at a very fast pace in the last fifty years, we have gone from the ox cart to the moon. Trying to keep up with this pace without the resources to do it with, has had an effect on our giving and sharing philosophy and brought some changes in our attitudes toward ourselves and others.

At times it is well to be reminded of things we already know but may have forgotten about in the fast pace of our living.

I'm thinking of the great law that has been operating since the beginning of time. Operating since long before Christmas's or the Metis people were in existence. And that law is that "As You Sow, So Shall Ye Reap."

There is no such thing as continually giving good efforts and receiving bad results. Or sharing our good ideas and spare time and receiving bad reaction.

Applied to our organization - The M.M.F., it means that to the degree that we give and share of ourselves, our ideas, our time, and our efforts toward the people of our locals, our locals will return to us the result of our efforts. If we give greatly, we shall receive much - if we give little, we shall receive little - if we give nothing, we shall receive nothing.

Let us not believe that we can get something for nothing. There is no such thing. If at any time someone gets something from the M.M.F. it means someone somewhere, sometime has put the effort forward to make it happen. It has been said that there is no accomplishment without suffering. It simply means that if you are now receiving something and have not suffered, someone else has or will suffer for you. There is no accomplishment without effort. It is just as unreasonable to expect something for nothing



WALTER MENARD
Vice-President
Dauphin

as it is to try and drain Lake Winnipegosis with a teaspoon.

So if you want someone, perhaps your children, relatives or friends to receive something from the M.M.F. in the future, give of yourselves now. Share your time, ideas and efforts in co-operation with your Metis friends and relatives through your local now.

Remember, too, to be a little more understanding than the people who aren't. It is important to remember that while we are the Proud Metis, we live in a society made up of many different people and we must find and make our own place in it. No one else will do it for us. And that it will be easier to do this if we are united in a strong Metis Federation.

So it is up to you and from your directors and vice-president - Great Wishes for a Merry Christmas and A Joyous '73 for every Metis.

Walter Menard,
Vice-President,



BEN THOMPSON
Vice President
Thompson

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE THOMPSON REGION

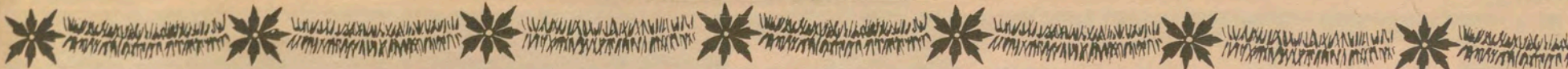
On behalf of the Board of Directors, employees and staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Thompson Regional Office and myself, I would like to extend to you and your families the warmest of Christmas greetings and hope for the realization of all your dreams in the coming New Year.

I would like to thank all of you for your kind co-operation and advise in helping to make our region one to be proud of.

Once again, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Ben Thompson,
Vice-President,





MURRAY SINCLAIR
Vice President
Interlake



CONNIE EYOLFSON
Vice President
Southeast



ALFRED HEAD
Vice-President
The Pas

On behalf of the Regional Office staff, the Board Directors, I wish to extend to all our good friends, warm wishes for a bright and merry holiday season abounding with good cheer, fellowship and joy.

Working with you in the Locals of Interlake has been a pleasure, and may 1973 bring a year of accomplishment in friendship and cooperation.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTHEAST

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and Locals of the Southeast Region, I would like at this time to wish each and every one of our readers a Joyous Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

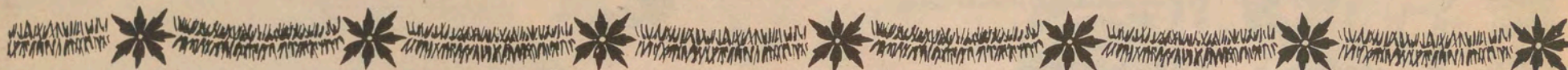
Let us think of Christmas as the celebration of Christ's birth. We humbly ask His Blessing for a good Christmas and may He walk with us through the coming year.

THE PAS VICE-PRESIDENT'S XMAS MSG.

I am happy to have this opportunity of wishing all our people in the Federation and particularly the The Pas Region, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There are many big jobs ahead of us in the New Year and this will require all the unity and strength of all local executives and members.

I look forward to a new year of active participation from all Metis people in building up our Region and the Federation in a spirit of cooperation and unity.



NEW DIRECTORS



MAUREEN LYNN AND DAVE STONEMAN
Dauphin

Our last issue of the M.M.F. NEWS carried a report on new members of the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, photographs were not available at publication time but we are now pleased to present Maureen Lynn and Don Stoneman of the Dauphin Region.

Another Director who was recently elected is Frank Buck of The Pas. Frank was born in The Pas and received his education there.

Like so many of our Metis leaders he heard the call to duty in 1940 and joined the Canadian Army. Frank served in Europe from 1941 to 1945 and is happy to relate that he came back older, wiser and with all limbs intact.

He got married in 1946 and has raised eight children.

Since 1946 Frank has worked with the The Pas Lumber Company, the Department of Public Works and the River saw mills.

Frank in his own quiet way is a valuable asset to the Federation and the MMF NEWS welcomes him as a Board Director.



FRANK BUCK
The Pas

LETTERS TO SANTA



Dear Santa,

Don't leave any presents
for my brother Stewart.

Stewart is a rat fink
and rat finks should get
a big O for Xmas,
Love,
Harold

Dear Santa Claus.
I need toys for this
year and the next year
and the next year.
I can't write every year.

Love.

Max

Dear Santa:

How can you tell who are the
good children and who
are the bad children?

Please tell me as
quick as you can.

Ira

Dear Santa,
If you come
into my house and
hear a big yell don't
get scared. It will be
my dog Blacky. Everybody
always steps on him in
the dark.

Your friend,
Susan

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Robert. I am 6
years old. I want a rifle, a pistol,
a machine gun, bullets, a hand
grenade, dynamite, and tear gas.

I am planning a surprise for
my big brother.

Your friend,
Robert

Hi Santa.

Last year you didn't
leave me anything so
good. The year before
last year you didn't
leave me anything so
good.

This year is your last
chance.
your friend,
Alfred

"THE SOUTHWEST AFFAIR"

At an Executive Committee meeting in Minnedosa on 25th and 26th October 1972, Steve Lavallee, Vice-President of the MMF Southwest Region presented to the Chairman, Mr. J. Angus Spence a brief of approximately 50 pages which contained a number of charges directed against the Head Office of the Manitoba Metis Federation under the disguise of soliciting information for the benefit of the Region.

All of the questions contained in the Brief had either been answered previously or could have been answered by a simple phone call to the Head Office.

The Executive Committee sensed that the Brief was really political in intent and that this intent was serious enough to be dealt with by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors were assembled in Brandon on 3rd and 4th November 1972 to deal with this matter.

After a thorough discussion of the items of the Southwest Brief, the Board of Directors were of the conviction that the Southwest Brief was detrimental to the unity of the Federation and concluded that the Regional Manager had contributed in large measure to this 'undermining of the Federation'. She was released from further employment with the M.M.F. Both Steve Lavallee and Lorne Atkinson were reprimanded by the Board for their part in this 'undermining'.



The Board of Directors discuss Southwest problems at Brandon meeting 25, 26 November.

One member observed: "The information that was asked by the Southwest Regional Office was readily available; and in fact, had been given to a Regional Committee meeting of the Southwest in July. The Southwest Brief that was compiled several weeks later, repeated the same questions, but added a list of 18 pieces of minor correspondence. Some of the letters dated back a year, which they claimed had not been answered, but in effect practically all had been replied to, in many cases by phone.

Obviously, the vast amount of work and expense that was put into the Brief indicated that the activity of the Southwest Regional Office was directed to the undermining of the Provincial Office and was political in intent. Their action was too serious to ignore and the Board acted firmly and justly".

The Board of Directors also noted the 'undermining activity' of the Southwest Region in other areas.

The Executive Committee had adopted a position on the Impacte Program which was being sponsored by Brandon University and on the Toal Commission Report - both positions had been supported by the Vice-president of the Southwest Region.

The Board of Directors noted with serious concern that after a united stand had been taken on these issues, the Southwest Regional Office had made public reports discrediting the position of the M.M.F.



The Board also noted that there were several other Executive decisions which were misrepresented to the people in the Southwest by the Vice-President, Steve Lavallee and the Board Director, Lorne Atkinson.

Immediately following the Board meeting, the undermining activity of the Southwest Regional Office was stepped up.

1. Application was made to the Secretary of State for separate funding independent of the Federation.

2. The Southwest Regional Office issued public statements which discredited the Manitoba Metis Federation and circulated correspondence to members of the Federation, to private public organizations which defamed the M.M.F. and undermined its unity.

3. The Southwest Regional Office applied to the Attorney-General for an investigation into the affairs of the M.M.F.

The Board concluded that these attacks could not continue without irreparable harm to the Federation.

A meeting of the Board was called for November 25th and 26th in Brandon to resolve this problem.



After a thorough review of all the factors related above and of several other areas of concern, the Board demanded the resignation of Steve Lavallee and Lorne Atkinson. This was done.

Both Steve and Lorne expressed regrets at their action and suggested that they would write letters to all those they had written to and apologise to the people. But the Board ruled that there is no hope now to undo the damage that was done to the Federation than there would be in trying to gather up a bag of feathers that was strewn to the wind.

In conclusion, the President said:

"This is not a happy day - but it is not the end. We have lost two good men who were caught up in a scheming plot that was hatched outside of the Federation. Steve Lavallee and Lorne Atkinson were the victims; however, the Board has ruled that they must be held responsible for their complicity".

Several members of the Board expressed serious concern at the involvement of the Civil Service personnel in the internal affairs of the Manitoba Metis Federation.

Civil service personnel holding secret meetings with M.M.F. Regional staff - why?

If they have government business to perform that involves the Metis people of Manitoba, why is this business not conducted through the Head Office?

One member of the Board concluded "The real culprits are not here, but they have left their tracks. Some day soon we shall ask these people for an accounting".



"The M.M.F. will carry on", said the President. "There are many positive people in the Southwest Region and new strong leadership will emerge to carry on the business of the Federation.

The Regional Committee has decided to move the Regional Office from Minnedosa to Brandon. This is a first positive step.

In a week or two, a new Vice-President and a Board Director shall have been elected for the Southwest Region.

Mr. Spence concluded "that the surest way of building up our Federation exists in the democratic action of Metis people within their organization - there is no better way."

Christmas Messages

FROM THE THOMPSON REGION

On behalf of the Board of Directors, employees and staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Thompson Regional Office and myself, I would like to extend to you and your families the warmest of Christmas greetings and hope for the realization of all your dreams in the coming New Year.

I would like to thank all of you for your kind co-operation and advise in helping to make our region one to be proud of.

Once again, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

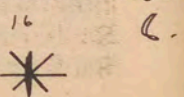
Ben Thompson,
Vice - President,
Thompson Region
Manitoba Metis Federation

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTHEAST

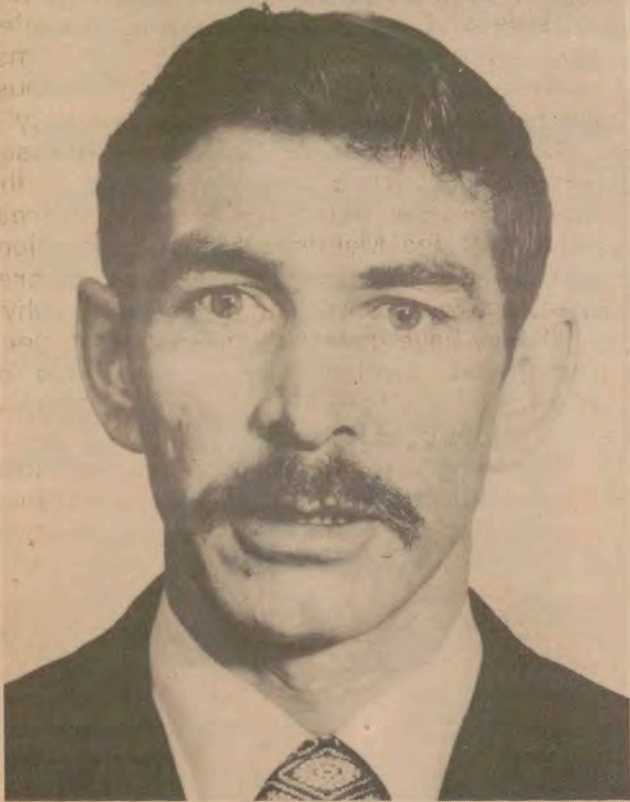
On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and Locals of the Southeast Region, I would like at this time to wish each and every one of our readers a Joyous Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

Let us think of Christmas as the celebration of Christ's birth. We humbly ask His Blessing for a good Christmas and may He walk with us through the coming year.

Connie Eyolfson
Vice-President
Southeast Region



OBSERVER'S VIEWPOINT



NORVAL DESJARLAIS

I suppose that by now most people have heard about the problems the Federation has had with the South-West Region and that the Board of Directors asked for the resignation of Steve Lavallee the Vice-President, and Lorne Atkinson a Board Director.

The Board in fact had two meetings in Brandon at a hell of a cost to the Federation because to bring in the Directors

from all over the province and to pay their hotel and meals is expensive business.

Well, anyway, it wasn't a very pleasant thing for any one of us, but the unity of the Federation is more important. We must keep united and strong but if the undermining that was going on in the South-West had carried on, we would soon have no Federation left.

But what really bothers me is the involvement of people outside of the Federation in our affairs. As Big Ed Head from Thompson said 'The real culprits are not here, but we know who they are.'

One name that kept coming up all the time at the South-West Regional meeting and at the Board of Directors meeting was John Morrisseau.

The Board Directors remembered the problems they faced with the 'Rivers deal' a year ago last September. This whole scheme, as the people found out who were at the Board of Directors meeting in October last year, was to undermine the President and the Head Office. And who was at the bottom of this plot - none other than a certain John Morrisseau who was then Vice-President of The Pas Region.

Again at the SW Regional meeting, one of the delegates was telling us about one of those 'secret' meetings that was going on in the South-West Region. After that meeting, one of the leaders said "we sure stirred up a lot of shit tonight". Guess who was there - John Morrisseau.

What in hell was this guy doing down in the South-West Region - did he not have any problems in his own Region?

Is this the way to build up a strong united organization? Is this the way to resolve our differences?

And then the telephone bill comes in for the South-West Regional office. This bill was for the month of October and part of September - the total cost \$500.

These are the guys who are accusing the Head Office of mismanagement - they

must be joking. I expect that the bill for November will be a big one.

This bill represents a lot of telephone calls, but who in heck can they be calling long distance day after day.

Well, the bills say that some of these calls were to the Secretary of State in Ottawa and to the Attorney-General in Winnipeg. That's a small number of them - what about the rest? Well, there were some calls to the Minister of Northern Affairs office in Winnipeg but a lot of calls to the residences of John Morrisseau who now works for Ron McBryde, the Minister of Northern Affairs, Joe Keeper who works for the Secretary of State in Winnipeg and to Jim Whitford who I believe works for the Department of Education.

In fact, people of the South-West were telling me that at another one of their secret meetings the South-West were planning to make press releases. Guess who was there all the way from Winnipeg to write up those press releases - Jim Whitford of the Department of Education.

What in hell goes on here Mr. Hanuschak, is this what I'm paying taxes for - to have your civil servant engage in the undermining of the M.M.F.?

As far as the Minister of Northern Affairs is concerned - well we know how we stand with him - so I won't even bother asking him the same question.

This brings up the question of Regional offices - are they really worth all the money we put into them or will they continue to be a base to work against the Federation? Do they really promote unity?

Well maybe my old friend, Pierre, who lives away up north will have something to say about this in my next column.

In the meantime, could all this politicking stop and let's get on with the job.

To all those Metis people who are seriously concerned and are working positively for the unity and strength of the Manitoba Metis Federation, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

'FEDS' FUND HOUSING

The Federal Government announced today that \$199,000 will be provided to the Manitoba Metis Federation Housing Repair Program during this coming winter.

This grant will be financed through the L.I.P. Program and it will be used for the labour and administration involved in the house repair program known as "Winter Workshop".

\$300,000 has already been given by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the cost of the material.

The M.M.F. "Winter Workshop" will operate in much the same way as it did last winter.

Housing Committees will be set up in each Metis community. These committees will select those houses for repair and the amount that will be spent on each one.

The Regional Co-ordinators will co-ordinate the work of the Housing Committees.

The Regional Co-ordinators are:
Thompson Region - Henry Cook
The Pas - Bill Atcheson
The Pas Region - Bill Atcheson
Dauphin Region - Dave Stoneman
Interlake Region - Ted Govereau
South-East Region - Bob Flett
South-West Region - Alec Venne



THE FLOOD

Long, long ago all the north of this country was under ice, but when the ice melted there were great floods and the waters all swept down to the lands which were already inhabited by the Indians. Everybody was in danger and all and sundry were getting drowned when Iktoomi [a mythical hero] took pity on them and decided that he must save some people. He therefore saved one man and one woman, and one male and one female of each kind of animal. He built a large raft and he put them all on it and they all floated about on the flood waters.

After seven days however Iktoomi went to the beaver and he told the beaver that he must try and dive right to the bottom, under the flood waters, and see if he could bring him up a bit of dirt. The poor beaver dived and dived but he never could reach the bottom, and he could never find the piece of dirt. So Iktoomi told him to rest, and the next day Iktoomi took hold of the muskrat and he said to him: "You try and see if you can bring me up a bit of mud." Well the little muskrat dived very deep and he didn't come up. They all got very worried and they waited and waited; presently about five hours later

Dr. Elizabeth E. Cass, ophthalmologist with the Indian Health Services, has for some years been collecting Indian stories and legends in different parts of the country. Versions of legends, differing from tribe to tribe, form an interesting and often informative study. This Plains Indian story of the flood was told to Dr. Cass by the Stoney or Assiniboine people. Indians of the northwest told about the flood before they had been in contact with white men; there were similar stories among the Eskimos, the Loucheux and the Hurons.

the dead body of the muskrat floated to the surface of the water near the raft. Iktoomi took it on the raft and found in the muskrat's paw there was a little mound of mud. Iktoomi revived the rat and brought him back to life, and he took this little bit of mud and he moulded it with his fingers and as he moulded it the mud grew and grew. Finally he put it over the side of the raft and it went on growing into solid land so that soon he could land from the raft with all the animals. And the land still went on growing and growing from where he had moulded it.

When all the animals were ashore and the land was still growing, he waited till it was out of sight and then he got hold of the wolf and he told the wolf to run round the earth and only to come back and tell him when the earth was big enough to hold a large population.

Meanwhile he assembled all the animals in a circle and he sang them spirit songs and he made them dance the first Sun Dance.

Now the wolf took seven years on his voyage but he couldn't quite complete his tour of the world. He crept

(Continued on Page 14)

METIS WOMEN ORGANIZE

The Manitoba Metis Women Association was formed at a meeting in Dauphin on April 14, 1972. Eleven locals and the South West Region were represented, at that time we elected an interim executive President Louise Stoneman, Vice President Matilda Tanner, Sec. Treasurer Dorothy Moar.

Our immediate objectives are:

1. To organize Metis women in each community where Metis women exist.

2. To look into ways of raising funds to promote programs that will assist Metis women in the fields of child-care, education, health, adult education.

3. To look into ways of having Metis people on school boards and other boards.

Also having Metis counsellors at each school attended by Metis children.

4. To make us aware of the potential for leadership of our Metis women of Manitoba.

5. To develop a greater understanding of our governmental structure at both Federal and Provincial level.

6. To help Metis people understand their problems about alcohol and drugs. Also to counsel alcoholics.

7. To counsel and help unwed mothers.

8. To develop workshops - e.g. sewing clubs, native crafts, cooking classes, laundering, home repairs, first aide, etc.

9. To compile a list of available audio-visual aides or agencies where these materials are available.

10. To look into ways of finding a place to keep Metis children by Metis people instead of having them adopted into other parts of the country.

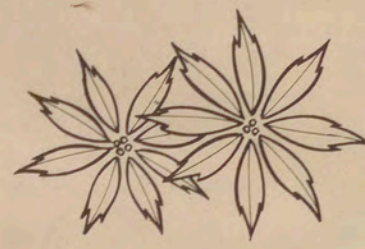
Since then we have had regional meetings once a month and formed 5 locals also added a director, Rita Guiboche to our executive.

Although the group was started at the Dauphin Region, we hope the organization will extend to the other regions of the province and eventually nation wide.

At present the locals are supporting the Region with monthly fees and donations. We have asked for assistance but have not had any response to date.

It has been difficult for some of the locals to attend regional meeting due to distance, transportation, and babysitters.

We are presently planning different programs and hope that we would find some way to bring in women to discuss problems of mutual concern and plan the future.



Press Release

Flamond Nominated

Bill Flamond, news director for radio station CFRW was nominated the Liberal Candidate for the Logan Riding in Winnipeg at a meeting attended by Izzy Asper, Norm Turner, local executives, and a following of strong supporters.

Bill is well known throughout Manitoba for his

radio work and his previous association with the Froiation with the Frontier School Division.

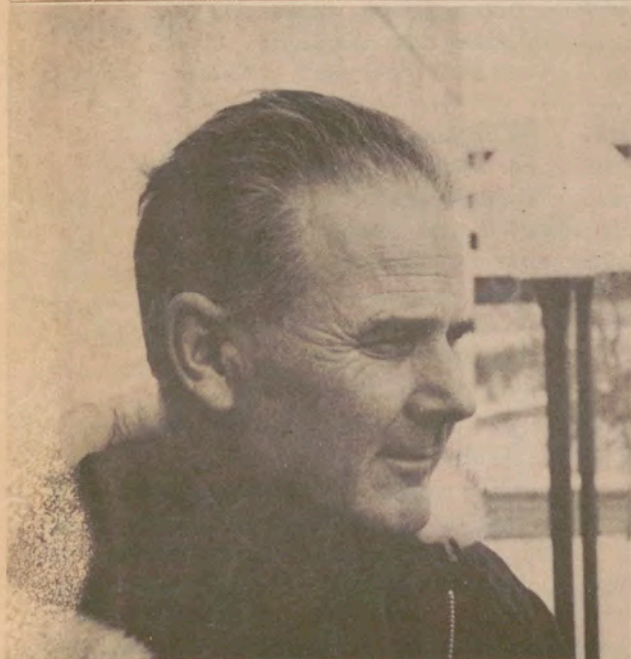
Originally from the Camperville area, he started out his radio career with the local radio station in Dauphin.

"I have always been interested in politics and I ac-

cepted this nomination because of the challenge. There is so much that can be done through politics - and there is so much to be done, especially here in Logan".

The MMF NEWS extends its heartiest congratulations and Best Wishes to Bill Flamond.

HISTORIAL NOTES



BRUCE SEALEY

Louis Riel said,

"It is true that our savage origin is humble, but it is meet that we honor our mothers as well as our fathers. Why should we concern ourselves about what degree of mixture we possess of European or Indian blood? If we have ever so little of either gratitude or filial love, should we not be proud to say; We are Metis?"

Riel has been dead eighty-seven years but much of what he said is still well worth thinking about today.



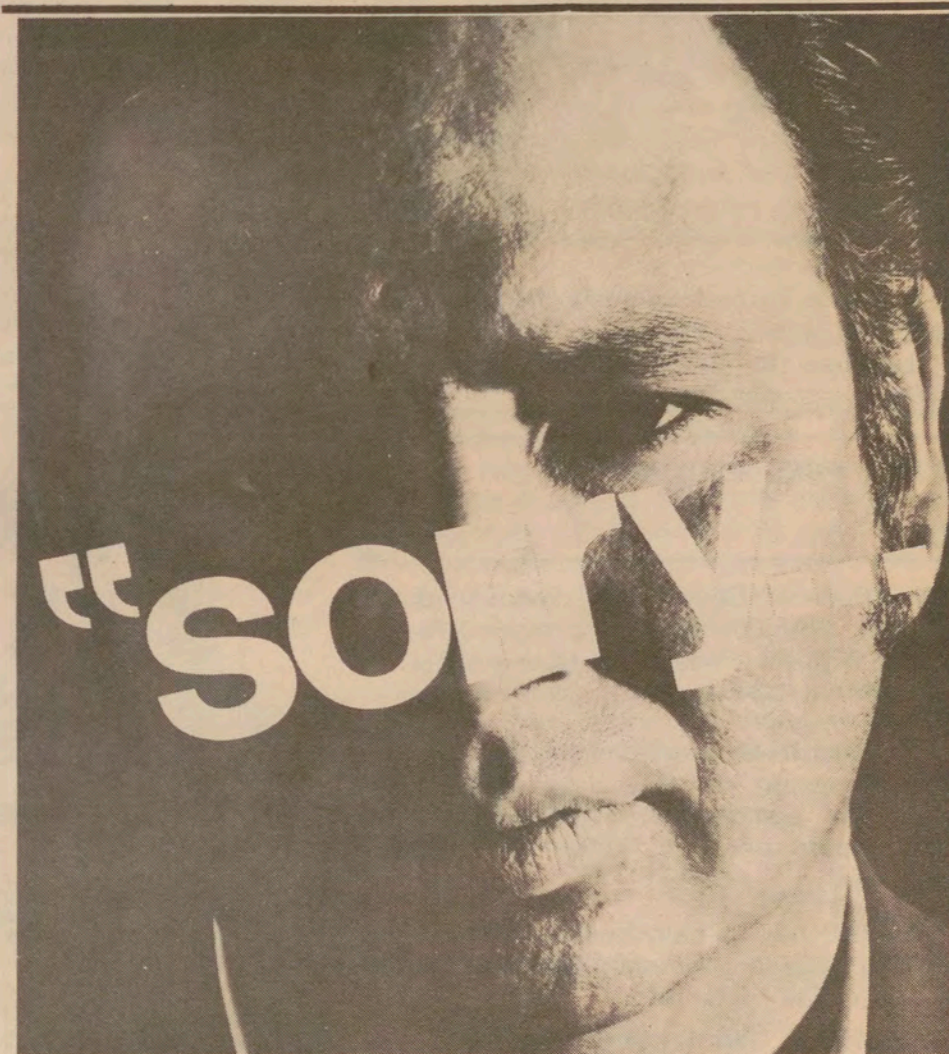
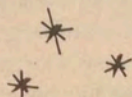
PEACE

May it reign in

every home at

Christmastime . . .

and ever after



...this suite is now rented."

"The colour of your money is ok, but not the colour of your skin". To be denied vacant accommodation is a terrible thing. It infringes upon a person's right to fair treatment — it is against the law.

In our society, where people from all backgrounds live and work together discrimination should not exist.

If the stamp of discrimination is on you because of sex, creed, religion, colour, nationality, ancestry or place of origin — give us a call.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission

430 Edmonton Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
R3B 2M3
Telephone: 942-8521



Honourable Al Mackling, Q.C., Attorney General.

**people. their rights.
that's why we're here.**

A brochure, summarizing the provisions of the Human Rights Act and the Commission's functions, is available from the Commission's offices.

TO BE OR

.... NOT TO BE



SOUTH INDIAN LAKE

EDITORIAL

SOUTH INDIAN LAKE

The Manitoba Metis Federation stand on the question of the flooding of the South Indian Lake is based on the concerns of the many Native communities and the thousands of Native people who will be seriously effected by any flooding of their Lake.

Our position is that the vast environmental, social and economic damage that would result in the flooding of the South Indian Lake does not justify the economics in cheaper hydro costs that may be achieved.

Nothing that the Governments have done in the past several years, has provided any evidence that the treatment and compensation to the uprooted Native peoples in the event of flooding will be much different than the treatment and compensation that was provided to their brethren in Easterville.

The Manitoba Metis Federation maintains that flooding of South Indian Lake is typical of Governmental planning which bases its rationale on the financial aspects and ignores the vital human and environmental factors.

We submit that the rights of the Native people in the North are being totally ignored.

We submit that Manitoba citizens and particularly the residents of the North have not been given the true and full picture of what the flooding of the South Indian Lake will mean to the North and to their lives in terms of the effect on fishing, trapping, wildlife, soil erosion, recreation and economic development.

We submit that the citizens of this Province have not had the opportunity of considering all the engineering environmental, social, economic and political costs because the Manitoba Government has decided to proceed with the flooding of South Indian Lake before all this information is available to the public.

The Manitoba Government has pleaded that it has no choice in this matter - that it is 'locked-in' to a commitment made by the previous government in 1968 and '69. However, spokesmen for the Schreyer Government quickly add - "If we had gone along with the recommendations of 68-69, the entire community of South Indian Lake would have been flooded, but we have changed the water-level so that the South Indian Lake community will not now be flooded".

To this, the President of the Manitoba Metis Federation replied "What difference does it make to a member of the South Indian community if he wears rubbers, hip waders or is in Noah's Ark - his fishing and trapping will have been taken away - without that he cannot survive".

Accordingly, in order to present a balanced view of this special problem, the M.M.F. News has invited several prominent authorities to submit their opinions and findings on the flooding of South Indian Lake. We trust that this presentation will provide our readers with a more objective view of this problem.

In so doing, we stand accused in the eyes of the Minister of Northern Affairs of "using the people of the South Indian Lake and other northern communities as political pawns" for our political ends.

We submit no apology. If in doing what the Native people are asking us to do on their behalf, that this constitutes using people as 'political pawns'; then either Mr. McBryde's government or the Manitoba Metis Federation is suffering from a totally distorted concept of democratic leadership and responsibility.

Perhaps, our distorted view of democratic action is 'impeding progress'.

Obviously, in the view of the present government, it is quite acceptable to deny any consultation with the citizens of this Province and especially the Native people whose lives shall be effected by their decision.

The Federal and Provincial Governments have signed a joint agreement which requires "a study to determine the effects that regulation of Lake Winnipeg, diversion from the Churchill River and development of hydro-electric potential of the Churchill River diversion route are likely to have on other water and related resources uses and to make recommendations for enhancing the overall benefits with due consideration for the protection of the environment".

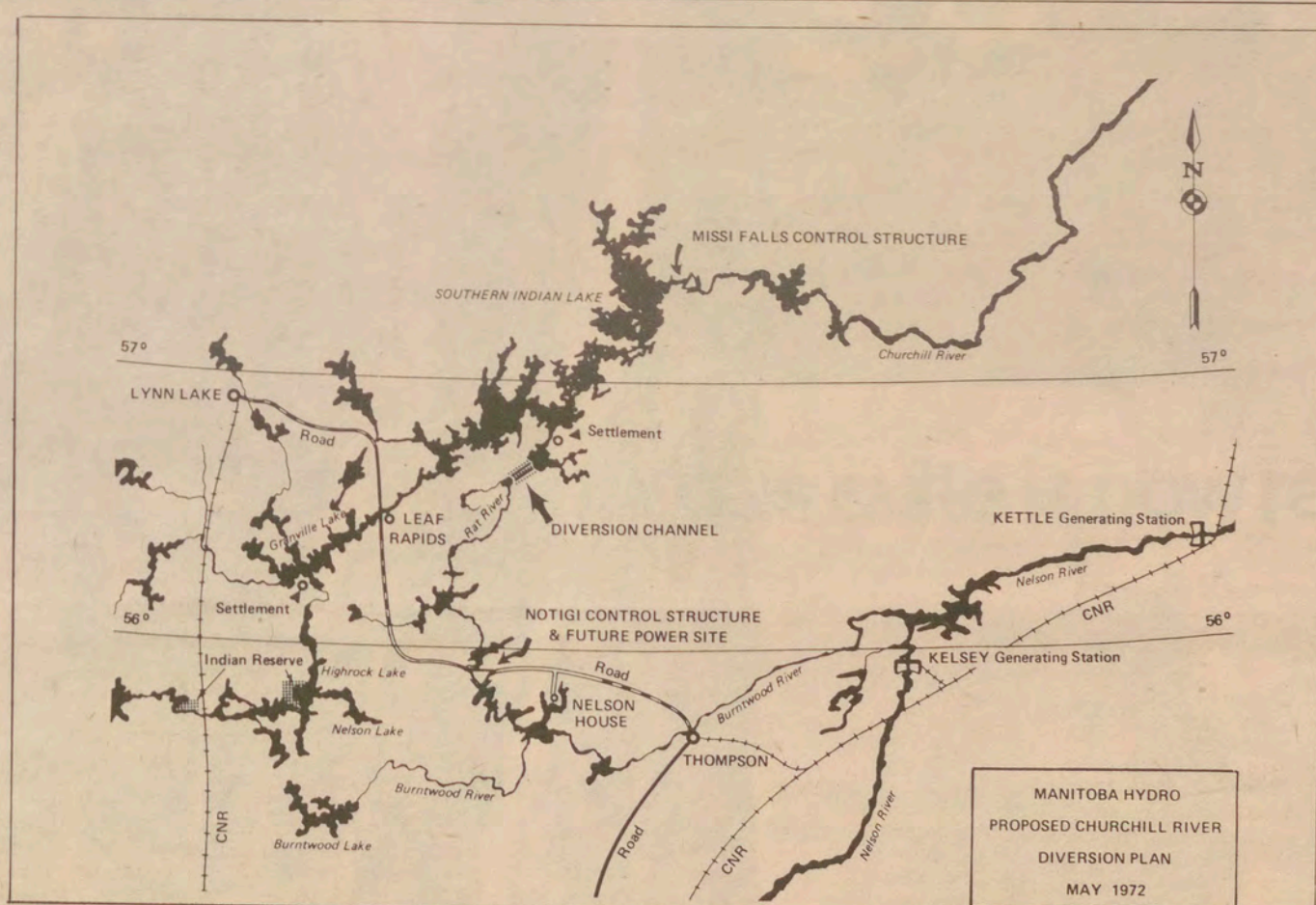
Any decision to proceed with the 850 foot diversion before the results of that Study are known is both premature and dangerous. It suggests that once again human and ecological considerations are being made secondary to the demands of the 'power' people.

It also suggests that the Manitoba Government has made a travesty of their agreement with the Government of Canada and the trust that has been placed in it by the people of Manitoba.

As representatives of many of the people whose very existence is threatened by this massive flooding of the North, we are morally bound to express their concerns.

Accordingly, we propose that the Hydro proposal should not be proceeded with until the Federal/Provincial Study has been completed and its findings evaluated.

J. ANGUS SPENCE



The Churchill River Diversion Plan



D. CASS-BEGGS
Chairman
Manitoba Hydro

Power from water, like power from the wind, is man's most natural source of energy. Once the water-wheel or turbine is built it goes on forever, producing energy as long as the water continues to flow. All other sources of energy use up our resources of coal, oil, gas or wood and, for Manitoba, depend mainly on supplies from outside the province.

Ninety-five out of every hundred kilowatt-hours of electricity used in Manitoba come from the rivers of Manitoba. Some from the Winnipeg River, some from the Saskatchewan River at Grand Rapids, and more

recently a large amount from the Nelson River at Kelsey and Kettle Rapids. As we need more and more power, particularly for developing the northern part of the province we plan to build several more plants on the Nelson River. Five are planned or being built at the present time.

We could also build plants on the Churchill River, from Southern Indian Lake to the Hudson Bay, but these would be smaller plants than the Nelson ones. They would need long transmission lines and the power would be much more expensive. The idea of moving some of the water from the Churchill to the Nelson so that the power from the Churchill could be captured in the plants on the Nelson was suggested a long time ago, and is a very good scheme. The problem has been how to do it without affecting the homes or the livelihood of the people living in the district. Ideally any such development should improve the income and the well being of the community.

There are, of course, no natural channels between the two rivers or the river would already be flowing into the Nelson, but there are several places at which by raising the level of the Churchill with a dam, some of the water could be made to flow through a new channel and across the divide into the Nelson basin. We have examined several places in great detail.

Some are above Southern Indian Lake and above Granville Falls but the most favourable one is at South Bay on Southern Indian Lake, where an increase in lake level of no more than ten feet would make sufficient water flow through a new channel into Issett Lake and the Rat River to the Burntwood River and the Nelson. The normal level of Southern Indian Lake is from 837 to 840 feet. We have designed the scheme for a level of 847 feet - 7 feet above the normal maximum level.

When the scheme was first put forward in 1969 the proposal was to raise the level about 30 feet. The additional height, above what is now proposed, was to make a large storage reservoir so that the water could be taken at the time of the year when the electric power demand was greatest, in the winter. The present scheme will use a smaller flow of water more uniformly throughout the year. Instead of using Southern Indian Lake as a storage reservoir we are widening and deepening channels out of Lake Winnipeg which form the start of the Nelson River to allow more

water to flow out of Lake Winnipeg in the winter. This can be done without raising the level of Lake Winnipeg.

From the point of view of Manitoba Hydro the new scheme of the South Bay diversion combined with Lake Winnipeg storage, although more expensive at the moment, will be better than the original scheme, which would have required the Lake Winnipeg development in any case in a few years' time.

From the point of view of Southern Indian Lake the effect will be small. The Churchill River water will still flow through the Lake - although some of it will divide and flow to the south end - and so will continue to support the fish of the Lake. This would not be the case if water were diverted before it reached Southern Indian Lake, for example, at Granville Falls. The amount of land flooded will be small - only one-tenth of that originally proposed. In many places banks are steep enough that there will be no effect. At all important places trees will be cleared to the 848 foot level. No houses or buildings that we know of will be affected. Hydro will, of course, rebuild docks and structures that will be too low. Hydro will take full responsibility for any damage caused to property and for any loss of livelihood.

We expect there will be many improvements in the district as a result of the Hydro program. Electric power from the main Hydro system at Ruttan Lake will be brought to the village of South Indian Lake and the community should have power before next winter. Highway access to the South Bay channel site will serve the village and the diversion route will open up a new waterway to Notigi and (with a portage around the control) to Nelson House and Thompson. An increase in recreational use will lead to more local employment.

Clearing for the project is expected to begin this winter. The road from Leaf Rapids to South Bay is to be in service by the fall of 1973 permitting a start to be made on channel excavation work. Construction of the control dams at Missi Falls and Notigi will begin in early 1974. Employment on the total diversion project should total about one thousand and the work is scheduled to be completed by November 1975.

D. CASS BEGGS,
Chairman,
Manitoba Hydro.



PROF. CASS BOEY
University of Manitoba

We are being told by the government that the decision to divert the Churchill River was made many years ago by a previous administration. Now we are boxed in. Now we must proceed with the plan if we are to avoid uneconomical power development or perhaps even power shortages. We have no choice.

Is that so? Let us look at the facts as presented by Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro's calculations show that there is enough energy in the Nelson River alone to meet Manitoba's demands for the next twenty years even if our consumption continues to grow at the predicted rate of 7% per year. This means that twenty years from now we can consume four times as much electric energy as we do now without having diverted the Churchill River at all. And, of course, by that time we can still add nuclear plants to our system if we feel that four times our present consumption is not enough.

The effect of the Churchill River Diversion on the cost

of electricity is relatively small. The Task Force Report of Manitoba Hydro of October 1970 shows that without diversion the cost per kilowatt hour is only 0.08 cent more. That is only ten percent of the production cost to Manitoba Hydro, an increase which will not change our position on enjoying one of the lowest rates on the North American continent.

It is simply not true that we are boxed in. If the Churchill River is diverted then that is done because the present government considers the saving in power cost worth the environmental and social disruption of the project.

This would indeed be in line with earlier decisions. It would be a continuation of the colonial development policy for the North. For the benefits of cheap power go to the South and to southern-based interests. The disruption is in the North. I do not deny that there are benefits to the North which flow from this exploitation of the natural resources in the form of roads and jobs. But these are incidental, they are by-products of the development. They are the kind of benefits that you find in any colony. The point is that the purpose of the development is not the well-being of the North and its people. The sole purpose of the development is cheap power.

Side benefits do not prove anything and they do not solve anything. The problems of the original proprietors, the Indians and the Metis are not solved by giving them axes and shovels and letting them clear bush in Hydro land.

The major problem of the North is the totally inadequate economic base of the communities. And resource development should be aimed at bringing this number one problem of Manitoba a little closer to its solution. This means that we need projects that aim at reserving and developing part of the North's vast natural resources for the local people. This was done at Southern Indian Lake, where the rich fishing resource was reserved for the local people and where sensible arrangements were made for the transportation and the processing of the fish. The result was a flourishing independent community, proof that the local people could look after themselves if given a chance. But it is precisely this resource base which is threatened by the proposed diversion.

It is most disturbing that the Underwood McLellan study did not even consider the presence of the communities along the shores to be a factor in the calculations of the "best" level of the Lake. For, it was claimed that major social disruptions were inevitable in any event. Completely in line with the earlier report: Transition in the "North" which called the life of the communities "a dead-end way of life". The fact that the people will eventually outgrow their present economic base was used to

justify inflicting this wholesale destruction on their environment. Now the government makes much of the fact that the community need not be relocated because their houses will not be flooded. Someone from South Indian said to me: "That is like telling a farmer that his land will be flooded but his house will stay dry. That is going to make him real happy."

There is a dead-end way of life. It is the way of life of people who have no respect for nature, who want to turn all their natural resources into cash as quickly as possible, people who want to produce more, consume more, have more of everything even if it kills them.

I do not say that there should be no more growth. There is abundant need and abundant opportunity for controlled growth. For there are many people in Manitoba who need a higher standard of living. And, as I said before, we can increase our energy consumption fourfold from the Nelson River only, without even going to nuclear power.

But we must develop our resources sensibly in the interest of the people that need it most. We must do it without making a mess of our environment. We must show respect for the life style of the local people, the Indian and the Metis, and allow them, if they wish, to integrate into our society on their own terms and at their own pace. In the light of these requirements the proposed Churchill River Diversion does not make sense.

Prof. Cass Boeey
University of Manitoba



LOWER CHURCHILL RIVER.

TO BE

"...PROGRAM IS NOW PUBLIC POLICY..."



HON. SYDNEY GREEN
Minister of Mines, Resources and
Environmental Management

Recent events have made it necessary once again to clarify the position of the Government with regard to its existing hydro electric program now being carried forward by Manitoba Hydro.

About six years ago the Roblin administration announced its program for the development of the hydro electric potential of the Nelson River. The present estimated cost of this program is approximately 2 1/2 billion dollars. Of that amount, approximately one-half billion dollars has already been spent and the installations comprising the balance of the program have been approved and are underway. Already installed for the purpose of transporting electric power generated by the Nelson River capacity is a high voltage transmission line, built at a cost of \$200,000,000.00.

When the program was announced in 1966 it was predicated upon several factors, included amongst which were:

- a) the regulation of Lake Winnipeg; and
- b) the diversion of water from the Churchill River into the Nelson River by means of a control structure in the vicinity of Missi Falls.

When Manitoba Hydro applied for a licence to install the control structure at Missi Falls in 1968, it requested the right to raise the level of South Indian Lake by approximately 30 feet. By doing so it hoped to postpone for some time the regulation of Lake Winnipeg.

After the inauguration of the New Democratic Party Government in July of 1969 the proposal to

raise the level of South Indian Lake by some 30 feet was subjected to review. Following review, the Government in September of 1970 announced its program for the continuation of the development of the Nelson River for hydro electric purposes, which again involved the following:

- a) the regulation of Lake Winnipeg between the limits of 711 and 715 feet, being within the natural limits of 709 and 717 feet;

- b) the diversion of water from the Churchill River into the Nelson River by the installation of a control structure at Missi Falls and the raising of the level of South Indian Lake to a maximum of 850 feet -- some 20 feet less than the program applied for in 1968. It was also indicated by the Government in the spring of 1972 that initially attempts would be made to accomplish the diversion by raising the level of the lake by 847 feet, being 7 feet higher than the peak natural level of the lake.

It should be noted, by way of comparison, that when the Winnipeg River development occurred, levels at Lac du Bonnet were raised by 15 feet and levels between Pine Falls and Silver Falls were raised between 26 feet and 31 feet.

When a licence was issued to regulate Lake Winnipeg, in November, 1970, it was indicated by the Gov-

ernment that no hearings would be held. It was the policy of the Government that the Nelson River program must be decided upon by the Government through reliance on its hydro electric expertise and de-

partmental expertise in other government departments. It was, however, indicated that meetings would be held so that the public could gain the maximum amount of information concerning the program so that any person who wished to raise concerns as to how the program would affect them individually would have the right to make their position known. The meetings also sought information from the public as to the actual pattern of regulation that would be most desirable.

Despite the fact that the Nelson River program was proceeded with and is proceeding as a matter of Government policy, and despite the fact that it has been stressed on many occasions that such policy is not in the process of being formulated but is rather in the process of being implemented, certain quarters have continued to deal with this matter as if the decisions concerning same had not yet been made. The Government has indicated on many occasions that it would not be involved in the holding of "window-dressing hearings" concerning a program which has already been decided upon and whose implementation is in progress. To do so would be cynical in the extreme. Such conduct on the part of the previous administration was rightfully severely criticized. We do not intend to repeat such a process. On the contrary, we intend to take all such steps as are necessary to make it crystal clear that the decision with respect to these matters has been made by the Government and that the Government intends to accept full responsibility in connection therewith.

In order to counteract the confusion which some quarters are attempting to raise concerning this matter, the Government has made changes to the existing Water Power regulations where these regulations are not applicable to present circumstances. It should be pointed out that the existing regulations were enacted substantially to apply to circumstances that existed in 1929, when various authorities had the right to apply for hydro electric power installation permits. They have never been really appropriate to Manitoba Hydro which is itself a corporation responsible to the public. Thus we have the anomalous situation of a public agency applying to the Government to do something which has already been established as public policy.

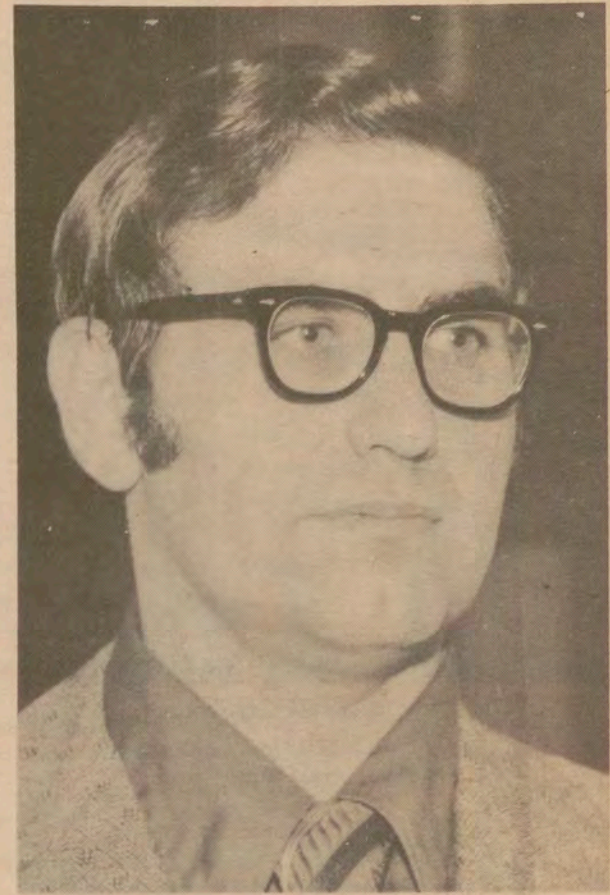
The entire Water Power Regulations are now being reviewed, but in the meantime changes are being made so that there will be no doubt about the Government's position regarding the Churchill River diversion. The changes are as follows:

- 1) The present section regarding publication of an advertisement respecting the application will be changed so that the Minister may dispense with such advertisement where the applicant is an agency of Her Majesty. This change is not being made to avoid publicity. The matter has certainly received considerable publicity and will, I suspect, continue to receive publicity. We do consider that it does create confusion to publish an advertisement, indicating that an application is being made, thereby implying that the application is being considered for the first time. It should be abundantly clear that the matter was considered prior to the decision in September of 1970.

- 2) The Minister if being designated as the person responsible for ultimately dealing with the merits of the application, rather than the Director, and the Cabinet is being made the final authority for the granting of a licence. In our view, when a program is declared public policy, the Government must accept the responsibility for that policy.

It should be pointed out that the changes in the Water Power Regulations do not preclude and will not preclude the Government from holding such informational meetings as are necessary to ensure the widest dissemination of information. Indeed, it is worth repeating that this Government has made public all of the studies which are pertinent both to the program and to the environmental effects of the program.

It should also be pointed out that the Government has every intention of accepting the responsibility of seeing to it that no citizen in the vicinity of South Indian Lake is adversely affected by the implementation of the program. We have already indicated that such adjustments as are necessary to preserve the dignity of the citizens of South Indian Lake will be a public responsibility assumed by the Government. The Government's objective in fulfilling this responsibility is to create such conditions as will preserve the right of the people concerned to choose their form of life style. It is our hope that the question of financial compensation, which we regard only as a final resort, will be completely unnecessary. However, it is also intended that any person claiming loss which they feel requires financial compensation will be given the opportunity of presenting such a claim and will also have the right to have such a claim adjudicated upon by an impartial non-governmental tribunal.



HON. RON McBRYDE
Minister of Northern Affairs

As the representative for Easterville and Moose Lake, I have been concerned about the effects of Hydro development on the people who are affected by such a development. The high level diversion for South Indian Lake that was brought forward by the previous government would have meant complete relocation of the community of South Indian Lake. The results are far more severe than the Grand Rapids forebay that affects Easterville and Moose Lake. You will also note by reading the official statement issued by Mr. Green that this government, when elected in 1969, was locked into the development of the Nelson-Churchill River systems.

When a new president of an M.M.F. local, or a new mayor of a Community Council or a new chief is elected, they have to honour commitments and agreements made by those who held office before them. If things were left in a mess, the new council has to straighten them out the best they can. When we came to office, a whole scheme for Northern Hydro development was already in progress. South Indian Lake was only one part of this whole plan. In other words we were already committed; already locked into Hydro development.

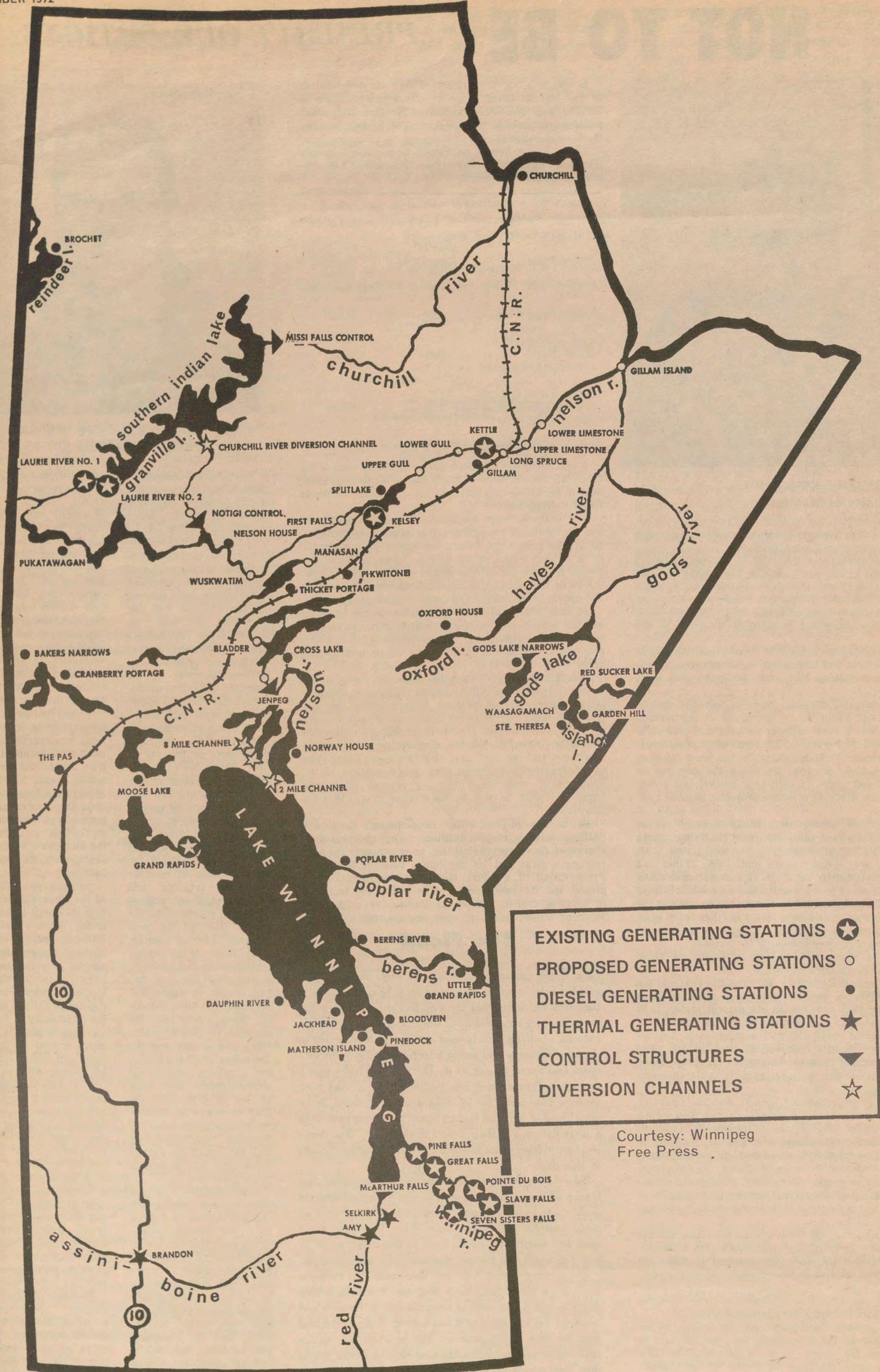
What this government did was to try and reduce as far as possible the harmful effects of such a development program. What we did was approve advancing the date of Lake Winnipeg regulation and opt for the low level diversion at Missi Falls - South Indian Lake. This is what I would call making the best of a bad situation; that is, choosing a course that would have the least harmful effect on the residents and the ecology of

Northern Manitoba. Having made this decision we are of course subject to criticism from both sides, just as an M.M.F. president or a Community Council mayor must make the final decision, even though some people will be unhappy.

In this case, some people like Mr. Campbell, Mr. Kristjanson and Mr. Lyon, when really questioned, would opt for the old plan of a high level diversion and complete dislocation of South Indian Lake. Others, like Mr. Newbury and Mr. Cass Booy are against any Hydro development at South Indian Lake at all. This government is taking a middle course between these two sides, which will provide the people of all Manitoba, including those at South Indian Lake with the best source of power at the lowest cost. Those who argue that we should have no hydroelectric development at all should have told that to the previous government before the construction of the High Voltage Line and the Kettle Rapids Dam in 1968 locked us into our present position.

Because we are elected we are of course going to catch heck as all elected people do and some playing of politics is going to take place. The previous Conservative government brought forward the high level flooding plan. Mr. Lyon and Mr. Kristjanson were involved in that plan. Mr. Campbell, a former Liberal premier wants to go for the high level diversion plan. Of course the Liberal government in Quebec is going for an even more disruptive plan than the one we are undertaking in Northern Manitoba. I

(Continued on Page 18)



EXISTING GENERATING STATIONS	☆
PROPOSED GENERATING STATIONS	○
DIESEL GENERATING STATIONS	●
THERMAL GENERATING STATIONS	★
CONTROL STRUCTURES	▼
DIVERSION CHANNELS	☆

Courtesy: Winnipeg Free Press

Map of Manitoba shows the location of the numerous existing and proposed power sites for Manitoba Hydro. In addition to the existing and proposed generating stations, the map includes the location of diesel generating stations, thermal generating stations, control structures on the power projects and the diversion channels now in existence or proposed. The map was prepared by Manitoba Hydro and is reproduced here to assist readers in locating projects which have been in the news recently.

NOT TO BE "...PRESERVE OUR OPTIONS..."



DR. ROBERT NEWBURY
University of Manitoba

The Churchill River diversion controversy has raged in Manitoba for over 5 years primarily because the plan to block and divert the Churchill into the Nelson River for additional power has remained unchanged. As with all diversion schemes, the minor modifications in water levels and clearing programs which are currently proposed do not significantly affect the widespread environmental and social damages of diversion by any scheme.

Before viewing the Churchill country and the effects of impoundments and diversions in nearby areas, there are two propositions that must be made abundantly clear:

(1) For almost 2 decades, there is sufficient hydro-electric power ready to be developed on the already committed Nelson River without the Churchill diversion. As illustrated in Figure 1, with a projected growth rate of power demand in Manitoba of 7% per year, (similar to the projected demands on which the decision to divert is based) there is sufficient undeveloped power on the Nelson River to meet the projected demand until the year 1991.

The effect of adding the Churchill water to the Nelson is to increase the capacity of the Nelson plants by 30%. This will allow the projected load growth to be carried for only 4 more years until 1995. If this load demand is continuously satisfied, an assumption on which the development is based, Manitobans may withhold their decision on whether or not to divert the Churchill to the 1990's. If this valuable future option is taken there is no threat of brownouts for at least 19 years if we proceed with the remaining development of the Nelson.

This is a power-rich position of which no other region in North America can boast.

The 19 year delay option is valuable because the Churchill River is presently the last large river in the province that remains in its natural state. In 19 years, Manitobans can better gauge the true value of the last great river and its communities for habitation, fishing, wildlife, recreation, tourism and conservation. At that time, the loss of the resource can be weighed against the 4 year gain in hydro-electric development.

Preserving environmental options into the future is not without some cost to today's user. The second proposition deals with the cost of this option. However, before discussing the energy cost aspects, it should be clearly understood that nowhere does the cost of diversion to the Churchill River itself appear. Its existence, aesthetics, native community options, ecology and unique role of creating a livable environment in an otherwise harsh land are considered to be worthless in the energy budget.

(2) Not diverting the Churchill does not deny the use of the Nelson River plants or commitments to transmission facilities and does not significantly affect the cost of power, economic development, or employment levels for 20 years.

To quote the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro directly from the report justifying the current proposal:

"An alternative assessment of the value of the power secured by the diversion of the Churchill may be deduced from the figures given in the report at Table 3.1-3 which show that the difference in the cost per kilowatt hour for the 48 billion kilowatt-hours per year produced by the combined Churchill-Nelson scheme would be 0.71 mils per Kwh in favour of the diversion method."

The 0.71 mils or .071 cents per kilowatt hour amounts to a net increase in power costs of less than 10% at the transmission line and even less after distribution.

In Table 3.1-3, it is indicated that the development of the Nelson River alone produces power costs of 0.835 ¢/kwh while the addition of the Churchill water reduces the cost to 0.754 ¢/kwh. The costs are summarized as follows:

*Task Force Report on Future Generating Capacity Manitoba Hydro 1970 (available Provincial Library, Legislative Building).

Power Source	Year of Completion	Unit Cost of Energy at Winnipeg in cents/kilowatt-hour
Nelson River Alone	1991	0.835
Nelson River Alone followed by Churchill River Alone	1995	0.825
Nelson River with the Churchill River water added by diversion	1995	0.754

A maximum increase in cost due to not developing the Churchill for 19 years is about 10%. This is the energy cost of the option only and does not include the resource costs of diversion.

Ten percent, when applied to billions of dollars of anticipated future expenditure in isolation is impressive. So are the billions of dollars that a recreation resource or a livable environment will be worth in the future. We do not now know the worth of a livable environment but we do know that many aspects of it are irreplaceable and cannot be created at any cost.

At this time, only relative judgments can be made and the fundamental value judgment required is whether or not a maximum power cost increase of 10% is worth preserving an option on our last large undeveloped river.

The Manitoba Hydro case has been put forward that there is no option, that automatically the cheapest power sources should be used. Unfortunately, cheapest power is also the cheapest treatment of native communities, the cheapest treatment of Manitoba's limited livable environment, and the cheapest legacy of natural resources that we can leave to future generations. The cheap treatment is made even more explicit if the diversion is made now when our present needs can triple and still be met by the Nelson River alone for 20 years.

As in any billion dollar development, there are "billion dollar" responsibilities. The cheapest discharge of these responsibilities is to consume the best resources first and let the future take the hindmost. Preservation of a future option on the Churchill, its people and its resources require vision and maturity in planning that is worthy of Manitobans. Cheapest solutions for the last large river are unworthy.

The Flood

(Continued from Page 7)

back home exhausted at Iktoomi's feet. Iktoomi then told the little raven to go out and see if he could complete the bit of the world that the wolf had not seen. Now the raven in those days was quite white, and he flew off to do Iktoomi's bidding. But instead of flying as he was told to do, he got hungry and seeing a corpse floating by he flew down and began to pick at it. Then he flew home again, and when Iktoomi saw him he knew that he had been eating a dead body, for his beak was full of blood. So he seized hold of him and said to him: "Since you have such a dirty nature, you shall have a dirty colour." The raven was turned from white to black and that colour he remains to this day.

Now during this time, when they were dancing the Sun Dance, all the animals and man were friendly and Iktoomi could speak to all of them in their languages and they all could converse with each other. When the raven came back and was turned black, Iktoomi told them all to go into the world and prosper and multiply, and left them.

The Stoney Indian told me there was this religious significance in the Sun Dance, and why it is done to this day. He said it was done in remembrance of Iktoomi and the flood. He told me that it was a dance of penitence, and that the rites were a penance. But he could not explain why in the original Sun Dance, as danced in the south, men were strung up with thongs skewered through their breasts and had to dance till the thongs broke loose. Nor why they dragged around buffalo skulls tied to pieces of wood that went through the skin of their shoulders. All he knew was that in this story was the origin of the Sun Dance.



DR. KAREN JOHNSON
University of Manitoba

As a plant ecologist, there is one major aspect of the proposed Churchill River Diversion which worries me above all of the potential ecological effects of the project. This is the fact that no detailed environmental impact studies have been done on the project, and that the Diversion is thus so obviously a completely political and engineering decision rather than an environmental one. The Churchill Diversion would, to the best of my knowledge, be the largest such diversion ever attempted in North America, and perhaps even in the world. Over 500 miles of rivers and lakes would be affected, and nowhere can we see the results of such a large-scale project.

So we are faced with trying to predict what will result from the Diversion from studies of smaller diversion projects and dams, and from natural biological trends in the region. Because the area involved was so remote, little study of its biological or geological characteristics has been done. The Department of Mines, Resources, and Environmental Management has, for example, one regional biologist and an assistant for the entire northern half of the Province. Ecological studies should have been started in 1968, when the Diversion was first proposed and postponed. If they had, we would now be in a far better position to predict the actual results of the Diversion.

Unfortunately, such studies (aside from a few engineering and geological ones) were not started until the past summer, under a 2 million dollar Federal-Provincial grant. However, this study, and one on the feasibility of clearing the shores of South Indian and Notigi Lakes, states that the Diversion will proceed, and that it will be completed before the final report of the Study Group is finished. Thus the present study must concentrate completely on aspects of damage to the region which can possibly be prevented or ameliorated,

not with the basic ecological processes of the region.

So right now, we don't really know what will happen if the Diversion occurs and we are likely not to find out until after it occurs. But many of us fear that the long-term ecological damage done by the Diversion may outweigh its short-term power advantages. A very few of the more important potential ecological effects of the Diversion include

- destruction of white fish spawning grounds, at least temporarily and permanent reduction of white fish populations on South Indian Lake due to loss of nutrients from the Churchill River water. At least temporary reduction in fur-bearing animals along the Diversion route due to destruction of shoreline habitat.

- drying-up of 250 miles of the Churchill River except for small streams entering below Missi Falls. This will affect the vegetation, migrating and nesting waterfowl and wild life along the Churchill and the white whale and fish populations at the mouth of the Churchill.

- approximately 68,000 acres around South Indian Lake and Notigi Lake will be flooded, with only some 10% of the shoreline expected to be cleared. This will create immense amounts of floating debris and cause sloughing of soil and vegetation in permafrost areas.

- the addition of about 4 times their normal volume of water to the Red and Burntwood Rivers will likely cause severe erosion of clay soil areas along their banks and deposit large amounts of debris and soil in Split Lake. Because of the severe climate, short growing season and permafrost ground conditions encountered in the region, recovery rates of plant and animal communities will be far slower than in the south. Although no estimates are really re-

(Continued on Page 11)

MMF ASKS ...

November 9, 1972

Honourable Edward Schreyer,
Premier of Manitoba,
204 Legislative Building,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Sir:

Re; Flooding of South Indian Lake

We have indicated to you on previous occasions, our concerns regarding the flooding of South Indian Lake.

We are concerned that the interests and views of the Native community may not be adequately represented in the deliberations that will have a major effect on their lives. Representatives from the northern communities have asked for a meeting with the Manitoba Metis Federation Executive Committee on the 27th of November to discuss the flooding of South Indian Lake and the implications and alternatives that exist for the Native people whose lives would be effected in this eventuality. For example, compensation has been mentioned to the Native community of South Indian Lake, but this presumes that flooding will take place.

Again, talk of possible effects of the flooding have been limited to the South Indian Lake community, although Native people in the downstream area will be effected at Split Lake, Cross Lake, Notegi, Burntwood, and Nelson House.

In the interests of all concerned, it is necessary that we review the present situation in terms of prior commitments and agreements.

In 1969, a meeting was held to discuss the flooding at South Indian Lake. A civil servant, George Bowman, representing the Manitoba Government confirmed that a trust fund of \$100,000 had been established for the Native people that they could use as they saw fit to represent their interests relating to the flooding of South Indian Lake.

This action indicated that the Provincial Government appreciated that the views and interests of the Native people could only be assured if they were provided independent legal assistance.

A duly elected 'Flood Committee' consisting of five persons (3 Treaty and 2 Metis) was set up to represent the community of South Indian Lake.

This Committee interviewed six law firms and a firm was hired to handle the legal matters of their problem.

Of the \$100,000 originally set aside for the trust fund, approximately \$55,000 has already been paid out for legal fees, travel expenses, and other expenses. Therefore, we assume that \$45,000 remains in the communities trust fund.

We understand that the Town Council of South Indian Lake, as well as the Flood Committee, have requested the Government that their trust funds, which are still so designated, be made available in order that they may adequately represent their interests at this time. We are advised that this request has been refused.

The Manitoba Metis Federation is concerned that the Native people are being denied the funds that are rightfully theirs as a commitment of the Provincial Government of 1969 and which is binding on subsequent governments. If the Native people cannot depend on a Government's word, upon whom can they ever rely?

We are concerned that as a result of this denial, the rights, the views and the interests of the Native people who shall be affected by the flooding of the South Indian Lake will not be protected.

We believe that a humane, practical and

economical resolution to the problems inherent in this situation will only be achieved in a continuing and open dialogue between all parties concerned.

We are concerned, for example, that Hydro works appear to be going forward when the three-year study program authorized under the 1971 joint Canada-Manitoba agreement has just begun. Surely, we are entitled to know why decisions are being made when so many vital questions remain unanswered.

Since we are representative of many of the people involved in this matter, we must take all steps to assure that their rights are being protected.

Your early consideration of the contents of this letter would be most appreciated.

Yours truly,
J. ANGUS SPENCE
PRESIDENT.

...SCHREYER ANSWERS

November 30, 1972

Mr. J. Angus Spence,
President,
Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.
122 - 388 Donald Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2J4.

Dear Mr. Spence:

Thank you for your letter of November 9th in which you express certain fears regarding the effects of Manitoba Hydro's power developments on the Nelson River and the proposed diversion of water from the Churchill River at South Bay on Southern Indian Lake.

I would like to emphasize that the original project considered in 1968 - 1969 would have flooded the entire settlement of South Indian Lake. In addition, the project would have raised the level of South Indian Lake by approximately 30 feet and would have flooded more than 3/4 of a million acres in the combined South Indian Lake, Rat River and Notigi areas. This project was completely abandoned when the present Government took office, mainly because of the legitimate interests of the residents of the area. As an alternative to developing a storage area at Southern Indian Lake, Manitoba Hydro was authorized to undertake works at the outlet of Lake Winnipeg which would make this great natural reservoir available for power purposes. Work on this project is well in hand.

Manitoba Hydro's interest in Southern Indian Lake is now simply a matter of diverting some of the Churchill River water in a southerly direction to the Burntwood River and thence to the Nelson River by means of an excavated channel from South Bay to Issett Lake. Some work on this project, gathering technical information for the design of the structures required, is in hand at the present time. The revised programs is totally different in its effects from the original project. The maximum level that Manitoba Hydro will be allowed to raise the lake will be to the 850 foot level. It is entirely possible that it will not be necessary to raise the lake to this level as it is Manitoba Hydro's intention to raise the lake initially to the 847 foot level to determine the flow capabilities at this level. This will mean that the water in Southern Indian Lake will be raised only some 7 - 11 feet. This is, of course, some 20 feet lower than the original proposal and leaves the community of South Indian Lake basically undisturbed.

The area that will be flooded is considerably less than the area that would have been flooded in the original proposal. During the past two months, markers have been placed at various locations in the community of South Indian Lake to show the 850 foot contour. This will provide residents maximum level of the lake after the project is completed. I think you will agree with me that the scale in which damages could possibly occur on the revised scheme is entirely different from the original scheme that was abandoned.

During the last eighteen months, the Minister of Mines and Resources and I, myself, from time to time, as well as Manitoba Hydro staff, have provided a great deal of information by means of visits to the district. At the same time, the Department of Northern Affairs has undertaken a great deal of planning work in the community relating to townsite development, community electrification, improved telephone service, improved transportation access by way of all-weather airstrip, and so forth. These are aimed at helping the community to develop an improved standard of living which I am sure will offset any general effects on the livelihood of the community that might possibly arise from the Hydro developments.

Nevertheless, the Government has repeatedly announced that Manitoba Hydro will take full responsibility for meeting any legitimate claims for damages or loss of livelihood by any individual involved. Any effects on livelihood, such as to fishing or trapping, would be met by means of a formula that would stabilize income on the basis of a previous five-year record of the catch and sales. In order to establish a speedier and simpler procedure than would be provided by the ordinary system of the courts, the Government has announced that it will establish a tribunal for the purposes of handling all claims. However, the tribunal will not bypass the court structure and should any person be dissatisfied with the award of the tribunal, his full rights to court proceedings would remain. The Government has also announced that it will meet all reasonable costs involved in making bona fide claims.

With regard to your request that the balance of the \$100,000 which Manitoba Hydro transferred to the Provincial Treasurer in October, 1967, should now be made available to the local residents, I would point out that this was an advance payment to the Provincial Treasurer of sums which were expected to be many times this amount, which would be paid by Manitoba Hydro to secure the resettlement of the community to be flooded by the raising of the level of the lake. Since this scheme was abandoned, any further payments from this account naturally ceased with the abandonment of the scheme. Since the scale of damages will be entirely different in this instance and trivial compared with the original project, the Government does not propose to ask Manitoba Hydro to make any advance provision for such settlements. If and when a claim is received and assessed by the independent tribunal, Manitoba Hydro will normally make immediate payment in settlement.

Since Manitoba Hydro will be responsible for meeting the legitimate costs of an individual in submitting a claim, I am asking Hydro to develop a simple procedure for handling this in the field in such a way as to avoid any lengthy delay or hardship to any individual concerned.

I trust the foregoing answers all the points you raise in your letter. If there are any aspects which remain unclear, I will be anxious to hear from you further.

I am, by copy of this letter and yours, making the Ministers of Mines and Resources and of Northern Affairs aware of this

(Continued on Page 16)



INTERVIEW

WITH Y.M. HENTELEFF - LAWYER FOR
THE SOUTH INDIAN LAKE COMMUNITY.



Question: Mr. Henteleff, I would like to know how you became involved in the South Indian Lake affair?

Answer: Well, back in 1968 when the then government announced its plans to the people of South Indian Lake that they were proceeding with the Hydro project to flood Southern Indian Lake, at a meeting of the Southern Indian Lake Community they said that they would like to have a lawyer to represent them because they simply weren't able to adequately represent themselves. The government approved and also felt that they should have their own lawyer and not one appointed for them by the government. The government then instructed Hydro to set up a trust fund of \$100,000.00 for this purpose. The Community elected a Flood Committee and this Flood Committee consisted of five representatives of the Community consisting of three Treaty Indians and two non-Treaty, being representative of the population. (They interviewed, we understand, a number of different law firms and then following those interviews they selected myself and my partner, Harold Buchwald, as their lawyers.

Question: Now Mr. Henteleff, I'm given to understand from correspondence we have had with the Provincial government that \$100,000.00 was originally allocated as legal aid to the community because at that time the thinking was that the community was to be flooded entirely, but there had been a change in plans and they are now talking about flooding up to a maximum of, I believe they say 11 feet, and therefore because the community, i.e. the houses, will not be touched there is no requirement for the balance in the Trust fund.

Answer: Well, going back to your original question about how we were hired and why we were hired, it became apparent to us and the Southern Indian community shortly after we became involved that many of a decision as to whether flooding should or should not happen, hadn't in fact, been made. When we discussed this with our clients we said to them that we felt that under those circumstances the South Indian Lake Community had a right to stop the flooding until those studies could take place. As you know, public hearing were held and eventually we did end up in court. What happened then was that the then government decided to not follow the procedure as provided for in the existing Hydro Act at that time and they were going to go ahead and pass an Act of Legislature so that there would be no need for them to apply for a licence in order to proceed with the project nor to wait for the studies to be completed nor to hold further public hearings. At that time there was a change in government. Following that there was an announcement by the new government that the necessary studies would then take place. In 1971 the Federal government and the government of Manitoba entered into a study agreement. The community assumed that nothing further would be done until all these studies about the effect on environment, about the effect on South Indian Lake as a community, as to the effect on fishing or hunting or trapping, and that nothing more would happen on the part of Hydro until the studies were completed. The studies were planned to take four years and at a cost of \$2,000,000.00.

Well, recently the Indian communities have become aware that these studies not only didn't start until 1972 but that there are at least three years to go yet before they are completed and that despite this, it

appears as if Hydro is now going ahead and applying for a licence. We met with the people of South Indian Lake who are still our clients and they instructed us to find out why the project is being proceeded with, even though the studies which are supposed to be carried out before the license was applied for were not completed. They also at the same time asked the government if they would make available to them the rest of the money in this trust fund of \$100,000.00 which was established in 1969 for the purpose of helping pay their lawyers. I think one has to understand the basic reason why these monies were provided to the Indian people for this purpose. I think it is generally recognized that an Indian community which doesn't have the experience or the background or the organizational representation isn't able within our democratic system to represent its own interest. A good comparison are the elected citizenship committees in Unicity who themselves have been saying -- we can only adequately present our views if we have people who we can hire who can act as our professional representatives. The Indian community says exactly the same thing and unfortunately, what has happened is that they have been advised that the government will not make available to them the rest of these trust funds set aside for this specific purpose. I understand that the reason now given for not making the funds available is that they say the original \$100,000.00 was made available on the basis of flooding which would have completely covered up the community. It now suggests that since it is only going to be 11 feet and that since the destruction isn't going to be as severe, the Indian community has no reason to want to object to the flooding. But the fact is though, that when you listen to people like Professor Newbury and Dr. Booy, they say and so do the Indian people say, that by raising it 11 to 15 feet or even 11 feet the damage to the fishing and hunting will be just as severe as the original project and for many years it will prevent them from earning their livelihood. They say, O.K., fine, our houses may not be destroyed but our way of earning our livelihood is going to be destroyed so, so far as we are concerned, if our livelihood is destroyed our community is destroyed, what good are houses to us. If what Booy and Newbury say is correct, the community says that we have a right to see whether you are still doing the right thing and we have a right to have proper representation to fight this and we have a right to say that all the studies should be completed and we have a right to hire whomever we feel is necessary, to help us make sure that all the facts are known before the final decisions are made. So what they did when they were told they were not going to get any more money, to give you an idea how strongly they feel about this, they formed a committee to go out amongst themselves and amongst the communities of the north to raise the funds. There was a meeting at South Indian Lake where practically the whole community was present and they have set up their own fight-the-flood fund. It is very little, as you are aware, because every bit of money they earn as a self-sufficient community goes towards supporting themselves. But, nevertheless, with pennies and dimes and money from socials and dances they have raised nearly \$1,000.00 in the local community. They collect \$1.00 from every outside person who lands in the community.

Question: Fine, now what do you foresee as some of the effects of this flooding to, say 11 feet?

Answer: Well, we can't comment on that. This is for experts in that field to find out. But that is the very reason for the studies, namely to determine what going up to 850 foot level may mean to the spawning beds; what it would do to the fish; what it will do in respect to the trapping, what will be the real effect on the permafrost and all that extra mud being swept into the lake and creating a terribly muddy situation; what it will do to the Indian people if many years have to go by before they can earn their living again. A number of enormous problems have arisen with regard to the suggestions as the clearing of trees before and flooding, and until all these questions are answered no reasonable estimate

of the losses and costs can be made. Any suggestion by anybody that the costs of the effect on the fishing and trapping and the costs of clearing and the costs of supporting the Indian peoples until they can get to the point of supporting themselves again, are very small, is like a doctor saying -- I don't know how sick you are but you don't need any medicine.

Question: I understand that this study program is a joint project of the Provincial and Federal governments. If the provincial government proceeds before these studies are finalized is this not sort of a breach of contract with the Federal government and does not the Federal government have something to say. Have they indicated a stand?

Answer: I think you should ask that of the Federal government. That is something which will have to be determined by the courts. The following Federal Acts seem to apply: The Fisheries Act, The Navigable Waters Act, The Indian Act, and The Waters Act. In addition, there is the Canada-Manitoba Studies Agreement itself. What position the Federal Government is going to take with regard to its responsibility under the Agreement and under all these Acts is something we have been trying to find out but don't yet know.

Question: Now, Mr. Henteleff, one last question while we are on this subject: what is the position of the South Indian Lake community and its members in regards to their rights as citizens of this Province and of this Country in regards to this flooding situation?

Answer: There has been some suggestion that the community at South Indian Lake is, in effect, saying -- we want to carry on as we always have and because of that you leave us alone and if the result of that is that the rest of Manitoba is deprived of something which it otherwise would get, that's just too bad. Well, that's not true and anybody who suggests that is simply trying to divert us from the correct position of the community of South Indian Lake. What the South Indian Lake community says is this; there were these studies which were supposed to have taken place to show what was the right method to use, taking all facts into account. If these studies show the right method -- after appropriate consideration of all the things that should be considered including having these heard by way of a public hearing -- is the fact that the lake should be flooded, well, we accept that. But what they say is that these studies haven't been carried out and why should we accept the destruction of our community and our way of life under these circumstances. They say we are no different than, for example, the community of St. Vital. Recently there has been some talk in Unicity of moving the railway from Fort Rouge and Fort Garry into St. Vital. The St. Vital citizens said before this is done we think there should be studies; there should be public hearings before the community of St. Vital is destroyed by such a railroad. What the community of South Indian Lake says is that we want exactly the same thing. We also want studies, we also want public hearings and the South Indian Lake community says; why should we be treated any differently than say the community of St. Vital? And they also go on to say; if it's permitted to happen that our community should be destroyed because adequate studies aren't carried out or because public hearings aren't carried out then that makes it all the easier the next time for some other community to get destroyed.

They said we are not a second class community, we are not second class citizens, we have a right to be treated and respected just like any other community. As recently as two days ago we received a letter from the people of South Indian Lake saying we absolutely want you to follow our instructions. That if under the present situation Hydro should nevertheless apply for its license that we are to do all the necessary things legally to make sure that it's stopped. They have never, never swerved from that position. The only time they'll ever change their minds, is when there have been the kind of studies and public hearings held which they feel that projects of this major kind deserve.

Schreyer Answers

(Continued from Page 15)

exchange of communication and I am also, by copy of this letter, asking Manitoba Hydro to indicate as specifically as they can at this time what effects, if any, are anticipated at the other five communities referred to in the third paragraph of your letter.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD SCHREYER.

c.c.
The Honourable Sidney Green, Q.C.
The Honourable Ron McBryde
Mr. David Cass-Beggs



MMF News

THE TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH INDIAN LAKE

We the people of South Indian Lake have been asked by many governments (and its agencies) to believe in the truth of many things

On September 15, 1969, Premier Schreyer spoke the truth when he said that we were a people who have no training or other resources except for fishing and trapping

When he said that if we lost these we would lose our livelihood, our independence, our spirit, our community he spoke the truth

When he said we owe it to those who follow us to use our best knowledge he spoke the truth

When he said we must collect all the facts from many places so that they fit together and point only to the truth because we have such great power to destroy he spoke the truth

And when he said that the community of South Indian Lake could grow and develop on terms which were not only acceptable to the outside world but to our community as well and in a spirit in which there was no shame we believed him because that is the truth for us as a people among other people

And on September 9, 1969 Mr. Cass-Beggs said the real obligation in diverting any water from the Churchill is to do so without affecting the interests of other people in the resources involved

And he further said it is essential to discover and design a method which will leave

the natural environment essentially unchanged

And he further said comparison between different projects as to their cost is only proper between those projects that conform to the principles involved in the multiple use of resources and he spoke the truth and we believed him

And on September 30, 1970 The Manitoba Hydro Task Force Report said that The Lake Winnipeg Control Program would be proceeded with first Because there remain too many uncertainties with the Churchill River Diversion Concept

And it further said in 1970 that therefore a more detailed study of the effect on the resources of any raise in the level of South Indian Lake was beginning by the Provincial and Federal Governments in partnership and at a cost of \$2,000,000.00 and which would take four years to complete And we believed them

And on August 24, 1971 an agreement for such a study was signed (although we wonder why it took so long to get signed) and it is a good agreement because it was to study and collect all the facts from many places about the fishing, and the spawning and the erosion, and the trapping, and navigation, and the forests, and recreation, and mining, and water flow and quality, and all the costs, and of the South Indian Lake communities' livelihood, spirit, and independence

And in the Spring of 1972 the work began on this study (although we wonder why it took so long to get started)

And on May 25, 1972 the Government and Manitoba Hydro announced their decision to proceed with the flooding without waiting for the report

They say the normal level is 837 to 840 But we know and their own earlier report says it is 832 to 840 and this means up to 15 feet of flooding NOT as they say.

They say they chose the South Bay gravity diversion method rather than pumping (which would cause no rise in the lake level) because of lower cost

But when you add Hydro's estimates of partial clearing costs of 24 million (and that may not be enough) and of resources loss of 25 million (and that may be too low) to the South Bay Diversion costs, it is greater than the cost of pumping

And the native people say how do you know that 24 million dollars spent in partial clearing is good enough And how do you know that even with the clearing, the mud from the banks and the ash from the burnt trees and the rise in the water the fishing will not still be ruined

And why we wonder are you not waiting for the study until you have all the facts to help you answer these questions and all the others waiting to be answered

And why we wonder will you not keep the promise we were given of the help we need to make you see our truth through your language

And we wonder at our ignorance in not having seen that there is a truth that despite all these things you will flood our lake, and destroy our community.



Four children of Metis veterans have received bursaries valued at \$250 from the Poppy Day Trust Fund. Marvin Dejarlais (left) sits with Mrs. R.A. McNeill to examine the brochure outlining the bursaries. Looking on are (left to right) Claudette Allard, Guy Legasse and Karen Halck, who also received bursaries, and Mrs. R.E. Lunney and Mrs. James Roberts of the fund.

Ron McBryde

(Continued from Page 12)

don't believe the people of South Indian Lake or other northern communities should be used as political pawns by any political party or for other political pressure groups including the Native organizations.

Dave Courchene, President of M.I.B. and Angus Spence, President of M.M.F., stated at a public meeting in Thompson, Manitoba that the people of South Indian Lake should negotiate to overcome any harmful effects that might occur when flooding took place. They did not say "oppose outright the present plan for low level di-

version". I believe this is a reasonable position. It is more reasonable than the position being taken by some people from opposition political parties.

This program will be going ahead and I would hope that the people of Northern Manitoba will work to get government to overcome any hardships that might occur and also that they will take full advantage of the positive aspects of Hydro development.

Elsewhere in this issue there is a statement by the Honourable Sid Green, which states quite clearly

the position of the Government of Manitoba. This outlines quite clearly what has happened in relation to South Indian Lake and Hydro development in Northern Manitoba generally. As Minister of Northern Affairs I am in agreement with this statement and the policy of the present government.

Sincerely,

Ron McBryde,
MLA for The Pas

Dr. Karen Johnson

(Continued from Page 14)

liable, it seems safe to say that destruction of floating and standing dead trees and the recovery of stable vegetation along the Churchill, Nelson, Rat and Burntwood Rivers will take on the order of a minimum of 50 to 100 years and more likely several hundred years.

To proceed with the Diversion at the present time,

when the power it will provide is not yet needed for the Province's needs, and when waiting for a few years will give us far more information on the resource -- human as well as material -- and recreational losses which would occur, seems to me to be ecological blindness. Lets leave a few options for our children or old age.

especially as we will then have the information about the region to make an ecologically-sound choice.

- Dr. Karen Johnson,
Regional Co-ordinator,
International Biological
Programme, CT Section
Manitoba.

NATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA

These days, television portrays us as an unwittingly victimized, naive and "primitively" angry subculture. Not only are we frustrated and infuriated, we're bored with this asinine view of our people. So are the people who watch T.V.

The Council proposes developing a big, lively, funny, melodious television special to express the vitality, the humour, and the optimism of our people. Ninety minutes or an hour of our best comedy, story-telling, music, satire, drama, dance, poetry and vibrantly filmed real-life "success" stories.

We know we, the Native People, have all the talent and vitality needed for such a production.

Help us. Help yourself. Let us know with tapes, photos, stories, letters, in any way you can, who the best of our singers, dancers, musicians, artists and story-tellers are.

Please send your thoughts, wishes and dreams - things you want all Canadians to hear and see - to the Council at the above address.

Make it happen.

Yours sincerely,

A.E. Belcourt,
President.

TO: LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES

From time to time we require supervisors at the Frontier Collegiate residence at Cranberry Portage. We have employees leaving at different times of the year for a number of reasons.

So that these positions can be filled as the need arises, I would appreciate your help in recommending some one from your community to work here, or in getting people to apply for such positions.

We prefer people:

- 1) Who come from the Frontier Division communities.
- 2) Who like to work with young adults.
- 3) Who are single; or are married couples with no small children.
- 4) Who have had some high school education.

You should keep in mind the type of person you would like to have supervising your high school students at the residence after school hours.

Please send your recommendations, or have applications sent to:

Joe Zbitnew,
District Superintendent of Schools Area I,
Frontier School Division No. 48,
Cranberry Portage, Man.

BURSARY ASSISTANCE

1. MONEY IS AVAILABLE for Metis adults and students taking courses in community colleges.

There is eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$8,400.00) available for people who wish to take courses in community colleges or post secondary education. Regardless of your age. You do NOT have to pay this money back.

2. MONEY IS AVAILABLE for anyone wanting to go to university.

Any Metis people who wish to go to university either as a mature student or as a regular student can get some financial help under the Prince of Wales/Princess Anne bursary.

Anyone wanting more information or who wish to apply for this assistance can do so through your M.M.F. regional office.

Interlake Region Report

By Larry Gering

The following is a report on what has been happening in our Region in the last while. Our locals have been showing a lot of initiative, working together and getting a lot of good results for their efforts as you will see as you read on.

L.I.P. '73 -

Interlake Involvement

This year several of the locals in the Interlake Region are planning on taking advantage of the monies available to them through the Local Initiative Program.

The Grahamdale Local working together with the Grahamdale Community Club is applying for a program to enable them to renovate and repair the old Grahamdale school building and the area of land that goes with it. They want to use this building as a community hall.

The Pebble Beach Local is also applying for a program very similar to Grahamdale's, involving clean up and repair of the Pebble Beach School and grounds for a community hall and sports grounds.

Silver Bay Local is planning on applying for a program also which will cover environment clean up, with the main objective being removal of derelict cars.

Another local applying to L.I.P. is Vogar who have a program involving cleaning up and brushing an area for a sports ground, as well as digging wells for the community.

The Interlake Region of the M.M.F. is also applying for a L.I.P. program through which 15 fieldworkers or seminar leaders will be hired and trained. These fieldworkers will then each be responsible for a certain area of the Region and will be responsible for organizing animation seminars, writing reports and briefs, and keeping aware of government resources and be able to apply them to their areas if the need arises.

SPECIAL ARDA - OAK POINT

Soon, we will see a 12-unit hotel-motel complex being built along No. 6 Highway, just east of Oak Point. The owner is Mr. Peter Torbiak owner of the Oak Point Hotel. Mr. Torbiak is able to build his new business by way of a grant he received through the Special Arda program. The grant is for \$50,000.00 with an additional \$3,000.00 for the training of a junior accountant and two commercial cooks. The land has been bought and construction must begin before the end of April. It was planned to start earlier but several things prevented this, one of them being the unavailability of pouring cement in freezing weather. When construction does begin, five to ten men will be employed from three to six months, with most of the men being Notre Dame local members. The head carpenter is not a local man but was hired because he has experience in building several hotels already. The construction must be com-

pleted by October but Mr. Torbiak feels sure he will have his opening by September 1st.

When the Hotel - Motel will be in operation there will be six full time and four part time employees which is an increase of five full time and two part time employees over the present number employed at the Oak Point Hotel. This will supply employment for several members of the local who are in need of it. We congratulate Mr. Torbiak on his new business and wish him the best of luck. Also we hope that people will see for themselves the results that can be achieved by taking advantage of these programs offered by the government.

Selkirk Fish Plant Re-opened

Selkirk's fish plant is in operation again. The plant had been closed down last January when the new plant in Transcona was opened. However, as was discovered this fall the new plant just could not handle the huge amount of fish to be processed and the fish were spoiling. As a result the plant was re-opened and approximately one hundred people were back at work again. It is hoped that it will not be closed down permanently again and there may possibly be some expansion planned for it.

The Selkirk Local had a hand in bringing attention to the situation in Selkirk. They organized tag days, protest marches and raised a protest fund to draw attention to the people who were left jobless because of the closure.

Formerly our most northern local, Easterville, is no longer a local of our region. They have requested to be switched to The Pas Region which they feel will be better for them because of the Regional Office being closer.

The Fairford Local is attempting to have some low cost housing brought in to their local. Fifteen to twenty houses are needed and the land is available for the lots.

Fisher Bay Local has held an election recently with Anna Govereau elected Chairman, Margaret Kemash elected Secretary - Treasurer, and Jim Govereau remaining as Vice - Chairman. Theodore Govereau, the former chairman, has been hired as Regional Housing Co-ordinator and to ease the load resigned the chair.

Grahamdale Local has nominated Chrissie Aitkins as proxy for the vice-chairman for the rest of the fiscal year.

The ladies of the Hodgson Local are having a fowl supper jointly with the Fisher Bay ladies to raise funds for their locals.

Elections were also held in Inwood Local with Betty Lillequist as the Chairman, Alma Chartrand Vice-Chairman, and Cheryl Goodman as Secretary-Treasurer. The local has been discussing holding joint meetings with Shoal-

Lake and Tuelon but still having three separate locals.

In the Lundar Local, elections were also held and Deane Lamoureux was elected Secretary - Treasurer. There have been attempts made here to get a dental clinic opened in the community. A banquet and dance is also planned to provide some funds for the local.

In the Matheson Island Local the people have all been kept busy building new houses for the people on their island community. The material they have been using was cut on their own sawmill and all the people work together on the housework together on the houses. Here is a perfect example of what can be achieved when people work together for a common goal.

The members of the Narcisse Local are also discussing combining their local meeting with other nearby locals and have a building available if they do combine their meetings.

The Pebble Beach and Silver Bay Locals combined to put on two dances at the Pebble Beach school and had good turn outs for both dances with both locals raising their funds considerably. Pebble Beach has also had a raffle as well with good results. Silver Bay local has baked two Christmas cakes and they are now out and tickets are being sold.

In St. Laurent, some of that locals members are employed in that communities wood-working factory which is always busy. There are also nineteen new houses to be built here and this will provide employment for more of the members.

The Tuelon Local has also held elections with W. D. Wright being elected as Chairman. There has also been some discussion on combining of the closer locals with only one Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer serving for all locals.

On the Regional level, the Winter Warmth Program is underway. Our Regional Housing Co-ordinator, Theodore Govereau, is out right now in the locals, seeing the homes that have been selected by the Housing Committees. Repairs on the homes that qualify will be beginning shortly.

Also, a reminder that money is still available for financial assistance for Metis students who are unable to continue their studies or are finding it hard to continue because of lack of money. Should you wish to apply or require more information, contact Mr. Al Chartrand, Education Co-ordinator at Winnipeg Head Quarters.

In closing we would like to wish all members of the Manitoba Metis Federation a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Hoping that the New Year will see us all working together toward greater achievements for the M.M.F.

Thompson Region Report

The Relocation Program in Thompson, Manitoba was started by the Manitoba Metis Federation, Thompson Region, in September, 1971, under the supervision of Ben Thompson, the Vice-President.

First monies to operate this program were obtained from the Manitoba Metis Federation grants which were given for educational purposes. The program is now financed by Northern Manpower Corps. The program consists of five personnel - one co-ordinator, four counsellors, two female and two male. The job of the co-ordinator is to find what jobs are available in and around Thompson, so that he may direct men to the job. Assistance whether of a financial nature or otherwise is provided so as to ensure the man is placed on a job.

If the man wants to relocate we assist him in finding suitable accommodation. We also explain to him what procedures to follow to obtain a grant. The counsellors assist the families moving in with home maintenance and care, budgeting, registering children for school, ensuring immunization shots are received and hospital visits. We also assist men and women getting board and room, transportation, legal aide, and counselling - you name it and we'll help.

Since this program started we have helped hundreds of people, Metis, Treaty and white. If there is anything that you would like information on drop us a line in care of R.J. Guiboche, 122 Hemlock Crescent, Thompson.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Our Youth Co-ordinator's program is quite new to Thompson, possibly the whole province, but nevertheless, we shall attempt to prove the value of it to the students, teachers, citizens, etc. . . .

The City of Thompson, like any place has problems concerning the younger people. Due to lack of guidance, the youth of Thompson and surrounding area are becoming extremely involved with drugs, glue sniffing, and alcohol, and as a result school absenteeism and vandalism are steadily increasing.

In an attempt to defeat these problems some of our steps and responsibilities shall be to encourage youth to obtain a full education, establish meetings, speak on students behalf, with such people as probation officers, R.C.M.P., Magistrates, Principals, etc. . . .

Thus far, we have been in contact with such people as R.C.M.P., School Board, Health & Social Development. Through these channels we hope to slow down possibly defeat these dangerous hazards. If you would like more information about our program, write to Gary Anderson, Youth Co-ordinator, at 122 Hemlock Crescent, Thompson, Manitoba.

THOMPSON REHABILITATION & TREATMENT CENTRE

To Help Carry the Message To the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers

At this Holy Season as we

Thompson Regional News

once again celebrate the birthday of the Baby in the Manger, let us pause and think that "But For the Grace of God" many of us would be celebrating in a very different way.

Many alcoholics who have done something about their problem will be saying today "This is a Good Christmas For Me."

To you who are still battling with your problem, bring it to us. We will try to bring to you sympathy and understanding and help.

May this Christmas message, bring to you blessings of hope, peace and love for the New Year.

WINTER WORKS

Our winter works co-ordinator for the Thompson Region, Henry Cook is presently touring the communities of the Thompson Region filling out applications for those people who will qualify for this year's winter works program.

Those people who wish housing repairs to their present homes this winter should contact their Local Manitoba Metis Federation chairman. I would urge each local to organize a housing committee to assist Mr. Cook in this program if they have not already done so.

If further information on this year's winter works program is required please contact the regional office at 122 Hemlock Crescent, or Phone 778-7031.

Hopefully, by January 1, 1973 repairs will be well underway in each community.

Dauphin Regional

of promoting the MMF.

When people see so many cars parked outside a building, they get curious sometimes step in the doorway to see what's going on, and before long realize, this is the place for me, this is where I belong, and this is the kind of people we need.

The Camperville Metis Association planned very well for the meeting. To see the many smiling faces all made it so worthwhile. Once again, many thanks to you.

December is finally here again. There is a lot of activity in many of the locals. Many are having Bingo's, raffles, amateur shows, Christmas concerts, etc.

Santa Claus is very busy in the Dauphin Region making many children happy.

This should also be the time for us to think about continuing our good work for the MMF in the coming New Year, by thinking what we can do for the MMF not, what can the MMF do for us.

After our elections in October, I am sure many of the newly elected people must have at one time or another been disappointed, or discouraged, and felt

like "giving up". But I found out that in my one year as a secretary of the local, and one more year as a chairman, all does not go well overnight. The going is sort of tough at first, but stick with it (the MMF). In time you will begin to realize that it has all paid off, and I do not mean money wise. All the disappointments, frustrations will all have seemed worth while when this happens you will know what I mean. One should never be shy or afraid to voice their opinion or ask questions, for we all are Metis People, with the same problems.

I feel one of the reasons we work so well together is because we really do understand one another.

To the Locals do keep active in the happenings of the MMF where ever you are for you are certainly going in the right direction.

To close off I would like to sincerely wish you all "A Very Merry Christmas". May all your days continue to be Merry throughout the coming New Year.

- Maureen Lynn.

CREDIT: THE BEAVER

All photographs

by Richard Harrington

Making Moccasins



4. Turned right side out, the moccasin begins to take shape.



3. While the moccasin is inside out, the toe seam is trimmed.

8. The moccasin maker wears the finished pair for the first time.



2. The vamp, made of two pieces of skin, is sewn in with sinew.



6. The heel is sewn up. This is the sole and the inside of the heel.



1. A rectangle of dressed deer-skin is sewn together at one end.

5. The vamp is decorated with dyed horsehair, a trade article.



7. The ankle flap is stitched on and the deerskin ties inserted.