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"LAND OF PROMISE - TIME OF CHALLENGE"

Remarks on Industrial Development by James B. Hovis, Yakima Tribal Attorney, November 1, 1968, Washington State Indian Conference, Tyee Motel, Olympia, Washington.

Yakima & Seattle - Spokane & Wenatchee. The words of the American Indian have become the Nation's words. The names of our cities, towns, rivers and streams.

Indian Myths and heroes enrich the Nation's literature.

Indian Lore colors our art and the Nation's language.

For two centuries, the American Indian has been a symbol of the drama and excitement of the earliest America.

But for two centuries, he has been an alien in his own land.

There are about 600,000 Indians in America today. Some 400,000 live on or near reservations in 25 States. The remaining 200,000 have moved to our cities and towns. The most striking fact about the American Indians today is their tragic plight:

- Fifty thousand Indian families live in unsanitary, dilapidated dwellings; many in huts, shanties, even abandoned automobiles.
- The unemployment rate among Indians is nearly 40 per cent - more than ten times the National average.
- Fifty per cent of Indian schoolchildren - double the National average - drop out before completing high school.
- Indian literacy rates are among the lowest in the Nation; the rates of sickness and poverty are among the highest.
- Thousands of Indians who have migrated into the cities find themselves untrained for jobs and unprepared for urban life.
- The average age of death of an American Indian today is 44 years; for all other Americans, it is 65.

The American Indian, once proud and free, is torn now between White and Tribal values; between the politics and language of the White man and his own historic culture. His problems, sharpened by years of defeat and exploitation, neglect and inadequate effort, will take years to overcome.

But recent landmark Federal laws - the Economic Opportunity Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Manpower Development and Training Act - have provided the tools to deal with these persistent problems. I am here today to discuss how the various programs can be of assistance to you, your people and the community as well. Towards that end, I would like to discuss some of our experience on the Yakima Reservation.

To many communities in the United States, Industrial Development is an old story. But to the Yakima Tribe, attracting industry within the Yakima Reservation is a fairly new and motivating idea. The Yakima Tribe is alert to the possibilities of industrial development and is working constructively to attract new plants. Aiding in the attraction of new plants has been the establishment of the Yakima Indian Industrial Park. Approximately 114 acres of Tribal land has been dedicated to this industrial use just a few miles southeast of Yakima. With the aid of an Economic

Development Administration Grant of \$150,000.00, the Tribe has devoted approximately \$300,000.00 to bring the area to grade and to provide rail, siding, access roads, gas, water, sewer and electric power to the entire industrial park. White Swan Industries, Inc., a furniture manufacturing firm, now occupies 15 acres of land in the Park. The Plant, which is 110,000 square feet in size, is currently providing work opportunity for over 225 Indians. The plant was made possible by cooperation between White Swan Industries, the Federal Government, and the Yakima Tribe.

White Swan Industries received an EDA business loan of approximately \$200,000 for machinery and equipment. In addition, EDA guaranteed up to 90% of a \$400,000 working capital loan. White Swan Industries' equity amounted to approximately \$130,000. The Yakima Tribe is participating in the project with approximately \$800,000 of their own funds in constructing a building for lease and making a loan to the company equal to 5% of the machinery and equipment costs.

We are also currently completing negotiations with a National concern that is interested in the establishment of a wood demensioning factory on the Yakima Reservation. This factory building will be the same size as the furniture factory and will employ 150 people. This factory's location on an Indian Reservation will again be made possible because of the assistance of the Federal Government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Economic Development Administration. We have been awarded a 90% EDA grant to provide the necessary fire protection system and application has been made for the necessary EDA loans to finance the building construction and equipment purchase.

In other areas of industrial development, the Yakima Tribe has designated approximately 800 acres at other reservation locations for industrial development. At one of these locations near Toppenish, Washington it has built a 12,800 square foot garment manufacturing plant at a cost of \$70,000.00. This plant presently employs 30 Indians and is contemplating expansion.

We have other concerns looking at our area for location of West Coast factories and we confidently expect to locate one industry a year as long as the present conditions prevail.

Now we have talked about what is being done and I would like to give you my personal evaluation as to why it is important. First, but not foremost - is that the Yakima Tribe is improving its tribal resources for a better return to the Tribe. Under existing leases these buildings will pay for themselves within 25 years and then the income from these buildings will help support other Tribal programs.

Secondly, and this is foremost, these factories have supplied payrolls for Indian people. These payrolls amount to almost a million dollars a year and when the new wood demensioning factory is in operation another half million dollars will be forthcoming. The good that has been done by these jobs and payrolls to the conomic - social progress of the Indian people on our Reservation is beyond our fondest dreams of just over a year ago.

Concluding discussion of the present - we next must take a look to the future of the Pacific Northwest and Indian involvement in this future. A period of extra-ordinary growth lies ahead - one that extends to at least 1985. This growth has been forecast by the 'phone company to be the greatest potential growth in the Nation. For Washington which grew 6.5% from 1960 to 1965 a burst of 19.5% from 1965 to 1970 with an increase of 12% for each succeeding five years is forecast. The Indian tribes who have and are retaining their land base will be the owners of some of the most

desireable area for well planned development. We stand on the threshold of a great future. You can and must share in this area's expanding economy. However, to take advantage of the future one must plan in the present.

Present plans must be made to work towards retaining and expanding the Indian land base and Indian Natural resources. Without these resources - the Indian people will be just another disadvantaged people. These lands and resources attract the industries. While we have many friends both in and out of government circles that would like to remove the blight of the ill treatment of the Indian people by assisting them in their social-economic progress, this is not the basic premise of the business judgments locating industry on your reservations.

Secondly, and this is most timely, we must retain the programs that are assisting us in our growth. The retention and funding of the Economic Opportunity Act - the Manpower Training Act - the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other similar programs is the other cornerstone of this desireable social-economic progress for the Indian people. For without these programs we would be in the same position we were in so few years ago - resources galore but no way to develop them. The reason this is so timely is that it will be in four days - next Tuesday on November 5 - that you will have your opportunity to determine whether these programs will continue. I would suggest that there is nothing you can do in the next four days that will assist your people more - than studying the records of your elected officials and devoting all your energies and time towards supporting and getting your people and friends to the polls to vote for the people who have voted for and supported you. They deserve nothing less.