

IT IS THEIR LAND

At the time of my writing of this article members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) are still holding on to Wounded Knee.

It is appropriate that for their place of battle they should choose this tiny village of forty. It was here in 1840 that the Amer-

ican military massacred 300 old men, women and children of the Sioux nation.

The Sioux are back led by Russell Means and have stated that they will not leave until their demands are met. All they are asking for is that the United States government look into

the Bureau of Indian Affairs and launch an investigation into treaties that have been violated.

Means, Oglala Sioux has told reporters that they are willing to die at Wounded Knee rather than submit to the slavery that the American Indian has known

for so long. The end of the chapter has not yet been written but we can only hope that it does not result in the second massacre at Wounded Knee.

The problem is not an American one. It involves Canada and all Canadians just as directly. Our hope is that we learn from what is happening. If we continue to violate the treaties then we must not feign surprise if violence occurs.

Two years ago a Chief of the Mic-mac Nation was arrested for fishing salmon out of season. In the treaty which was signed with the Mic-macs the right to fish and hunt was granted on a year long basis. The case finally ended up in the Supreme Court of Canada where he was found guilty of fishing. The grounds were that since the Canadian government had not signed the treaty. (It was signed before Confederation) it was not liable to abide by it.

Presently the governments of Quebec and Canada are attempting to force the Native Indians off their home in the James Bay region. The reason for this is not so they can better the living and working conditions of the Indians but so they can flood the entire region in order to create hydroelectric power. The governments have decided that electricity takes predominance over the wants and desires of people.

The problem is that development has priority over people. We sit here on Prince Edward Island and pretend that absolutely nothing that happens off the Island affects us. The Indian Nations are the native people of North America and we the invaders. We must support them in their demands that they be given a fair break, if it were to happen to us or our neighbors we would be outraged. Unless the support of all Canadians goes out to these peoples they will lose out to big government. It is our duty and responsibility to make sure this does not happen. We must make sure that people, and that is the only criterion, be treated fairly and with honesty.



The two James Bay development projects will affect drainage areas stretching from a point 200 miles north of Montreal up as far as Ungava Bay, a distance of 1,000 miles.

SCALE
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 MILES

"All actions labelled as "going to far" had a revolutionary significance. To put it bluntly, it was necessary to bring about a brief reign of terror in every rural area; otherwise one could never suppress the activities of the counter-revolutionaries in the countryside or overthrow the authority of the gentry. To right a wrong it is necessary to exceed the proper limits, and wrong cannot be righted without the proper limits being exceeded!"

-----Mao Tse-tung, 1927

DON GRAY