

Wisconsin Indian Resource Council, Inc.

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A THREAT OF VIOLENCE

"ESCAPE TO WISCONSIN" is a slogan that creates a peaceful image of the beautiful scenery of Northern Wisconsin in the minds of many people. This slogan summons people from the cities in search of the peace and relaxation the great North woods offers. Recently, other slogans have appeared in Northern Wisconsin that shatters this peaceful image---

"SAVE A DEER - SHOOT AN INDIAN"

"SAVE A WALLEYE - SPEAR AN INDIAN"

These slogans now appearing on bumper stickers, posters, and baseball caps are life threatening. It sounds like genocide is again rearing its ugly head.

When some individuals or groups in Wisconsin talk about their equal rights, we wonder, what kind of equality are they talking about? Are they willing to accept the same equality that women now have in America?...Are they willing to accept the same equality for themselves that Blacks, Latins, or Orientals have in America? It seems that the individuals and groups seeking equal rights are mainly those already in control of a fair share of power, economy and influence. Quite possibly, the slogan "EQUAL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE" is not based on high legal, moral values. Maybe, these misconceptions are being perpetuated because of fear of losing control of their present economic and social status.

Treaties are a very important part of the historical, political, legal fabric of America. Article 6 of the U. S. Constitution states that treaties are the "SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND." Treaties provide for Tribal governments to plan their own self-sufficiency. In the last decade major strides have been made in the educational level of the American Indians, in the lowering of unemployment, and in the raising of health standards. The people who live on or near American Indian reservations in Wisconsin have reaped great economic benefits from the rise in Tribal economic ventures.

We believe the majority of people in Wisconsin are opposed to attitudes and actions which produce racism and discrimination and which threaten to do violence. When the rights of any people are violated or denied by civil disorder, the rights and freedom of all people become jeopardized.

We ask you to join hands in resisting any movement, organizational or individual, that endorses these cruel acts directed toward other human beings. If there is any way you can help or contribute please contact our office.

Stanley Webster, Executive Director