

Trudeau and Gosnell

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'Nisga'a Chief James Gosnell, at the 1983 First Ministers' Conference:

"It has always been our belief, Mr. Chairman, that when God created this whole world, he gave pieces of land to all races of people throughout this world – the Chinese people, Germans, and you name them, including Indians. So, at one time our land was this whole continent – right from the tip of South America to the North Pole... It has always been our belief that God gave us the land...and we say that no one can take our title away except He who gave it to us to begin with."

'To which Prime Minister Trudeau responded:

"Going back to the Creator doesn't really help very much. So, He gave you title but, you know, did He draw on the land where your mountains stopped and somebody else's began...? God never said that the frontier of France runs along the Rhine..."

"I don't know any part of the world where history isn't constantly rewritten by migrations and immigrants, and fights between countries changing frontiers. And I don't think you can expect North America or the whole of the Western Hemisphere to settle things differently than they have been settled anywhere else – hopefully, peacefully here."

–quoted in "Our Home or Native Land?", Mel Smith, p.149-150

<http://www.amazon.ca/Our-home-native-land-governments/dp/0773758216>

“So, this year we came up with a proposal. It’s a policy paper on the ‘Indian problem’. It proposes a set of solutions. It doesn’t impose them on anybody. It proposes them – not only to the Indians, but to all Canadians – not only to their federal representatives, but to the provincial representatives, too, and it says we’re at the crossroads. We can go on treating the Indians as having a special status. We can go on adding bricks of discrimination around the ghetto in which they live and at the same time, perhaps, helping them preserve certain cultural traits and certain ancestral rights. Or we can say you’re at a crossroad – the time is now to decide whether the Indians will be a race apart in Canada or whether it will be Canadians of full status.”

Those words were spoken back on Aug. 8, 1969, by then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau at the ‘Aboriginal and Treaty Rights’ meeting in Vancouver...

“We will recognize forms of contract which have been made with the Indian people by the Crown and we will try to bring justice in that area, and this will mean that perhaps the treaties shouldn’t go on forever. It’s inconceivable, I think, that in a given society, one section of the society have a treaty with the other section of the society.

“We must all be equal under the laws and we must not sign treaties among ourselves. And many of these treaties, indeed, would have less and less significance in the future anyhow, but things that in the past were covered by the treaties...things like so much twine, or so much gunpowder and which haven’t been paid, this must be paid. But I don’t think that we should encourage the Indians to feel that their treaties should last forever within Canada...”

“They should become Canadians as all other Canadians and if they were prosperous and wealthy, they will be treated like prosperous and wealthy and they will be paying taxes for the other Canadians, who are not so prosperous and not so wealthy

– whether they be Indians or English Canadians or French or Maritimers.

“(This) is the only basis on which I see our society can develop as equals.

“But aboriginal rights, this really means saying, ‘We were here before you. You came and took the land from us... We want you to preserve our aboriginal rights and to restore them to us.”

“And our answer – it...may not be one which is accepted, but it will be up to all you people to make your minds up and to choose for or against it... our answer is ‘No’...”

–‘Trudeau’s words about aboriginals resonate’, Robert Head, Calgary Herald, Tuesday, January 03, 2012

<http://spon.ca/trudeaus-words-about-aboriginals-resonate/2012/01/04/>

Petition to END RACE BASED LAW:

<http://endracebasedlaw.com/petition>

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