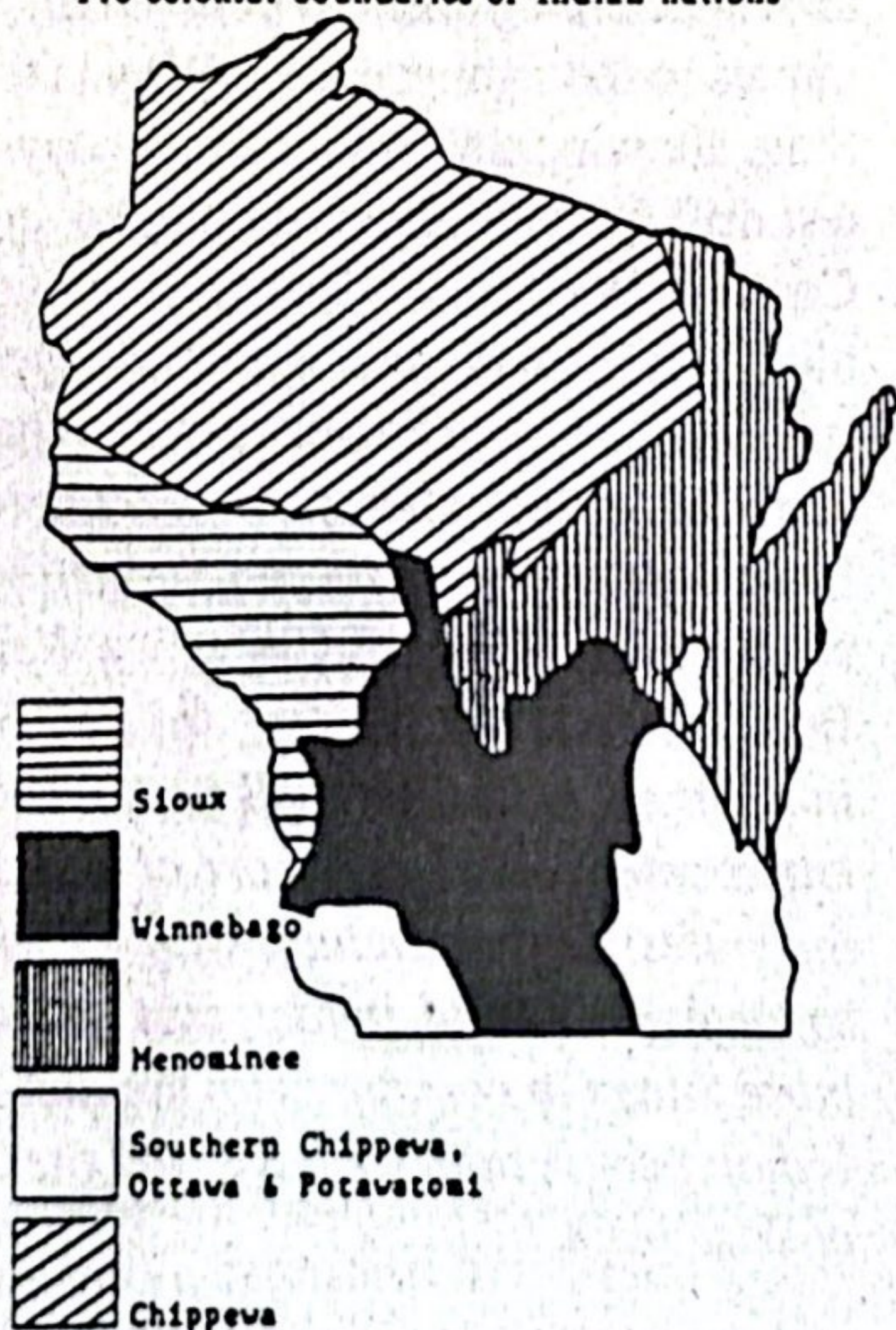
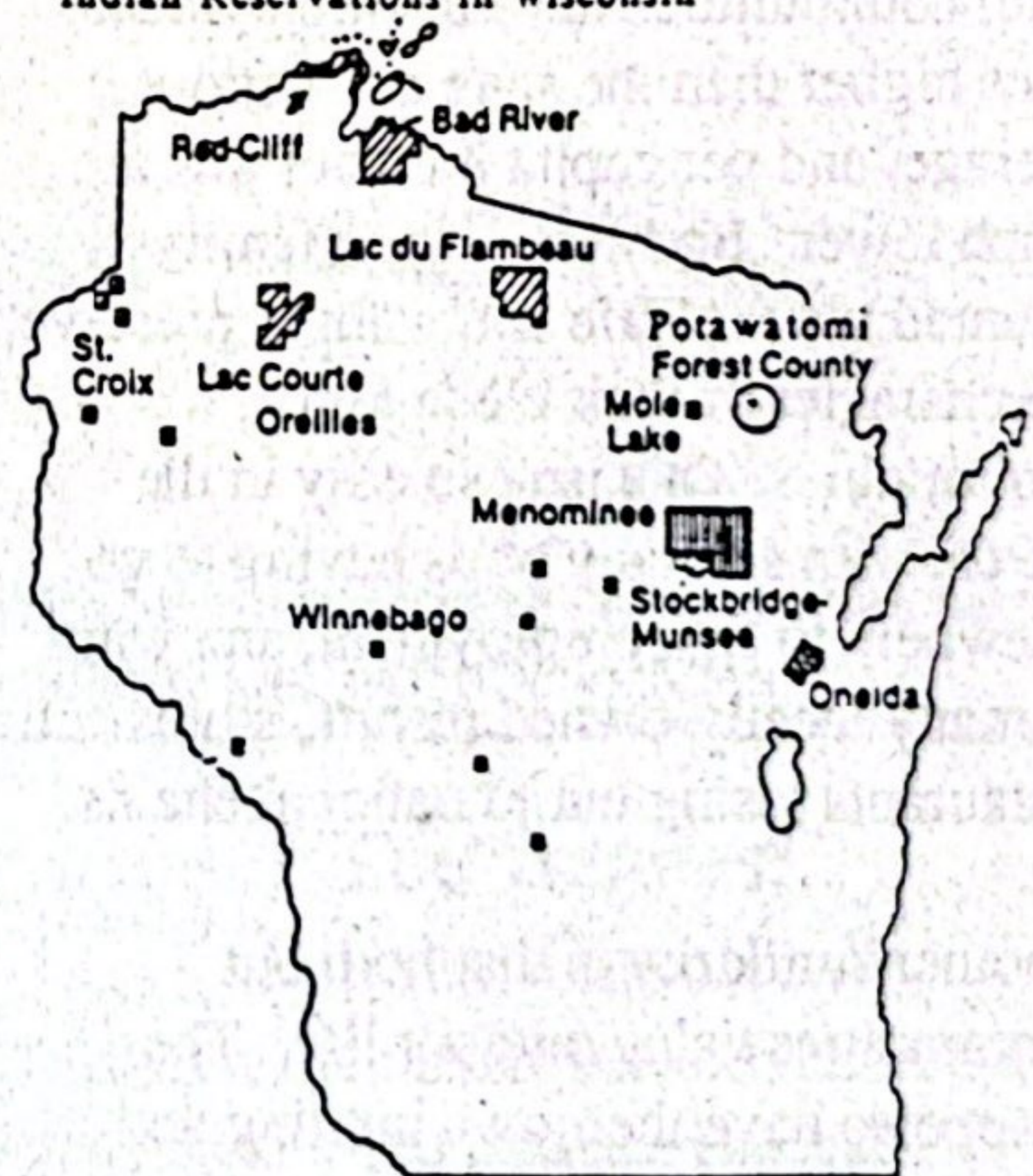


Wisconsin Treaties: *What's the Problem?*

Pre-colonial boundaries of Indian nations



Indian Reservations in Wisconsin



Midwest Treaty Network

The Midwest Treaty Network, which represents about 30 groups, is something of a bridge between Indian and non-Indian communities in Wisconsin. Our membership includes Indians and non-Indians, sportspeople, clergy, farmers, office workers, restaurant workers, mill workers, schoolteachers, retired people, and many others.

Many of us live here in Northern Wisconsin. Some of us have moved elsewhere but retain close ties to family and friends. Some of us vacation regularly in the North. From our perspective, we can look at both the Indian and non-Indian communities, and it is apparent to us that both have a great deal in common.

Both communities have unemployment rates higher than the state and national average, and per capita incomes that are much lower. Both value their family-oriented ways of life and want to preserve the character of their close-knit communities. This isn't so easy in the 1990s, with so many of us having to go elsewhere to find employment, and with so many locally-owned resorts, stores and restaurants losing out to national chains.

Another similarity is that both our communities value outdoor life. The Chippewa have their own hunting and fishing traditions that they want to maintain, and non-Indian residents have theirs too. Does this mean one of us has to give up their traditions? The state government would have us think so, by the way it curtails sportfishing on one hand, and tries to buy off treaty rights on the other. This contributes to the "either-or" mentality—either one group gives up their traditions, or the other group has to.

There's another way, and that's to improve the environment and manage the resources in such a way to allow more fish for everyone. It's been done in other states: why not here? Doing this, though, would mean facing some tough environmental problems that the state government has been reluctant to tackle. As the DNR's own documents show, the walleye population has been steadily decreasing for decades due to habitat destruction and pollution, while at the same time sportfishing demands have risen. In fact, a 1979 DNR report recommended decreasing bag limits as an option—*long before the spearfishing controversy.*

The DNR has imposed bag and length limits on sportfishing, but has been less than efficient against environmental threats to the fish resource. Why is the State allowing the Noranda company to test drill for minerals near Oneida County's Willow Flowage, even though a mine there would endanger a walleye spawning bed just downstream? What about numerous other instances where the State approved projects contaminating waterways? Red Cliff Chippewa Walt Bresette has said, "*Sooner or later, people in Northern Wisconsin will realize that the environmental threat is more of a threat to their lifestyle than Indians who go out and spear fish....I think, in fact, that we have more things in common with the anti-Indian people than we have with the State of Wisconsin.*"

The first step in resolving a conflict is to come to agreement on *what the problem is*. That's according to techniques used by everyone from union arbitrators to international diplomats and marriage counselors. As a network representing part of our state's population, we want to

lay out on the table what we see as our state's economic and environmental problems, plus offer some ideas on possible solutions that can benefit both Indian and non-Indian communities.

What are Treaty Rights?

Treaty rights are *property rights* owned by the Chippewa. They are *use rights*.

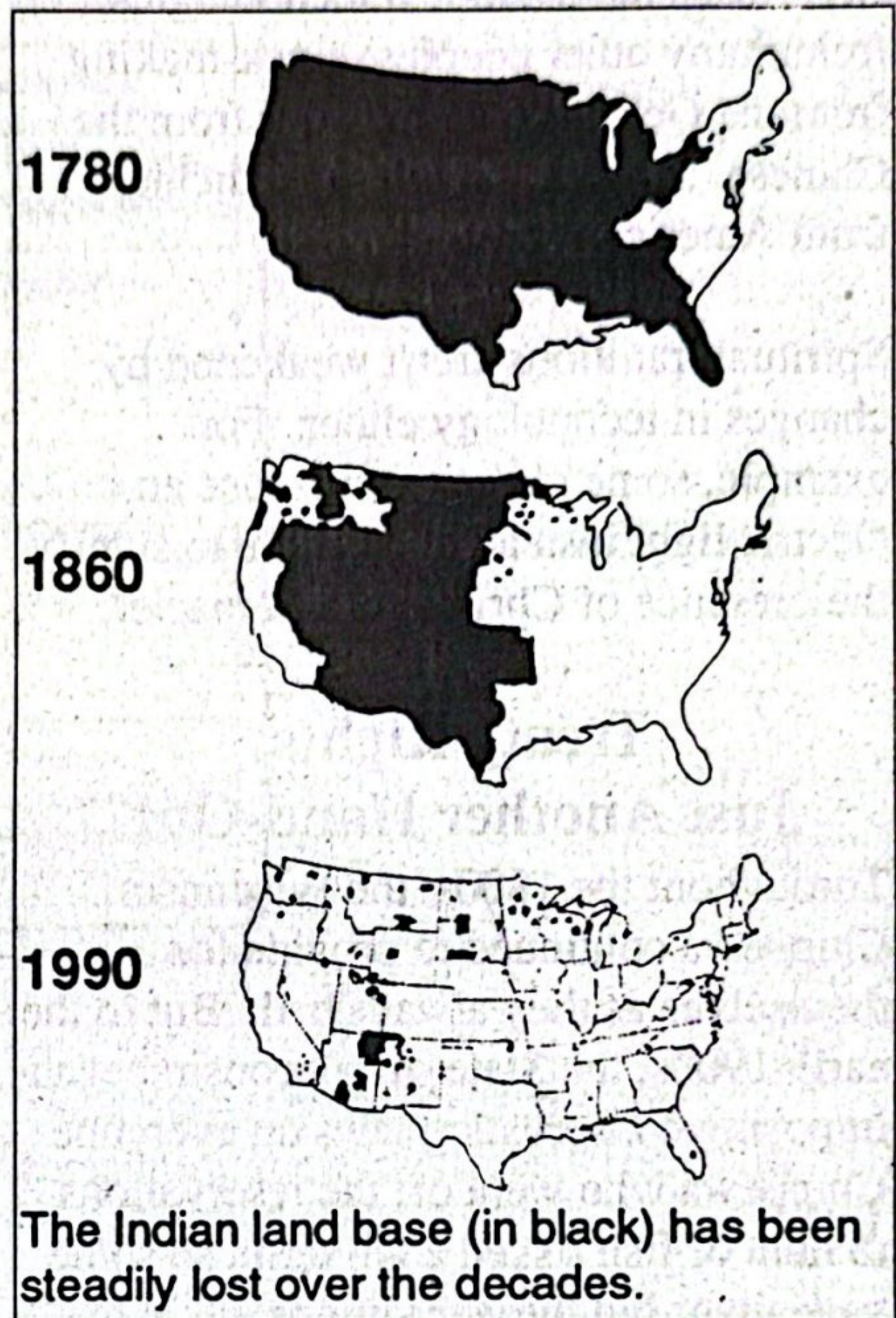
Anyone can retain use rights when they sell property. You could, for example, sell your lakefront property but decide that you want to retain a right-of-way through that property, to keep boat access.

In signing the treaties of 1837, 1842, and 1854, the Lake Superior Chippewa sold (ceded) most of their land but kept certain areas (reservations) for their own use. When the President ordered the Chippewa forcibly removed west of the Mississippi River in 1850, Northern Wisconsin citizens successfully got the order reversed. The Chippewa kept the right to continue hunting, fishing, and gathering in the ceded lands, since reservation land alone wasn't large enough to support all of them. In the United States, we do not have "equal rights" to another person's property or inheritance. However, we do have an "equal right" to own our own property—and to bequeath that property to our descendants.

Dual Citizenship

These property rights did not become void by the 1924 Citizenship Act, which granted Indian people U.S. citizenship, in addition to their citizenship in their Indian nation.. As dual citizens, Indians do serve in the U.S. military, contrary to what some believe. In fact, in the Gulf War they numbered 8,000, or 1.5 percent of the 540,000 troops—almost double their 0.8 percent of the general population. The

tribes have always had a strong tradition of respect for the warrior, no matter how they feel about a particular war. If you go to a Chippewa pow-wow, you will hear songs performed to honor veterans, and see veterans lead the Grand Entry dance into the grounds.



The Indian land base (in black) has been steadily lost over the decades.

The Treaties: Old and Obsolete?

Treaties are contracts between nations and aren't invalidated by age. The U.S. Constitution (which is 50 years older than the 1837 Chippewa treaty) says that treaties are part of the body of law that is the "Supreme Law of the Land." There's nothing in the treaties that says the Chippewa have to use the technology of the past century. That would be like saying the constitutional right to keep and bear arms applies only to muskets.

All cultures evolve over time. Indians,

like all peoples, have invented or adopted from their neighbors better and more efficient ways of harvesting food—from their discovery of copper for strong spearheads 2000 years ago to adopting halogen lights able to penetrate night waters during spearfishing. Similarly, Americans have adopted technologies from many other peoples: clock-making from the Germans, gunpowder from the Chinese, and many modern medicines from American Indians.

Spiritual traditions aren't weakened by changes in technology either. For example, some churches even use an electric light instead of a candle to signify the presence of Christ in a tabernacle.

Treaty Rights: Just Another Hand-Out?

Throughout the 1800s, the Wisconsin Chippewa continued to provide for themselves as they always had. But in the early 1900s, the State of Wisconsin began imposing conservation laws on everyone. Chippewa who went off the reservations to hunt or fish risked a jail term, so some gave up or hid these traditions.

It wasn't until the 1960s and '70s that Native people everywhere began to reclaim their traditions. By then the tribes had gained the legal expertise to represent themselves adequately in court. The arrest of Chippewa fishers in the mid-1970s led to a series of court decisions which determined that the Chippewa still owned property rights to fish, and other resources. The federal court didn't *give* the Chippewa any rights—it just recognized that the rights already existed.

It is true that many tribal governments have become dependent on federal

funding. But how did this come about? The government destroyed the buffalo, and restricted Indian access to lands they needed for hunting and gathering. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (or BIA, once part of the War Department) made Indians gather at government posts for food rations, forcing them into dependency.

In the early 1900s, Indians lost two-thirds of their land as reservations were divided up and allotted to individuals, and so-called "surplus" land was opened up to settlement. Some tribal members sold their land, others were swindled out of it, or couldn't afford to pay taxes on it (Source: *Encyclopedia Americana*). Non-Indians might be surprised to learn just how much reservation land is not owned by Indians.

Around this same time, the federal government tried to force Indians to assimilate (or absorb) into white culture. The Feds put children into boarding schools, and restricted the speaking of their language. Until 1978, the practice of Indian religions was officially outlawed—ceremonies were disrupted and religious objects seized.

The bottom line throughout this history has always been *resources*. Federal policy has always been to open up Indian land to what nowadays is called "development," a process that continues to this day. Indians were pushed to the most desolate land, which have now turned out to be some of the richest in mineral or energy resources. Under BIA management, reservations sometimes lease out prime farmland, or sell mineral, oil and timber rights at practically give-away prices.

After a century of whittling away Indian

Comparing aid to Indians and non-Indians

Lac du Flambeau vs. neighboring white community (Key differences in aid programs)

	INDIAN	WHITE
Welfare	Relief for Needy Indian Persons, Individual gets \$209 per month	County general relief, Individual gets \$175 per month
Commodities	Eligible If individual's income is less than \$611 per month; no longer eligible for federal Food Stamps	Eligible If individual's income is less than \$748 per month; remain eligible for federal Food Stamps
Education	High school juniors and seniors paid \$50 per semester to defray book and other costs Up to \$1,800 per semester in college grants set aside for Indians; amount of grant reduces eligibility for other state and federal grants and loans	No similar program Wide variety of state and federal grants and loans
Medical	Free medical care unless covered by Medicaid, Medicare or employer health insurance	Hill-Burton Program, WisconCare: government programs which provide care for the very poor

SOURCE: Lac du Flambeau and Vilas County officials

WSJ graphic

Source: *Wisconsin State Journal*
(Feb. 25, 1990)

Note: Indians do pay state and federal income taxes, and sales taxes for items bought off the reservation. Neither Indians nor non-Indians pay sales taxes for items bought on the reservation.

land and resources, many Indian communities are left with little with which to build a tribal economy, and so some have come to rely on welfare, food stamps, and other programs. However, the myth of Indians receiving huge sums of money and benefits is false (see chart). Many cannot find a way out due to poorly funded education, job discrimination, and the common demand that they give up their cultural identity in return for employment.

Some tribal governments go along with this system, selling whatever minerals or treaty rights they can get money for. But there have always been tribes and individuals who have resisted this system.

The Indian people *most opposed* to economic dependency are those who are

exercising their treaty rights and reclaiming their traditions. The traditional Indian people are the ones *most interested* in building tribal self-sufficiency, including increasing employment through ecologically appropriate industries. These are people who aren't interested in selling their treaty rights—as shown by the Mole Lake and Lac du Flambeau reservation voters, when they turned down treaty rights lease deals.

Many tribes are seeking economic independence from federal dollars. The treaty and land rights cases are tools for restoring to many Indian nations an economic and land base needed to rebuild their economies. These aren't "hand-outs"—these are resources and land that had been lost or taken illegally in past federal programs. See *Reader's Digest*

(Oct. 1989) and *Newsweek* (Dec. 5, 1988) for quite a few success stories.

Maine is one state where tribes have won back some land and have established tribal businesses, such as blueberry farming and an auto upholstery plant. One tribe also owns a patented pollution control process that could be profitable, and also help solve the acid rain problem.

In Wisconsin, a 1972 court decision reestablished the Chippewa right to fish commercially on Lake Superior (since they fished for trade when the treaties were signed). Currently, about 100 Chippewa are licensed to fish, and catch mainly whitefish. Cooperatives and tribally-owned companies have been set up for the processing and distribution of fish, as well as for the harvest and distribution of wild rice. (The Chippewa wanted to use the treaties to build a tribal logging industry to provide jobs for themselves and non-Indians alike, but have so far been blocked by DNR and federal court rulings.)

Along with "economic sovereignty" is a movement for tribal self-government. The BIA, like other federal bureaucracies such as HUD and FSLIC is known for mismanagement and scandal. Reservations see only about 11 cents out of every dollar appropriated to them.

An experiment is underway with seven reservations across the country (including the Minnesota Chippewa Mille Lacs Reservation) which allows them to set their own budgets, run their own programs and negotiate directly with the federal government on a nation-to-nation basis. They are using their power to bring lost languages back to students, institute

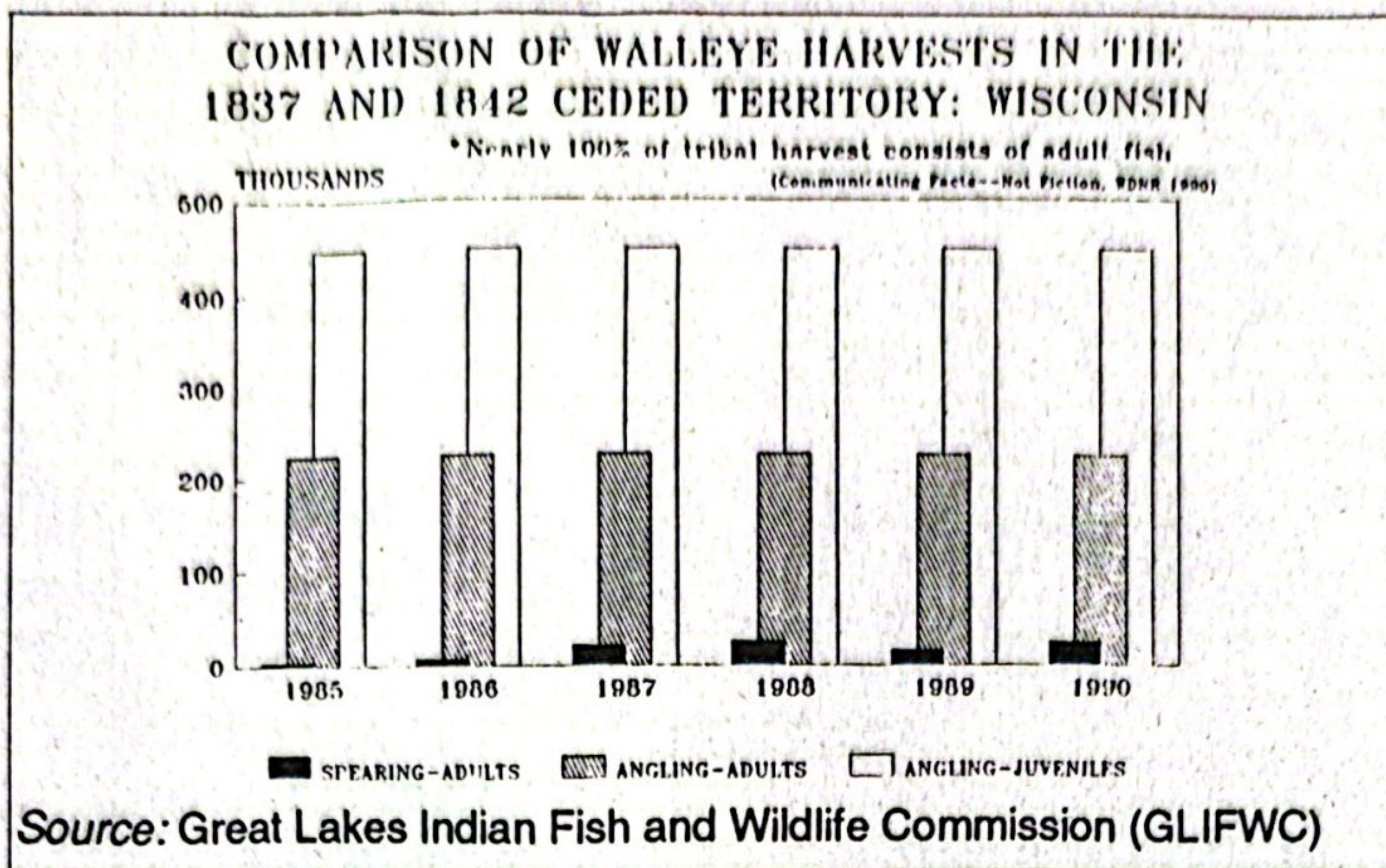
tutoring programs, create jobs, and repair roads without having to go through bureaucratic mazes. If the experiment is judged to be successful, it will be expanded to include more tribes (*New York Times*, Jan. 17, 1991).

Those who advocate the abrogation of treaties, forced assimilation into white culture, and termination of reservations should note that these were the very approaches that have already been used with disastrous effects—increased poverty, demoralization, and economic dependency. Do we want to continue the mistakes of our grandfathers?

As the Soviet Union is learning with its many "nations within a nation," it's really not so easy to stamp out a culture. After years of domination, Lithuanians and other nationalities are fighting for their independence. It won't be easy to reestablish their own economies and cultures even if Moscow allows them to go their own way, but apparently many citizens feel it will be worth the struggle. And Native peoples here are asking for far less than nationalities in the Soviet Union.

Who Spearfishes?

Of about 7431 Chippewa who live in Northern Wisconsin, about 200 to 400 have participated in the two-week spearfishing season. While each spearer may take what seems to be a large number of fish, those fish go to feed many relatives and other people. The elderly are first, and much is also shared at tribal feasts and celebrations. It's much the same as the deer hunter who goes out and hunts on his wife's, father-in-law's, and daughter's tags and then gives away the meat to relatives.



The myth that the Chippewa just throw away fish is false. It probably originated from the way that the traditional Chippewa method of fileting fish, which differs from that of non-Indian anglers. They leave the skin intact, giving the appearance of a whole fish. In the *Wisconsin State Journal* (May 10, 1989), a former Lac du Flambeau attorney described how a TV crew raced to a Minocqua dump after a caller reported seeing discarded walleyes. All they found was a pile of empty skins.

Where have all the walleye gone?

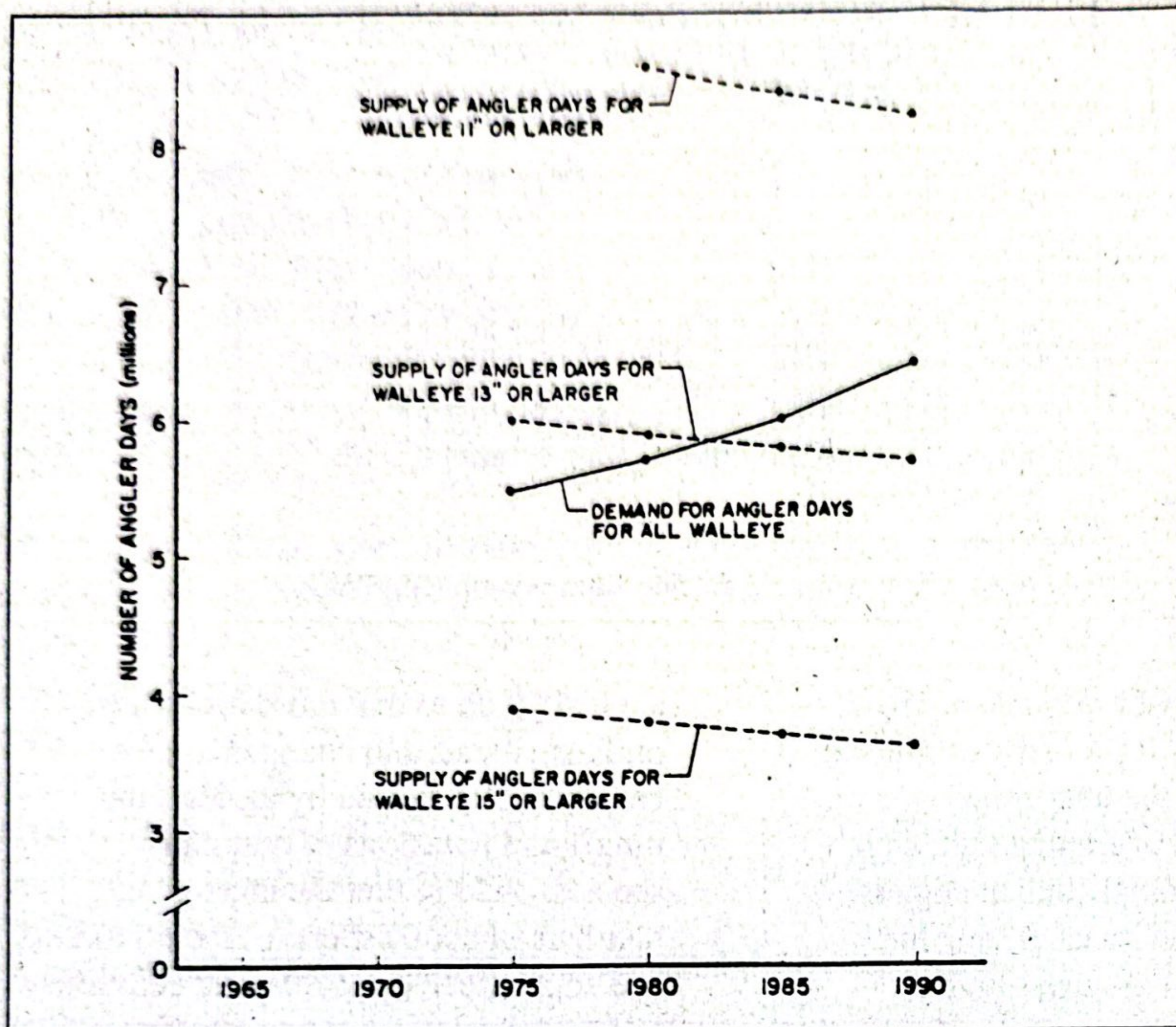
Northern residents and vacationers are seeing the results of environmental problems first-hand, such as mercury, PCB, and pesticide contamination. The DNR lists more than 152 bodies of water in the ceded territory with fish unsafe to eat. *Science News* (March 9, 1991) reports that the more acid rain in a lake, the more mercury in its fish. Even eating one fish dinner can be unsafe for kids or pregnant women.

As more lake areas are developed and shorelines filled in, more spawning beds

are lost. Add to that more highways, bridges, dams, and changes to lake environments caused by agricultural runoff and invasions of non-native species. Add to that the increasing numbers of sportfishers, outboard motors, and sophisticated sportfishing equipment, and we begin to see why there doesn't seem to be enough fish to go around. Gone are the days of a few decades ago when one could go out fishing and expect to come home with a stringer of walleyes.

All of this was known by the DNR leadership long before off-reservation spearfishing began in the mid-'80's. Its 1979 report "Fish and Wildlife Comprehensive Plan, Part I: Management Strategies 1979-1985" predicted that by 1985 the demand for walleye would exceed supply, because of increased sportfishing and habitat destruction. The report proposed a few ways to correct the problem, including decreasing bag limits.

Sure enough, by the late '80's the decline in fishing had become obvious. However, since the Chippewa had begun spearfishing, the issue became confused for many people. It was too convenient to



A graph from a 1979 DNR report clearly foresaw the possible need to reduce bag limits—years before the Chippewa spearfishing controversy began.

blame Chippewa spearing for the decline. DNR biologists confided to the Minocqua town chair in 1988 that bag limits would have to be reduced *regardless of spearfishing*. But the DNR announced a lower walleye bag limit *only days before the 1989 spearfishing season began*.

This is not to question the fine work done by individual DNR employees, but to question policies high up in the agency.

Spearing is of course a factor that has to be figured into any professional management plan. But to blame Chippewa spearing for a decline in angling is just not realistic (See chart on page six). Spearing is very strictly monitored—each fish is weighed, sexed, and recorded by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

A study by DNR Woodruff Area Fish

Manager Duke Andrews revealed that properly regulated spearfishing does not deplete the walleye population. On the other hand, several lakes never spearfished were found to be overfished. According to the *Wisconsin Sportsman* (May, 1989) up to 50 percent of the adult walleye were taken in a single year.

Under court rulings, the Chippewa have been allowed to take up to 12 percent of the adult walleye (compared to 35 percent for anglers), and they have always ended up deciding to take far fewer than their quota. Some resort owners have said that their problem isn't lower bag limits, but the fact that the limits are not the same from lake to lake, and so anglers choose lakes where the bag limits are higher.

One positive outcome from treaty rights is that now a thorough assessment of ceded territory lakes and fish populations has

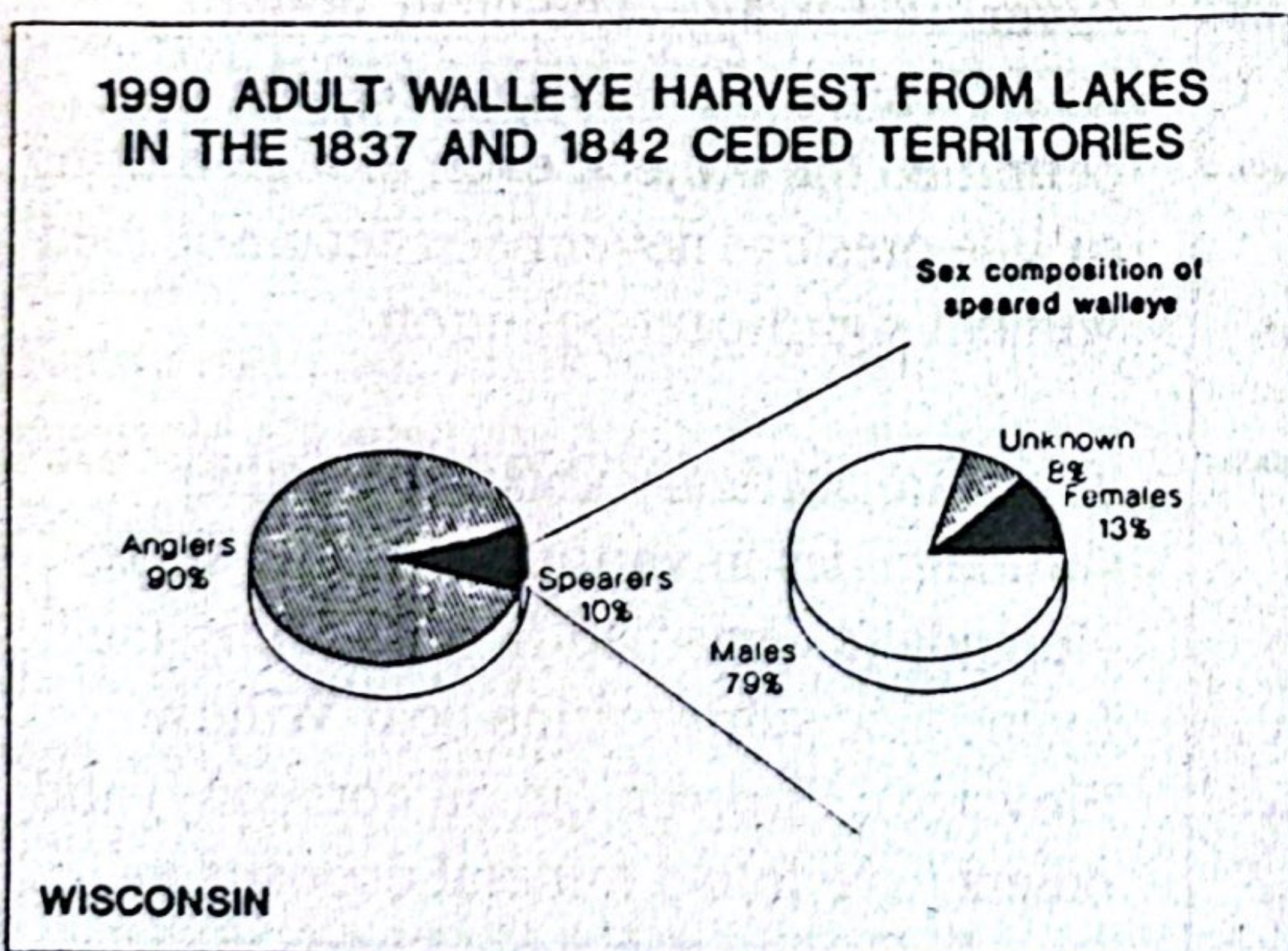
been completed. The study, conducted jointly by the federal, state, and the six Chippewa governments, has found that spearing isn't depleting the lakes. It offers proposals on how best to meet the future needs of *all* users.

Spearing during Spawning Season

Is spearfishing during the Spring spawning season the *least* or the *most* environmentally sound time to do it?

Approximately 85 to 90 percent are males, of the fish speared each Spring. That's because females are the first to leave the spawning beds, while males loiter near the shore. If spearing was done at any other time, the numbers of males and females speared would be even; and there would be 35 to 40 percent fewer females to spawn next year!

Fish eggs from speared females have been used by the Chippewa in restocking programs. Most recently, the "Fish for the Future," new joint project of the Cable



Wisconsin Chippewa harvest a small percentage of walleye and musky compared to state anglers. This GLIFWC chart is based on a spearer harvest of 25,348 adult walleye, and an estimated angler harvest of 224,000 adult walleye.

Area Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cliff and Bad River reservations began in Spring 1990. Tribal fisheries staff and local sportspeople collected eggs from speared fish that were then incubated at tribal hatcheries. Over 400,000 fry were restocked in Lake Namekagon, and 600,000 provided for rearing ponds.

"This program is making a better working relationship of a hard situation," said Fish for the Future member Phil Rasmussen, a Lake Namekagon lodge owner. "The pie is getting cut into smaller pieces," said Bad River Tribal Biologist Joe Dan Rose, "What we're doing is saying, 'Let's get together and make a bigger pie'."

Treaty Rights = More Fish for Everyone?

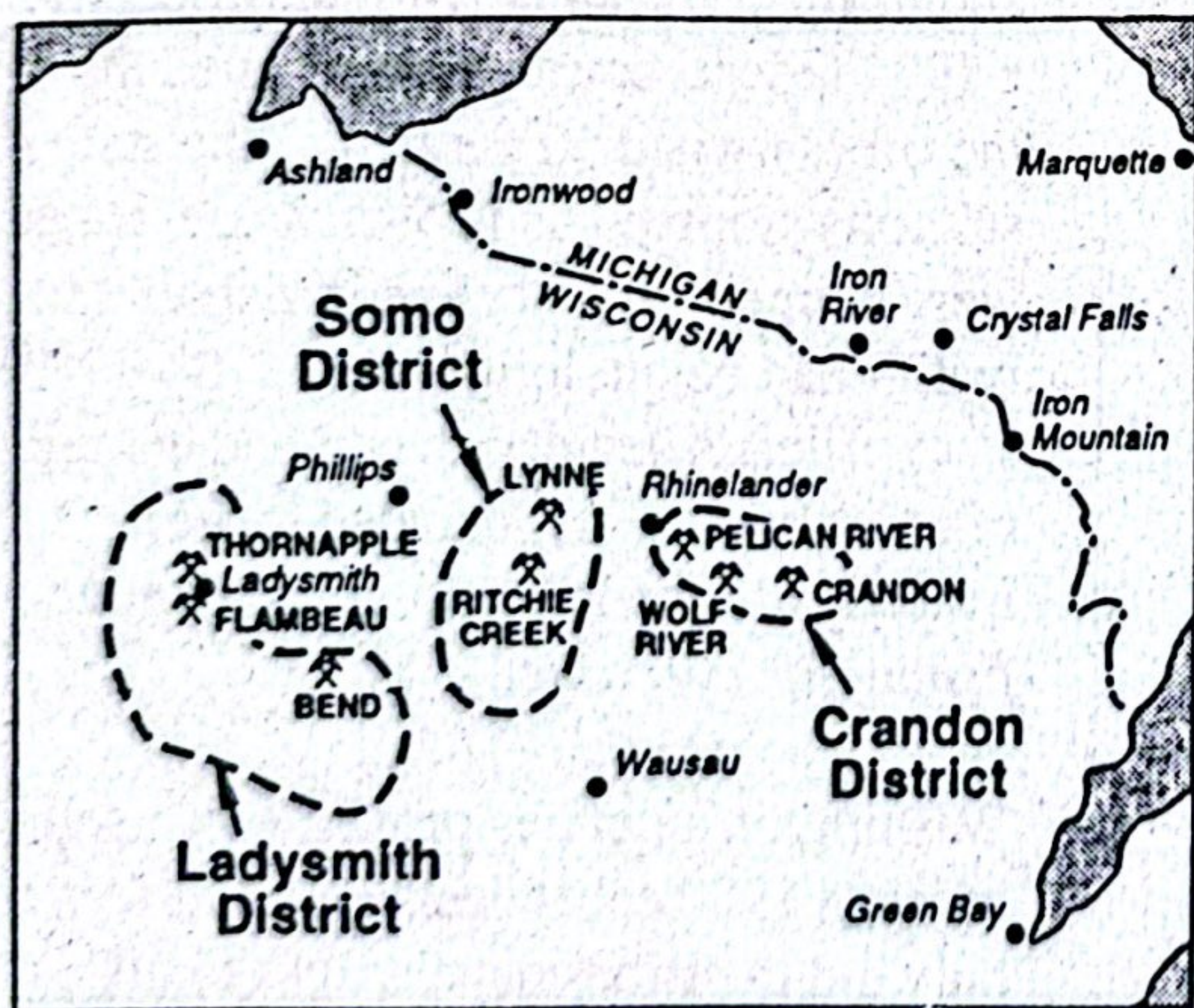
The state of Washington faced a similar treaty rights dispute that was in many ways worse than the one here in Wisconsin—throughout the 1960s and '70s Indian fishers were confronted with shootings, boat sinkings, serious injuries and deaths. The situation intensified after a 1974 federal court decision ruled that the tribes owned 50 percent of the state's salmon resource. As in Wisconsin, tribes were blamed for a decline in fish that in reality had begun long before. By 1983, state officials decided they'd had enough of court battles, and decided to work instead with the tribes in *improving the fishing for everyone*.

Washington's treaties proved very useful here—a 1980 court decision ruled that not only did the tribes have a right to off-reservation salmon, but they had a right to an environment clean enough to support the fish. The treaties gave the state the legal clout needed to get polluters such as

the logging industry to change to less polluting methods.

The result? The salmon fishery is the healthiest it has been in years. The 1970 harvest was 6.5 million, and the 1987 harvest was 8.4 million.—a 29 percent increase. Steelhead harvests have also increased, from 94,500 to 158,000—a 68 percent increase. A number of totally depleted salmon runs were restored. The treaties now have widespread support among state and federal representatives. (The state and tribes are now joining to prevent the Columbia River salmon from becoming an endangered species because of dams upstream in Idaho.) Major sports groups like Trout Unlimited and even some logging companies have come out in favor of the treaties, recognizing their long-term usefulness.

In Montana, the Crow Indians used their treaty rights to declare the air over their reservation protected, thus preventing the building of a coal plant that would have drained underground water supplies.



A mining district has been proposed in ceded territory, consisting of these metal sulfide deposits (Source: *Economic Geology*). Can the treaties be used to slow the mines down?

Their move had the support of local non-Indian ranchers who before had fought the Indians over water rights. The same happened in South Dakota, where Indian-rancher opposition prevented uranium mines and a coal slurry pipeline. If the water was taken by corporations, the reasoning went, the two communities would have nothing left in ten years to fight over.

Treaties: Protecting Northern Wisconsin?

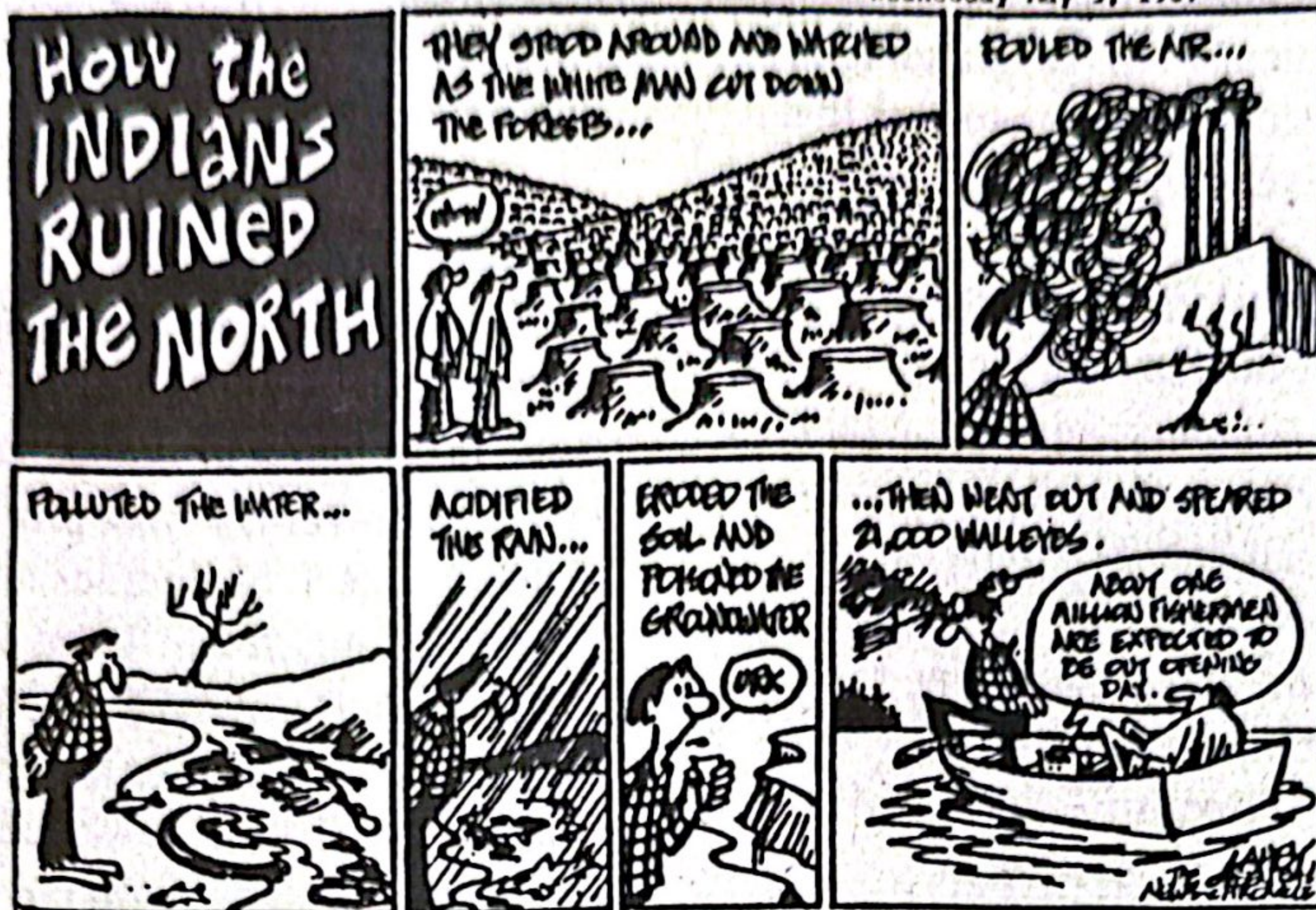
Now it turns out that treaties may be useful in protecting the environment here. Multinational corporations and the government are looking at the North's granite bedrock as a source for metallic minerals and uranium, and as a possible dumpsite for radioactive nuclear waste.

Kennecott (owned by the world's largest and most controversial mining company, London-based Rio Tinto Zinc) wants to open a copper sulfide mine in Rusk County that local residents fear will release sulphuric acid into the Flambeau River, 140 away. The DNR bought RTZ/Kennecott's reassurances and permitted the project, even though mining sulfide ores has never been accomplished without significant pollution.

There are currently about nine other sulfide mines in various planning stages. Noranda (a Canadian firm planning the Lynne zinc sulfide mine near Willow Flowage), Chevron (an oil company) and others have found mineral deposits in Oneida County that would have the same effects. A cyanide leaching plant has been proposed for extraction of gold in Taylor County—this type of plant has been known to contaminate surrounding waters with cyanide.

The Best of Lahey

Green Bay News-Chronicle,
Wednesday May 5, 1987



We supposedly have strict mining laws in Wisconsin, but there are many loopholes. RTZ/Kennecott was easily able to get around restrictions, such as the one that set the minimum allowable distance of a mine from a navigable stream at 300 feet. In the past two decades, state officials have worked to "grease the skids" by weakening mining pollution laws and lowering mining taxes. The state now allows counties to override town moratoriums on mining. Such a moratorium had stalled the RTZ/Kennecott Ladysmith mine for years, until the state allowed the Rusk County Board to override it.

Meanwhile, the federal government has aggressively pushed the creation of new mines and new waste-generating nuclear facilities, and changed regulations to allow "low-level" radioactive wastes to be deposited in ordinary landfills. Rules also now allow nuclear waste to be stored on mine sites. Northern Wisconsin is high on the list of possible "second-phase" high-level nuclear waste sites, according to

studies commissioned by the Department of Energy.

So if our county, state, and federal governments continue to maintain a decidedly pro-Big Business attitude, who will look out for the small-time farmer, fishing guide, or resort owner dependent on clean water? Treaties may provide us with a last line of defense against serious environmental problems. The treaties do not cover mineral rights, but they do guarantee Chippewa access to off-reservation fish, game, and wild rice — precisely the natural resources that would be endangered by mining pollution.

The Mole Lake Reservation has already sued Exxon to protect its rice beds from that company's proposed copper mine. The Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation is currently taking water samples and preparing for a court case to slow the nearby RTZ/Kennecott project. Michigan Chippewa are using the treaties to stop a low-level radioactive waste project. DNR spokesman George Meyer has

acknowledged that the Chippewa have a case — that treaties have legal standing in federal court to slow or block projects that may be destructive to the environment.

Is it just coincidental, then, that the Governor's point-man in treaty lease efforts has been Administration Secretary James Klauser, who is a lobbyist-on-leave for Exxon Minerals and the Union Carbide mining company? As a lobbyist, Klauser pushed the Mole Lake mine for years as the start of a mining district across Northern Wisconsin, and was instrumental in drafting legislation favorable to the mining industry.

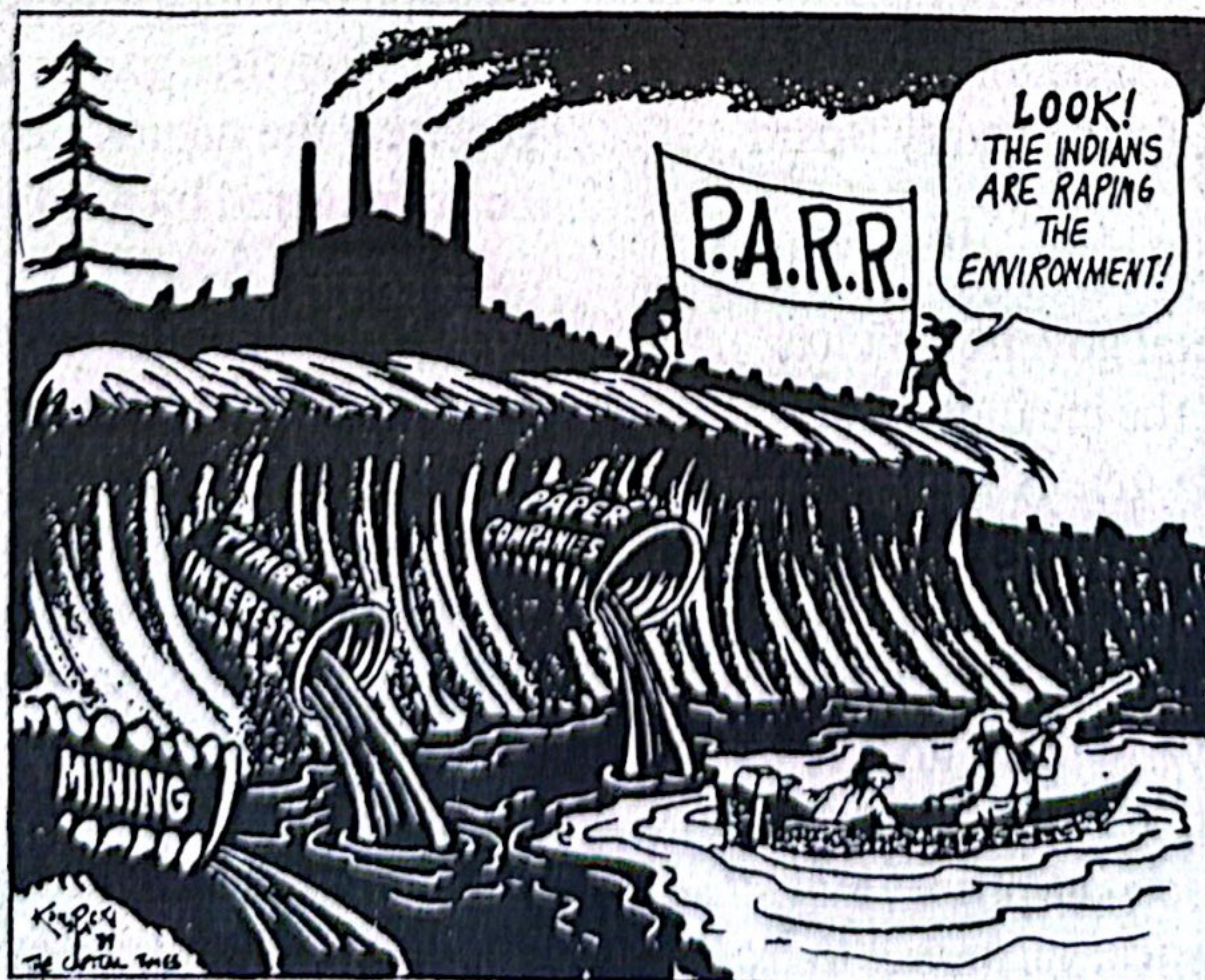
The anti-treaty group Protect American's Rights and Resources (PARR) said on February 23, 1991, that it "will not endorse any mining controversy solution reached as a result of long-dead treaties." In contrast, the director of Muskies, Inc. (a sport group representing 6000 members) was one of many who spoke at a Ladysmith public hearing against the granting of the RTZ/Kennecott permit. According to the *Wausau Daily Herald* (July 17, 1990), he said, "Mining is the

real threat to fishing in Wisconsin. It has the potential to make the Indian spearing controversy look like a piece of candy."

About Jobs

The new global economy means that corporations can tell local communities to "take these jobs and shove 'em," and locate wherever it's most profitable for them. Cars and electronics are made in Japan, and clothing in Third World sweatshops. Eucalyptus wood is imported from Latin America for processing in Wisconsin mills (meanwhile loggers are struggling here). Federal government policies benefit huge corporate farms and multinational food processors (meanwhile 12,000 Wisconsin family farms have folded in the past decade).

Multinationals have targetted Northern Wisconsin as a mining district. Does this mean that we want to go along with those plans, and jeopardize our existing tourism, forestry, and farming industries? (How will tourists feel about driving behind giant trucks carrying ore or sulphide mine wastes?) Mining is a "boom-and-bust" proposition. The influx of job seekers



and new residents puts stresses on a community and its social services. Companies *promise* new jobs, but state tax laws give them a tax break for relocating their own skilled workers. RTZ, for example, recently laid off 1600 Ontario miners, who could be available for the Ladysmith mine.

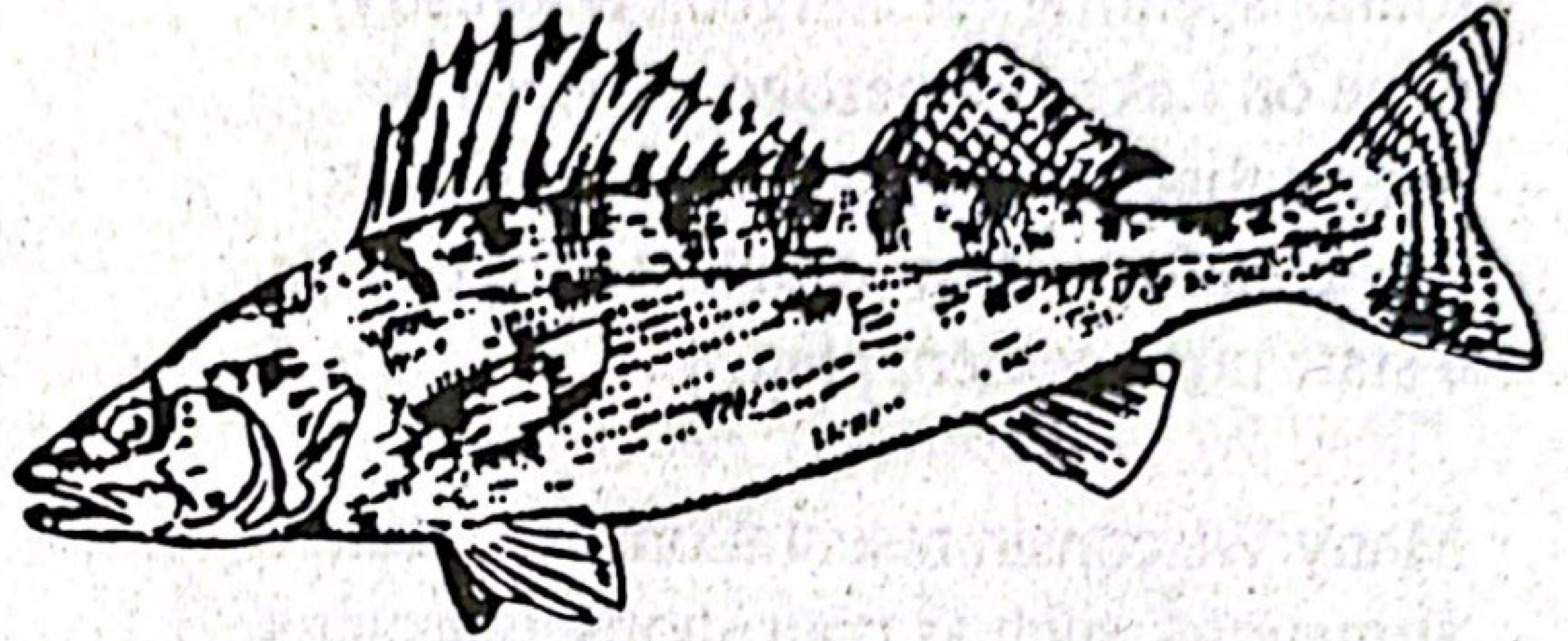
Michigan's Upper Peninsula is a close-to-home example of the "bust" that follows the "boom." After extracting the copper and silver, the mining companies pulled out, leaving some of the most economically depressed rural areas in the country. These areas can't go back to their previous farm and forestry economy, because the ecological damage is actually that extensive.

Red Cliff Chippewa activist Walt Bresette proposes a Northern Wisconsin economy based on recreation, tourism, small and diversified businesses, small-scale logging and environmentally appropriate industries. "Ceded territory, once cleaned up," he says, "would be marketable as an international spot for vacationers and those looking for a place to live, with a healthy and safe environment." A Toxic-Free Zone would protect natural resources from giant mining and energy corporations, and would benefit *all* residents of the ceded territories.

A Future for Tourism

Finally, we can lay to rest the fears of spearfishing decreasing tourism. Executive Director Evelyn Hartlep of the Minocqua Chamber of Commerce reported that 1990 was a record year for tourism in that area. A 1987 UW-Extension survey determined that only 8.3 percent of tourists in Northern Wisconsin go there specifically to fish. "Most go for

the scenic beauty or family vacation experience," reported survey conductor Jack Grey. According to travel industry spokespeople, family weekend activity vacations are becoming more popular, while week-long fishing trips are becoming less so.



But for those who *do* fish, treaty rights can play a part in improving the fishing for everyone, as happened in Washington state. *Sports Afield* (March 1990) describes how two Arizona Apache tribes have carefully managed their elk population to result in better hunting than can be found on public lands. This could be a model for other states, the article suggests. Guiding, trophy and lodging fees could generate income for the tribes.

Cooperation between Indian and non-Indian communities is already resulting in joint projects that can benefit both communities. Chippewa and French voyageur traditions are featured in Eagle River's new annual February "Klondike Days," bringing in tourist dollars during the otherwise slack winter period. The Anishinabe Youth Camp offered at various reservations is a great opportunity for non-Indian parents and children to experience for themselves traditional wild rice gathering and other traditions.

Treaty rights can add to the North Country mystique that draws so many tourists

here. UW-Stevens Point Professor David Wrone has suggested that treaty rights could be used to establish duty-free ports on Lake Superior. Some Indian and non-Indian fishing experts have suggested opening up spearfishing to non-Indians, as a unique experience for vacationers. Non-Indian spearing for sturgeon is already done on Lake Winnebago. There's no reason that strictly regulated non-Indian spearing for walleye can't be worked into a state management plan.

Many Wisconsin reservations offer tourist attractions, such as craft shops, museums, Indian villages, celebratory Summer pow-wows, and more. On-reservation angling should also be experienced, if only to see how the Chippewa manage their own resources. Record-breaking prize musky, for example, have been caught on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation. For more information, contact local chambers of commerce, tribal centers, and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

What's There to Like About Treaty Rights?

Northern Wisconsin residents, no matter what we feel about the treaty issue, have similar concerns. We are concerned about the condition of our natural resources. We are concerned about the lack of opportunities for employment and small businesses.

The difference is that we treaty supporters think that Indian people *aren't the problem*. In fact, we think that their treaties may be one part of the *solution*. If Indian people can successfully create an economy that preserves their community, and protects natural resources, it might

provide an example to us non-Indian neighbors, who are finding *our* welfare lines increasing, *our* kids leaving for work in the city, and *our* environment degraded by pollution.

The precious land of Northern Wisconsin can be preserved for all of those who live on it, Indian and non-Indian, but only if the rights of all who live on the land are upheld, and they are not divided-and-conquered by the real "outsiders": multinational corporations. If the Chippewa treaties are weakened, non-Indians will have been robbed of a legal tool to protect off-reservation waterways. There would be no more spearfishing, and no more protests against it, simply because there would be no edible fish left to argue about.

Treaty rights represent something we can be proud of in our country. As President Bush said in his inaugural address, "*When America says something, America means it, whether a treaty, or an agreement, or a vow made on marble steps. Great nations, like great men, keep their word.*"

Treaty Rights resource list

Northern Wisconsin

Anishinabe Nijii
Bad River spearing association
Citizens for Treaty Rights
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Great Lakes Intertribal Council
Lake Superior Greens
News from Indian Country
Northern Shield
Northern Thunder
St. Croix spearing association
St. Croix Valley Greens
Supporters of Aboriginal Rights
WOJB-FM
Wa-Swa-Gon Treaty Association
Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance
Wisconsin Indian Resource Council

Box 2700, Hayward WI 54843
Rt. 2 Box 406, Ashland WI 54806
5013 Sundstein Road, Eagle River WI 54521
PO Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861
Box 9, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538
PO Box 1350, Bayfield WI 54814
Rt 2, Box 2900A, Hayward WI 54843
Jacoby, Rt. 1, Clayton WI 54004
715 Marshall St., Eau Claire WI 54703
Bearheart, Rt. 3, Cumberland WI 54829
Rt. 2, Box 170A, Luck WI 54843
5895 W. Hwy. 8, Apt. 1, Rhinelander WI 54501
Rt. 2, Hayward WI 54843
Box 217, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538
Rt. 1, Box 223, Ridgeland WI 54763
Univ. of Wisc., Stevens Point, WI 54481

Southern Wisconsin

Alliance for Treaty Rights
HONOR
Indigenous Law Students Association
Labor-Farm Party
Madison Treaty Rights Support Group
Milwaukee Greens
ORENDA
United Indians of Milwaukee
Upper Great Lakes Green Network
Wisconsin Greens
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council
Witness for Nonviolence & Treaty Rights

PO Box 815, Beaver Dam, WI 53916
2747 N. Stowall, Milwaukee WI 53211
U. of Wisc. Law School, Madison WI 53706
Box 1222, Madison WI 53701
731 State Street, Madison WI 53703
Box 16471, Milwaukee WI 53216
928 East Locust, Milwaukee WI 53212
1554 W. Bruce St., Milwaukee WI 53204
Box 146, Center Road Rt 1, Ripon WI 54971
Box 146, Center Road Rt 1, Ripon WI 54971
210 Avon St., #9, LaCrosse WI 54603
1759A Marshall St., Milwaukee WI 53202

Minnesota

American Indian Law Students Association
American Indian Movement Patrol
Anishinabe Akeeng
The Circle
Fond du Lac spearing association
Indigenous Women's Network
International Indian Treaty Council
Lake Superior Alliance
Ojibwe People for Justice
Witness for Nonviolence
Women Against Military Madness

U. of Minn. Law School, Minneapolis MN
2300 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55404
Box 356, White Earth MN 56591
1530 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis MN
Box 16, Sawyer MN 55780
Box 174, Lake Elmo MN 55042
HOTESS, 1209 4th St. SE, Minneapolis MN
PO Box 3574, Duluth MN 55803
Box 44, Sawyer MN 55780
3248 15th Ave., S #1 Minneapolis MN 55407
3255 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls, MN 55408

Illinois

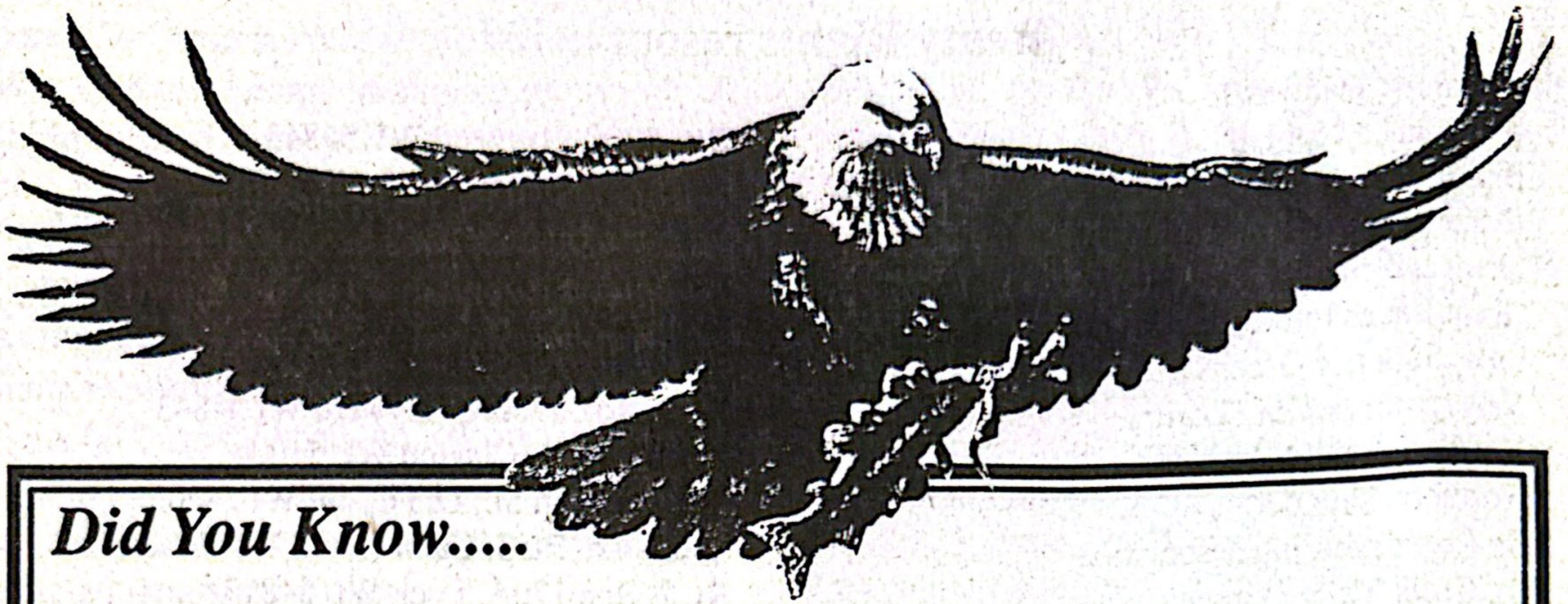
Indian Treaty Rights Committee
TEARS
Women of All Red Nations

59 E. Van Buren, Ste. 2418, Chicago IL 60605
Box 409-542, Chicago IL 60640-9542
AIC, 1630 W. Wilson, Chicago IL 60640

Iowa

Native American Interest Group

Box 3-89, Grinnell College, Grinnell IA 50112



Did You Know.....

- Less than 3 percent of all ceded territory walleye are harvested by Chippewa spearfishers (10 percent of adult walleye)?
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) knew over 12 years ago that it may have to lower bag limits, but chose to announce new limits just before 1989's spearfishing season?
- That spearfishing during spawning season kills a much smaller percentage of females than fishing the rest of the year?
- A co-management program in Washington state has used Indian treaties to protect fish habitat, boosting fish numbers by 29 to 68 percent?
- The tourism industry had a record year in 1990 in Minocqua?
- U.S., British, and Canadian companies may be blocked in court by Chippewa treaties from opening a series of mines near Wisconsin waterways and spawning beds?
- The same top cabinet official to Governor Thompson who has tried to limit treaty rights is a lobbyist-on-leave for at least two mining corporations?
- South Dakota Indians and ranchers have united to stop projects that would poison the water they once fought over?
- Treaties can make it possible for Indian reservations to become more independent from federal dollars?
- Native Americans were represented among Gulf troops in a proportion nearly double their population at home?
- A Chippewa treaty rights leader has said that *"I think that we have more things in common with the anti-Indian people than we have with the State of Wisconsin."*