

## **Indian Sign Language Council of 1930 - Transcript**

**Title Card:** General Scott opens the council with a brief statement of its object.

**Title Card:** Note ~ Translation of signs into speech, accompanying the following scenes, by General Scott.

**General Scott:** My friends, I am glad to see you all here today. I have brought you from every direction to sit in this council. I have come, myself, from very far in the East to sit with you. Young men are not learning your sign language, and soon it will disappear from this country. It is for us to make a record of it for those who come after us before it becomes lost forever.

**Title Card:** Each delegate gives his tribal sign.

**GS:** Dick Washakie, you talk to me with your hands.

**Title Card:** Dick Washakie, Tribe - Shoshone.

**DW:** I arrived last night from far away over there. My father, Washakie, was a great chief of all the Shoshone. I am a Shoshone. I am here to tell you all I know. I will not tell you anything that is not true.

**Title Card:** Short Face, Tribe - Piegan

**SF:** I am a Piegan, I feel very glad. We used to fight all these people long ago. That is all over. Now we are smoking, eating, and living together in this lodge. Long ago, we used to fight each other all over this country. White man said, "Stope fighting." We meet each other here, with white men, all brothers. We eat and smoke here together. It is very good, all of it.

**Title Card:** Bitterroot Jim, Tribe - Flathead

**BJ:** They brought me here from the Flathead country, on the other side of the Rocky Mountains. I have never seen these people here before, and cannot understand their language. But they are all my brothers, we are all the same race.

**Title Card:** Night Shoots, Tribe - Piegan

**NS:** These people all use different languages. They are all my people. We meet here for three days. I am glad.

**Title Card:** Drags Wolf, Tribe - Lower Gros Ventre (Hidatsa)

**DW:** I have been brought to this Piegan country. I shake hands with all these people. I am glad to talk with these friends. I have finished.

**Title Card:** Iron Whipe, Tribe - Sioux

**IW:** I am a Sioux. I have come from near Poplar Creek.

**Title Card:** Deer Nose, Tribe - Crow

**DN:** I am a Crow. I have come from far away to Piegan country and have arrived. I have eaten until I am full up to the throat, and I feel good. I have finished.

**Title Card:** James Eagle, Tribe - Arickaree

**JE:** I come from the Mandan country. This is Piegan country. That is all.

**Title Card:** Foolish Woman, Tribe - Mandan

**FW:** I am Mandan, one of the Earth Lodge people. I have been sent for, I have come.

**Title Card:** Strange Owl, Tribe - Cheyenne

**SO:** I am a Cheyenne. These people are all my brothers. We talk together. I love them all. That is all.

**Title Card:** Bird Rattler, Tribe - Blood

**BR:** I live with the Piegans. This is my ground. I am glad to see my far-away brothers. I look at them. We eat and smoke. That is all.

**Title Card:** Mountain Chief, Tribe - Blackfoot (Piegan)

**MC:** Oh my. Look here, look at me. This is my country. I know it. My heart is good. From far away off there, my brothers of different tribes have come. Good. We have been eating together. I am glad. That is all.

**Title Card:** Assiniboine [sic] Boy, Tribe - Upper Gros Ventre (Atséna)

**AB:** I have come to the Piegan country in the Little Rocky Mountains. I am here to talk signs. I am through.

**Title Card:** Tom White Horse, Tribe - Arapahoe

**TWH:** I have come from the Arapahoe country. White Horse is my name. I have come to talk sings with my Piegan friends.

**Title Card:** Rides Black Horse, Tribe - Assiniboine

**RBH:** I am Assiniboine, from the Little Rocky Mountains. I have come to talk signs to the white man.

**Title Card:** Little Plume, Tribe - Piegan

**LP:** This is my lodge and my country. These people have come from different directions. I am glad. That is all.

**Title Card:** Fine Young Man, Tribe - Sarcee

**FYM:** Look here, I tell you something. I am Sarcee, from Calgary. Two of us have come to the Piegan country. We have arrived. I see them all here and feel happy. We smoke and eat. I am well. That is good.

**Title Card:** Joe Big Plume, Tribe - Sarcee

**JBP:** I am the Sarcee from Calgary, Alberta. I have arrived. I see big men from other tribes. That is all.

**GS:** I come from far away in the East to meet you, and have gathered you from all directions.