



RUMBLE
The Indians Who Rocked the World

Document Johnny Cash's Letter to Radio Stations

Upon learning his song "Ballad of Ira Hayes" was not being played by radio stations, Johnny Cash paid for and published a full-page letter in Billboard Magazine.

It is an astounding experience, the power that touches everyone who walks around the gigantic statue of the W.W. II flag-raising based on that classic picture from Iwo Jima. There are 5 Marines and one Navy corpsman depicted in that bronze giant at Arlington national cemetery.

I "chilled" like that recently, then went to Columbia records and recorded "The Ballad of Ira Hayes."

D.J.'s—station managers—owners, etc., where are your guts?

(I know many of you "Top 40," "Top 50" or what-have you. So . . . a few of you can disregard this "protest" and that is what it is.)

I think that you do have "guts" . . . that you believe in something deep down.

I'm not afraid to sing the hard, bitter lines that the son of Oliver La Farge wrote.

(And pardon the dialect—mine is one of 500 or more in this land.)

Still . . . actual sales on Ballad of Ira Hayes are more than double the "Big Country Hit" sales average.

Classify me, categorize me—STIFLE me, but it won't work.

I am fighting no particular cause. If I did, it would soon make me a sluggard. For as time changes, I change.

This song is not of an unsung hero. The name Ira Hayes has been used and abused in every bar across the nation.

These lyrics, I realize, take us back to the truth—as written by his cousin, Peter La Farge (son of the late Oliver La Farge . . . author, and hard worker in the department of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., until 2 years ago.)

You're right! Teenage girls and Beatle record buyers don't want to hear this sad story of Ira Hayes—but who cries more easily, and who always go to sad movies to cry??? Teenage girls.

Some of you "Top Forty" D.J.'s went all out for this at first. Thanks anyway. Maybe the program director or station manager will reconsider.

This ad (go ahead and call it that) costs like hell. Would you, or those pulling the strings for you, go to the mike with a new approach? That is, listen again to the record?

Yes, I cut records to try for "sales." Another word we could use is "success."

Regardless of the trade charts—the categorizing, classifying and restrictions of air play, this is not a country song, not as it is being sold. It is a fine reason though for the gutless to give it thumbs down.

"Ballad of Ira Hayes" is strong medicine. So is Rochester—Harlem—Birmingham and VietNam.

In closing—at the Newport Folk Festival this month I visited with many, many "folk" singers—Peter, Paul & Mary, Theodore Bikel, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan (to drop a few names) and Pete Seeger.

I was given 20 minutes on their Saturday nite show (thanks to Mr. John Hammond, pioneer for Columbia by way of A/R).

The Ballad of Ira Hayes stole my part of the show. And we all know that the audience (of near 20,000) were not "country" or hillbillies. They were an intelligent cross-section of American youth—and middle age.

I've blown my horn now, just this once, then no more. Since I've said these things now, I find myself not caring if the record is programmed or not. I won't ask you to cram it down their throats.

But as an American who is almost a half-breed Cherokee-Mohawk (and who knows what else?)—I had to fight back when I realized that so many stations are afraid of "Ira Hayes."

Just one question: WHY???

NOBODY BUT NOBODY MORE ORIGINAL THAN JOHNNY CASH





Transcription of COINTELPRO Document

COINTELPRO was a classified operation targeting a variety of protest groups in the 1960s and 1970s. The goal was to surveil, infiltrate, and disrupt groups deemed "subversive" to the Federal Government. In 1975, a Senate investigation led to the declassification of the COINTELPRO program.

The government's right to continue full investigation of AIM and certain affiliated organizations may create relevant danger to a few citizen's privacy and free expression, but this danger must be weighed against society's right to protect itself against current domestic threats.

The Supreme Court has observed that "unless the government safeguards its own capacity to function and to preserve the security of its people, society itself could become so disorderly that all rights and liberties would be endangered." United States v. United States District Court, 407 U. S. 297, 312 (1972).

2. Scope of Investigation

Investigative Techniques

The key to the successful investigation of AIM is substantial, live, quality informant coverage of its leaders and activities. In the past, this technique proved to be highly effective. [REDACTED] As a result of certain disclosures regarding informants, AIM leaders have dispersed, have become extremely security conscious and literally suspect everyone. This paranoia works both for and against the movement and recent events support this observation. [REDACTED]

When necessary, coverage is supplemented by certain techniques which would be sanctioned in preliminary and limited investigations.

Physical surveillance is another useful technique and should be utilized when deemed appropriate.

No mail covers or electronic surveillance have been used to investigate AIM and none is anticipated at this time. [REDACTED] //



The Murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder

Jury in Nebraska Convicts 2 Brothers In Death of Indian

ALLIANCE, Neb., May 26 (AP)—A District Court jury convicted two Gordon, Neb., brothers of manslaughter and false imprisonment tonight in the death of Raymond Yellow Thunder.

Mr. Yellow Thunder's death had set off massive demonstrations by Indians who contended that the authorities had ignored the case. Judge Robert R. Moran continued bonds on Leslie and Melvin Hare and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

About 100 Indians had gathered before the verdict was delivered, drumming tom-toms and chanting. After the verdict was read, the defendants quickly left the courtroom.

The jury of five men and seven women heard two and one-half days of testimony in the case.

In final testimony today, Melvin Hare took the stand and admitted that Mr. Yellow Thunder, 51 years old, had been hauled about in the trunk of a car on Feb. 12. He also admitted that Mr. Yellow Thunder was stripped of his trousers and shoved onto the dance floor of an American Legion Hall.

But Hare said he and the other defendants had not meant to harm the Oglala Sioux.

He said they had been drinking and had taken Mr. Yellow Thunder to the Legion Hall in hopes of getting more competent aid for him.

After Mr. Yellow Thunder's death, Indians argued that he had been tortured and mutilated and hundreds of Indians descended on the town of Gordon, which is not far from the Pine Ridge, S. D., Indian reservation.

Robert Bayliss of Gordon, the owner of the car in which Mr. Yellow Thunder had been held captive, has also been charged with manslaughter and false imprisonment.

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