

singing! The voice--the beauty of the voice--women, men, tenor, baritone, bass--all that! It's beautiful! Kind of express that. I've always tell them, I said, "Of all the detrimental effects that this civilization has brought to us Indians, God has saved two things for us. Our religions--this peyote religion--He protected that for us. And our beautiful Indian languages-- God has preserved them for us. So we come together and express them in their purity. But one thing," I always tell them, "Even though the white man came across and took everything we had--our forests, our lakes, our minerals, our animals, birds and all the beauty of this American continent--possessions--the land, the grass, and timbers--Yet we claim-- We file suits against the government for claims--on our money that the government, the white man, has taken-- What the white man brought across to us from the foreign countries--this Book--written in there about God and Christ. We can never pay the white man back for what we learn from the Bible. Materially, the white man had taken a lot away from us. But spiritually we can't never pay that white man back what he brought us, that we didn't know nothing about when we was unwritten people you know." I always tell them that.

THE BIBLE AND PEYOTE

(Well, do they ever use the Bible or read from the Bible at a peyote meeting?)
Oh yeah. I've seen fellows--mostly Catholics from the North--northern Arapahoes--they bring Bibles in there and read them. We listen to them and they explain the scriptures. Yes, what's in our hearts, it's unwritten ceremony. No written music--no written verses to memorize-- that's the way the mind runs. But we accept what, like the Episcopalians from the north, and Catholics, some of them come in with a Bible.

(Would they ever read this out loud?)

Yeah. They read this right out loud--during the meeting. Some Omaha Indians--