

Film On Indians Pleases Chief

By WALLY DENNISON
Free Press Staff Writer

Tuesday night's premiere of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood's centennial documentary film, *Wahbung*, received a rave review from the person who could be considered its toughest and most exacting critic — Chief Dave Courchene, the brotherhood's president.

"I think it came across very well, and it was a tremendous job with the financial resources available," he said in an interview after the showing of the 30-minute, color film in the Winnipeg Art Gallery theatre. About 250 people viewed it.

Wahbung, meaning "our tomorrows" and produced by

Film Factory Productions of Winnipeg, highlighted the major events of the Manitoba Indians' 1971 centennial year and focused particularly on ceremonies Aug. 3 at Lower Fort Garry, site of the signing of two treaties exactly 100 years earlier.

Bill McCaughey, executive producer of Film Factory Productions, said in an interview that the film cost \$20,000. All proceeds from the sale of the film to television and other organizations will go to the Indian brotherhood so that it may recover some of the production costs, he said.

"I'm satisfied that we accomplished what we set out to do — that is, capture the spirit

of the events throughout the year," Chief Courchene said.

"The message of our people's lack of participation came across. And the very strong feelings that we are a nation also came across — a nation that will enlarge as we develop all across North America.

"This is a world phenomenon, and we are part of the world.

"The only criticism I would have is that it was too short to give the whole story."

The pride, dignity and determination of the Indian people are emphasized in Chief Courchene's remarks in the film's first scene — of the Indian brotherhood president taking a walk.

"As far as we know this was the first extensive filming on an Indian organization," said Mr. McCaughey. "The brotherhood gave us wonderful co-operation, and we had their complete trust."

Of the 15,000 feet of film shot, about 1,200 were selected, said John Sparks, director of photography.

One laugh-provoking scene shows Steve Anderson, an Indian brotherhood vice-president, placing a headdress backwards on a comrade.

Tom Jackson sings his centennial year song, *White Man Listen*.

Other music was arranged by

Ray St. Germaine and Kas Siwak and sung by Mr. St. Germaine.

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