

SATANKA

I liked to play, I liked to fight..I even enjoy my enemies. So when I rode up on Custer, I extended my hand...

(CUSTER does not shake his hand.)

Custer did not shake it, ole Satanka was not shook, you see, I have been around Kansas forts, many a while, and know the prejudices of white men. I called up my interpreter, Walking Bird, but Custer still acted like he couldn't understand what Satanka was telling. Finally, Walking Bird stroked Custer arm like a horse saying, "Heap big nice sonabitch, heap sonabitch."

(Black out SATANKA, CUSTER. Lights up WARD.)

WARD

Don't tell ya Mama, I used that word round ya, but that's what was said. Hates to say it, but the govenment had what you call a extermination policy against the Indians, like the Hitler did the Jews over in Europe. I feels bad about our part in that. White folks hated the Indians worst than they did us in a lot a ways.

(Photos of Native Americans families on screen.)

CUSTER

Topeka Weekly Reader...the Homesteaders have little sympathy for these Indians...As far as we are concerned they are a set of miserable, dirty, lousy, blanketed, thieving, lying, sneaking, murdering, faithless gut eating skunks as the Lord ever permitted to infect the earth, and their immediate and final extermination all men, except Indian agents and traders should pray for.

(SATANKA enters.)

SATANKA

I have heard that you intend to settle us on a reservation near the mountains. I don't want to settle. I love to roam over the prairies. There I feel free and happy, but when we settle down we grow pale and die. I have laid aside my lance, bow, and shield, and yet I feel safe in your presence. I have told you the truth. I have no little lies hid about me, but I don't know how it is with these commissioners. Are they as clear as I am? A long time ago this land belonged to our fathers; but when I go up the river I see camps of soldiers on the banks. These soldiers cut down the timber; they kill my buffalos; and when I see that, my heart feels like bursting; I feel sorry...Has the white man become a child that he should recklessly kill and not eat? When the red men slay game, they do so that they may live and not starve.