

Continuance of Chemawa Says Affiliated Northwest Tribes

During a meeting held at Chemawa on February 11, 12, 13, 1976, the Affiliated Northwest Tribes unanimously agreed that Chemawa Indian School is essential for an Alternative Educational Resource for the 42 northwest reservations and urban areas. At this meeting there was a "Task Force on Chemawa" assigned by the President of Affiliated Tribes. During the Task Force Meeting of March 4, 5, 1976, at Portland, Oregon, it was decided that work would be started on keeping Chemawa operating and attempting to get construction funding for the new school and health facility.

On April 4, 1976, a Delegation from the Northwest made a trip to Washington, D.C. where they had appointments to appear before the House and Senate Appropriations Sub Committee on April 8, and the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee on April 12.

People that gave testimony were Virginia Brown, Chairman of the Chemawa School Board; Calvin J. Peters, President of Affiliated Northwest Tribes; Mike Gomez, Chemawa Student Body President; Lucy Covington, Colville Confederated Tribes; Levi George, Yakima Indian Nation; and Margaret P. Thompson, Executive Secretary for Chemawa School Board. Contact was made with all the Congressional Staff Members from the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska plus all the Members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee Members.

a Northwest Tribes delegation also requested Emergency Interim Funding for continuance of Chemawa School after May 28, 1976, in the amount of \$950,000.00 for three years leasing of modular units for temporary housing, dining room, class rooms, restrooms, and recreation facilities for students. Thus far the school has received no final decision on funding for the requested temporary housing.

Packets of material was prepared for the northwest delegates for distribution at Washington, D.C. and people responsible for assisting in this job were Rex Bray, Pat Earnstrom, Margo Thompson, Steve LaBuff, John Heinz, Mike Gomez, Ron Berg, Annie Schejwda. Lee Jackson who is responsible for the brochure of Chemawa. Mr. Jackson did an exceptional job with this brochure which caused many comments on the condition of the school by congressional staff members.

The 120 students here at Chemawa who wrote letters to their Congressional Staff Members are to be complimented, this had a very definite impact on the minds of Congressmen and Senators at Washington, D.C. With all this effort by the Students, Tribal Council Leaders, and Staff, we hope that some justification for construction funding can be the REWARD. The Appropriations Committees will start "Mark-Up" on May 5, 1976, with hopes that we may hear something positive approximately the end of May or the first part of June.

The students wish to express special "thank you" to the Northwest Tribal Leaders for their positive and united effort on keeping our school open for us students who like attending Chemawa because public schools do not meet our needs as Indian people. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated

By Vicki Penn

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Driver Education Course Offered

The Highway Safety Office for the Colville Indian Reservation is now taking applications for Driver Education. The cost will be about \$20.00 for a course that will last from four to six weeks. Classes will be organized so that the people with summer jobs can take the classes.

The students who are interested in this program should immediately contact Doodles Stewart, Highway Safety Officer, Colville Confederated Tribes, Post Office Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155

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