TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REQUESTS TRESPASS, INHERITANCE LAWS; ELECTION INFORMATION DISCUSSED

Executive Committee Urges State Legislation
On March 7, 1957, members of the Klamath Tribal Executive Committee met with State Legislators from Klamath County to request enactment of state laws on matters important to the Klamath Tribe.

Senator Boivin and Representative Carl Yancey, both of Klamath Falls, will sponsor the proposed laws. It will be necessary to have permission from the Rules Committee before the bills can be introduced, since 35 legislative days have elapsed.

Would Extend Trespass Laws
Two of the four prepared bills dealt with trespass. One would amend the game code to define "enclosed land" to include land within the boundaries of any Indian Reservation. The other would make a similar definition apply to the criminal trespass law. In the past it has been impossible to prosecute in state courts persons who hunted and trespassed on tribal land because the reservation is not fenced or otherwise enclosed. Under existing state laws it is not a crime to hunt or trespass upon land unless the land is under cultivated, or enclosed by some barrier which will turn cattle.

If the state laws of trespass are changed as recommended by the Executive Committee, it will no longer be necessary to rely on federal law to discourage trespass on the Reservation. However, it will still be necessary for the tribe to hire watchmen to apprehend and bring complaints against trespassers and illegal hunters.

Inheritance Laws
The remaining two bills would make it easier for heirs of Indian estates to acquire a part of the property of the estates.

One proposed bill would require the heirs to put up a bond equal to the value of property to be distributed to the heir prior to the formal closing of the estate. Under present law, it is necessary to put up a double bond before receiving any of the property except upon closing of the estate. (According to certain attorneys, it is impossible to close estates of Klamath Indians until the interest in tribal property is received. The solicitor disagrees with this position, however, and declares in a recent opinion that it is unnecessary to keep the estates open. Further information regarding this question will be provided in the next issue of the Tribune.)

Another estate law change suggested by the Executive Committee would exempt from inheritance taxes property of deceased tribal members which is held in trust by the federal government.

Executive Committee members Dibton Cook, Ted Crume, Boyd Jackson, and J.L. Kirk, and tribal

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