

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FEDERAL PURCHASE

Q. What has happened to the bill to have the Federal Government buy the Klamath Reservation?

A. The bill, S. 2047, was introduced in the Senate May 9, 1957 by Senator Neuberger of Oregon. It was sent to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, of which the Senator is a member. Hearings will be held on the bill, probably after Congress leaves Washington D. C. next month. It is expected that the hearings will be conducted by the sub-committee on Indian Affairs, of which Senator Neuberger is chairman. Some of the hearings will be held in Klamath County.

Q. What is the purpose of the hearings which will be held on the federal purchase bill?

A. Hearings will be held so that members of Congress can find out the facts about the Klamath Reservation and about the progress of P.L. 587. Congressmen will then decide whether or not the federal government should purchase the property of the Klamath Tribe.

Q. If the Congress decides that the federal government should purchase the Reservation, how much would the government pay?

A. According to the bill, S. 2047, the government would pay the "fair market value" for the assets of the tribe. Just what this figure would be in dollars and cents would be decided by an appraisal board.

Q. Who would make up the board of appraisers?

A. Three men would be selected as the board of appraisers. One would be chosen by the Secretary of the Interior, one by the Secretary of Agriculture, and one would be chosen by secret ballot vote of the adult members of the Klamath Tribe.

Q. If the government should decide to buy the Reservation, would there be any plan for those who wished to remain in the tribe?

A. No. If S. 2047 is passed, each member of the tribe would be paid his share of the money that is put up by the government to pay for the tribal property, and there would then no longer be a tribe.

Everyone would thus be treated alike, and there would be no election to withdraw from or stay in a tribe. Upon payment of the purchase price by the government, Klamaths would cease to be Indians in so far as government control over their property is concerned.

ELECTION

Q. At the present time I do not have enough information as to the plan of management for those who might wish to remain in the tribe for me to make a decision between withdrawing from and staying in the tribe. When the election ballots are mailed out by the Management Specialists will it be possible for me to return the ballot marked "unable to make a decision"?

A. No. As the law is interpreted those who do not make a decision to withdraw are automatically regarded as choosing to remain in the tribe, under the Management Plan.

APPRAISAL, MGT. PLAN NOT YET COMPLETED

It is impossible to predict when the results of the appraisal of tribal property now being carried out under the supervision of the Management Specialists will be made known.

The Secretary of the Interior has requested Western Timber Services of Arcata, California, which did the appraisal, to make certain overall revisions in it.

The appraisal was first sent to the Secretary in May, and along with it the Specialists sent a preliminary draft of a management plan for those tribal members who may wish to remain in a tribal group rather than take their share of tribal assets in cash.

The management plan will be returned to the Specialists by the Secretary with his suggestions for changes sometime before the appraisal is approved. When the plan is returned, the Specialists will consult with the tribe regarding the plan, and will receive suggestions for changes in the plan from the Klamath Executive Committee and from members of the tribe.

At the July 11 meeting of the Executive Committee the plan was the main topic of discussion. Management Specialist T. B. Watters stated at that meeting that he would call the Secretary of the Interior in an effort to speed up the return of the plan so that there would be plenty of time for the tribe to go over the plan before it was returned to the Secretary for final approval. The Specialists' contract calls for the plan to be approved by the Secretary at the same time the appraisal is approved.

DISCUSSION GROUP

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of the tribe who saw that the men quit quarreling and got down to business.

Mr. Keeler was asked how the guardianships of the property of his people were handled, and he stated that quite frankly in many cases the Cherokees had been robbed by the guardians and attorneys who were supposed to be protecting their property. Mr. Keeler stated, however, that he felt the lesson of Oklahoma had been learned well, and that in the case of the Klamath Termination, the guardianships would be supervised much more closely than were those of the Cherokees. The Cherokee guardianships were supervised, if at all, by judges who were not even lawyers and who had no experience in such matters. In Oregon, guardianships must be passed on by the Circuit Courts of the counties where the minor or incompetent lives.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the schools, and how well the Klamath children are doing with their schooling. It was pointed out by a number of Klamaths that the Indian child has trouble feeling that he is accepted in the schools, but that if he does stick with school he is much better able to compete in the world than if he had gone to an Indian school.

GROUP MEETS WITH SPECIALISTS

Another meeting of the Discussion Group was held July 11, also at the Williamson River Church, with Management Specialists T. B. Watters and Eugene Favell as guests. Again a number of topics were covered. Much of the evening was given over to an exchange of views as to whether or not an extension of time is necessary in which to carry out PL 587.

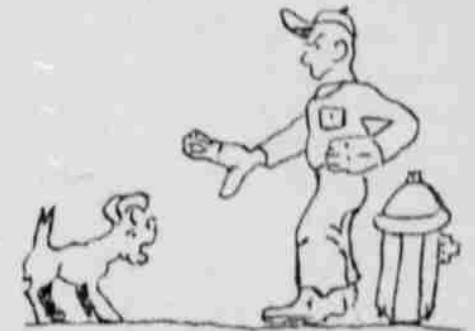
The Specialists pointed out that it was their opinion that if they were to sell enough tribal timber to carry out PL 587 as it now stands, the tribe would receive much less for the timber than it is actually worth. Some members of the tribe stated that a good price could be received for the timber because a number of large companies not now located in the Klamath Basin would bid on the timber, and that to extend the law would be to force the tribe to pay for sustained yield for the benefit of the lumber operators now located in the area.

Again the question of the need for guardianships for Klamath children came up, and there was

COUNTY GOVERNMENT: THE DOG COMMISSION

The county dog commission is a three man board appointed by the county court for an indefinite term. The chief functions of this commission are to see that there is county wide dog control, and to authorize payment to fowl and livestock owners whose property has been destroyed by stray dogs.

Dog license fees are used to make such payments and they are



authorized only after the extent of damages has been determined by a member of the dog commission or the county pound master.

A license is required for all dogs in this county. The yearly fee: \$3.00 for a female and \$2.00 for a male or spayed female. Dog license fees become due on the first day of January and the dog owner has until the first of March to pay this fee. A penalty of \$1.00 is added if the license fee is not paid by March 1.

Unlicensed dogs that are picked up by the pound master are taken to the county dog pound. In order to get the animal back the owner must pay the license fee and penalty plus the cost of the animal's board.

a discussion of the qualifications of a guardian. It was pointed out that under Oregon Law a parent is under legal duty to support his or her children. This means that as long as the parent is able to look after the children, none of the child's money will be spent to support the child.

The Specialists were questioned about the appraisal of tribal property, but were unable to reveal anything about it except that it would be made known to the tribe as soon as the Secretary of the Interior approves it, as revised. It is impossible to tell when this approval will be given, as the Secretary has requested an overall revision of the appraisal.

Another item of concern to the members present was that of the management plan for those who may wish to stay in a tribal group. The Specialists did not reveal any of the details of the plan, but stated that the plan would be out in plenty of time for it to be explained to all tribal members.