

ELECTION DISCUSSIONS (cont.)

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willing to pay.

Many questions were raised from the floor following Wilcox's discussion of the election itself. He emphasized that the ballots must be notarized, and that persons failing to complete and return these ballots by the deadline date will automatically have their shares placed under the plan of management. He indicated, however, that if the present law is amended, the Specialists will recommend that tribal members be given an opportunity to change their decisions in a second election.

Beatty Meeting Held

On March 18 these same questions were discussed by Wilcox before a gathering of about seventy five tribal members at the Beatty Community Hall. Tom Watters, management specialist, was also present and discussed these matters informally after the meeting with individual tribal members. This meeting was continued at the Methodist Church in Beatty on March 25, with Wilcox again being present to discuss the election and related matters with approximately fifty tribal members. He repeated his emphasis that under the terms of the present law, with volume sales being required in a relatively short period of time, the price received for timber sold will be somewhat less than the full-appraised value. He pointed out that how much less the selling price will be can only be estimated at this time.

Lumber Market Discussed

Mr. Wilcox again used graphs in a discussion of overall lumber market trends since 1954 and pointed out that based on what the market has done in the past it is possible to make predictions as to the future trends. He stated that this year the lumber market is still declining and probably will continue to do so until mid-year, at which time it may start back up. He observed, however, that the general recession may push the market down further but found a bright spot in the picture in a recent increase in housing starts. In all events, he emphasized, sales of tribal timber under the termination law are likely to start before there is any noticeable market recovery.

"While some may be dubious about the election," he stated, "it should be realized that few people have the opportunity to make such an election. With either choice you have good opportuni-

ties if you use your funds wisely. If you remain, you retain the value of possession, continue an interest in property which may increase in value."

Following the discussion, Boyd Jackson, Wade Crawford, and J. L. Kirk, all members of the Executive Committee, made statements. Mr. Jackson raised certain objections to the selling of the tribal property at anything less than the full-appraised value. Mr. Crawford pointed out that those remaining in the management plan will have very little to say about the running thereof. While it was brought out that remaining members will have a preferential right to meet the high bid on any grazing land in the management area which is put up for sale, Mr. Crawford observed that remaining members will have no voice in saying what land will be sold. He questioned the value of the right of remaining members to meet the high bid on such lands, pointing out that anyone, withdrawing members, remaining members, or otherwise, can acquire such property by **making** the high bid on it.....

Mr. Crawford asserted that it was unfair to set a realization value on the tribal property of 75 per cent of the full-appraised value and sell it off for that.

"If restrictions are placed on the property," he stated, "no lumber company will pay the full value."

Mr. Crawford also raised objections to the method planned for sale of tribal assets to pay off withdrawing members, arguing that the property should be advertised as a whole and sold off at one time rather than over a period of time approximating two years. He agreed that the property should be sold in relatively small economic units rather than in one or more large units but contended that these smaller units should all be disposed of at one advertised sale.

Following Mr. Crawford's statement, J. L. Kirk read to the group a letter from Senator Neuberger appearing in the Herald and News of March 25. Mr. Kirk mentioned briefly that the present law would allow unrestricted sale while the administration bill would set up some restrictions, and closed by urging tribal members to weight heavily all the facts before making their election.

POSITION TAKEN BY CRAWFORD AT WASHINGTON HEARINGS SET FORTH

The February issue of the Tribune reported at length on the testimony of four tribal delegates to the recent Washington hearings. The information given in that issue was taken largely from a report to the Klamath Tribe dated Feb. 13, 1958, from Mr. Glen Wilkenson, tribal attorney. A report of the testimony made by Wade and Ida Crawford, who were also present at the hearings as tribal delegates, was included in Wilkenson's report but was not incorporated into the February issue of the Tribune since Mr. and Mrs. Crawford had not signed the report. Since it was known that their views as expressed at the hearings were different from those of the other tribal delegates and since no report had been received from them it was felt necessary to withhold the report of their testimony until they had had an opportunity to make additional comments. That portion of the Feb. 13 report from Mr. Wilkenson which

Acting Secretary Clarifies Trusts

In reply to certain questions concerning trust agreements for minor members of the Tribe, raised by Klamath delegates to the recent Washington, D.C., hearings, acting Secretary of the Interior, Hatfield Chilson stated in a telegram to the Executive Committee dated Feb. 28, 1958, that it had been concluded that "it is impracticable to provide for each Klamath parent to negotiate a trust arrangement for his or her minor children . . ." The acting Secretary further stated that "it is undesirable to have the trust agreement terminate when the minor reaches majority."

Mr. Chilson pointed out, however, that assistant area director Don Foster **had been instructed to give the parents the privilege of selecting the trust banks for their minor children if the parents have been designated to make the election for the minor.** He further stated that Mr. Foster had been directed "to include in the trust form a provision directing the trust banks to consult with parents with respect to plans for the disbursement of the minor's trust property."

Any parent wishing to select a particular trust bank is urged to notify the Klamath Agency immediately since the Agency is already in the process of preparing trust agreements.

relates to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford's testimony was gone over carefully with them and is given below with their additional comments appearing in brackets.

"The first part of the morning of February 7 was devoted to questioning, mostly on technical points, of the tribal attorney. The remainder of the hearing was devoted to testimony by Mr. and Mrs. Wade Crawford.

"Mr. Crawford opened by saying that he had been fighting for individual rights of Indians for thirty years, that he was impatient with the argument that violation of the Treaty was involved, insisting that the Treaty ran for only twenty years and had been arbitrarily extended by the President since that time. He called attention to the fact that the final roll of the Tribe had been published in the Federal Register and that, under Section 4 of P. L. 587, rights had now become vested. He quoted prior testimony of an assistant Solicitor to this effect, but Senator Neuberger interjected to say that he had opinions which were contrary to that. Mr. or Mrs. Wade Crawford made the following additional points:

"1. Introduced an exhibit relating to appointment of administrators and employment of attorneys for estates involving Klamaths.

"2. Indian claims against the United States should no longer be authorized. (Mr. Crawford wished to emphasize that his point was that the executive committee cannot obligate \$350,000 of tribal funds for retention of attorneys to handle these claims at this time since the Klamath Indians now have a vested interest in tribal property.)

"3. A petition forwarded by members of the Tribe showed that the 240 signatories did not want any amendments to P.L. 587. (According to Mr. Crawford, when he introduced the petition he stated that it showed that the petitioners were opposed to bond proposals and to any additional delays.)

"4. Four members of the Executive Committee who had preceded him in testifying did not represent the tribal viewpoint.

"5. He had been active in the adoption of the Section 5 provisions of P. L. 587.

"6. The General Council meeting of July 28, 1954, had accepted P. L. 587.

"7. The timber sales now being made are illegal and force the Indians to subsidize sustained yield."