

Budget Hearing Held; Fire Protection Costs, Equipment Availability Pondered

The annual budget hearing on fire protection was held at Klamath Agency on April 28. Such hearings are held to afford landowners an opportunity to inspect the proposed budget of the fire protection district and ask questions concerning it and also to discuss protection methods and other questions involved with the vital job of fire protection. The budget is the basis for which the fire patrol assessment will be assessed in November and will finance the protection job from July 1, 1960, to July 1, 1961.

Following introduction of state personnel, a general explanation of fire protection procedures to be followed and a description of fire protection equipment on hand was made by Les Cummings, staff forester with the State. A general discussion between the landowners and the State and BIA officials ensued. Landowners raised questions concerning the fire protection equipment, its source, maintenance, length of availability, disposal. It was pointed out that most of this equipment was tribally-owned equipment, used in past seasons by the BIA and now on loan to the State, with the State having the responsibility for its maintenance. Landowners questioned whether there was not a danger that this equipment would be reclaimed by the BIA during the fire season for possible sale under the termination program, leaving the district with inadequate equipment. Vic Sisson of the BIA, serving in a liaison capacity this season between BIA and State, assured that the BIA intended to leave the equipment at the disposal of the district until the fire season was over. State officials expressed their intent to bring in State equipment as it becomes available so that tribally-owned equipment could be released for sale. It was brought out that the State would be limited in replacement of caterpillars and a need was seen by the landowners for a formal agreement with the BIA to assure that such tribal equipment would remain available through the fire season.

Also discussed at length were comparative fire protection costs between the State protective district and Klamath Fire Protective Ass'n, a private, non-profit corp. responsible for protection of much timberland in Klamath County. It being observed that KFPFA assesses some 15c per acre for fire protection on lands it services whereas the State will charge about 9c per acre on the Klamath Protective District,

landowners inquired as to the reason for such a difference. Discussion revealed that part of the difference was attributable to the fact that KFPFA finances its own equipment while much of the State's equipment is on loan from the BIA. Extent to which local district costs are borne on a statewide basis was also analyzed. It was noted that facilities furnished by the State amount to about 26% of the cost and also that the district warden is paid out of the State general fund. State officials emphasized, however, that each protective district is set up so that its accounts are wholly independent from other districts.

Other matters discussed included fire protection responsibilities for the Antelope Desert sustained yield unit, in the process of changing ownership, the need for close cooperation between all protective agencies, the importance of getting out fire protection information to landowners, and fire fighting procedures.

State forestry officials present were Dwight Phipps, State Forester; Jim Walker, Assistant State Forester in Protection; Miles Compton, Area Supervisor, Eastern Oregon; Les Cummings, Staff Forester, Klamath Agency; Bob Madsen, District Warden, Klamath Agency; Hank Davies, Assistant District Warden. Vic Sisson represented the BIA. Landowners present were Weyerhaeuser Co., represented by Vince Bousquet and Royce Cornelius, and Klamath Lumber and Box, represented by R. Cantrall. Present on behalf of KFPFA was George Wardell, District Warden.

RDG EFFORTS SUPPORTED

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retaries of Agriculture and the Interior. His letter to Mrs. Maurine Neuberger brought an immediate and favorable response from the late Senator's wife, who strongly endorsed the need for amendatory legislation.

Glen Wilkenson, tribal claims attorney, transmitted the Discussion's Group's concern to government officials. As a result, a letter addressed to Marie Norris and Flava Yates by Congressman Ullman indicated that Ullman has been "concerned with this termination program ever since my election to Congress and I am continuing to follow its implementation closely." The Congressman went on to state that he has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to

Exec-Committee Passes Resolutions Seeking Prompt Termination Payment

Resolutions to have the Federal Government take title to unsold sustained yield units and make immediate pro-rata distributions to withdrawing members were passed by the Tribal Ex. Comm. on April 8, 1960.

Concerned over the delay in the sale of the sustained yield units to pay the withdrawing members, the Committee passed two alternative resolutions in an effort to have the termination law amended.

The Secretary of the Interior announced earlier that the three sustained yield units for which no bids were received on April 1, 1960 would not be readvertized. The Secretary also announced

All Items Sold At April Personalty Sale

All 130 items of personal property put up for sale at Klamath Agency on April 28 were sold. Tribal members bid in all items for a total price of \$8,978.25. Cash sales totaled \$64.00 with the balance being purchased through pledge of pro rata shares.

Another personal property sale is tentatively scheduled for May 18, at the tribal council house at Klamath Agency starting at 10 A. M.

Also slated for May is a sale of tribal realty. Six parcels of real property, two of which involve partial, undivided interests, will be put up for sale at the tribal land sales office, Klamath Falls, at 10 A. M., May 11. Three of the parcels are fringe units and three are allotments or interests in allotments which have escheated to the Tribe.

that the units which were not successfully sold to private purchasers on August 1, 1960 would not be readvertized either. Under the present terms of the law, the Federal government is not required to take title to the unsold units until after April 1, 1961. One of the Resolutions which was passed by the committee requested the Secretary of the Interior to "Institute legislation to provide for an immediate payment of the full ninety million dollars guaranteed under the Klamath Termination Act, said sum to be paid to the individual members of the Klamath tribe according to their pro-rata share, and that such legislation further provide for interest on the amount guaranteed the members at six per cent (6%) per annum from the 1st day of April, 1960".

The committee also passed an alternative resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior to "Institute legislation to provide for an immediate partial payment in the amount of Fourteen Million Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and no 100 dollars (\$14,213,319.00) which is the realization value for the Chiloquin Sustained Yield Unit, (\$4,970,230), Black Hills Sustained Yield Unit (\$5,576,395.00) and Yainax Sustained Yield Units (\$3,666,694.00) for which no bids were received on April 1, 1960 for these units and because the Secretary of the Interior has announced there will be no re-advertisement, and there is no logical reason why they should not be purchased by the U. S. Forest Service prior to the date set forth in the Act, (and which realization values were guaranteed under the Klamath Termination Act) said sum to be paid to the individual members of the Klamath Tribe according to their pro rata share."

It was decided that these resolutions would be submitted simultaneously, giving the Federal government the opportunity of instituting action on either one.

Both resolutions contained the further provision that the passage of the resolutions "does not waive any rights" of the committee "to protest the appraisal and the realization values as now set out in the act".

The committee meeting was attended by 7 committee members and the resolutions unanimously adopted. C. Shelland, acting officer in charge, and Attorney Haley from Portland were present, as well as Klamath Education staff members.

provide him "with a full report regarding the problems you raised in your letters to Mr. Skarra and to Mr. Wilkenson." "When I have received that report," Ullman concluded, "I will contact you further concerning this matter."

Among other non-termination activities of the Discussion group were tentative plans for participating in the dedication of the new Chiloquin Post Office, undertaking the responsibility of sponsoring a Camp Fire Girls Unit in Chiloquin, and inviting Frank Tucker, manager of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce to a luncheon meeting on April 25 for the presentation of a check in the amount of \$275.00 for the community hospital fund.