

## TRIBAL, BIA AND STATE OFFICIALS GIVE FARE WELL MESSAGES TO THE KLAMATH PEOPLE

### A LETTER BY S. E. KIRK

Dear Fellow Klamath Indians,

As the past chairman of the Klamath Gen. Council for many years I saw many things that disheartened me, and termination was one of them. As you know, I had been opposed to termination all along but within our tribe there was a serious difference of opinion, and many tribal members were in favor of it. Public Law 587 was the result. It is here now, the Secretary of the Interior has signed the proclamation, and we are told that the Federal Government has severed all its ties with us as Klamath Indians.

As bitter as some of us may be over what has happened through the years under federal supervision, we cannot turn back the clock and live too much in the past. Many of you are young, and many of you have children. It is to you, then, that I direct my thoughts.

We have no power over what has been but we have it in our power to shape our future and the future of our children. Out of the discouragement, the bitterness of the past, and out of Termination, perhaps something good can be created. It is important that you and I work harder than ever so that we can continue to lift up our heads with pride, and if they were living today, our ancestors too, could be proud of us.

One of the keys to unlocking the doors of the future is education. In an age of rockets to the moon, we must not keep our children in the dark ages. We must encourage them to take full advantage of education and we must do our part to help the schools and teachers so that our children will become the scientists, the doctors, the teachers of tomorrow and will be good citizens.

It has been a privilege working as the chairman of the General Council and I want to thank you for the help you have given me over the years.

Sincerely yours,

Seldon E. Kirk, Past Chairman  
Klamath General Council  
Klamath Agency, Oregon

### A Letter By Perry Skarra For The Bureau Of Indian Affairs

To the Members of the Tribe

It is with some feeling of regret and nostalgia that we in the Portland Area Office acknowledge this to be the last issue of the Klamath Tribune which has served so well in keeping the Klamath Indian people and community informed. We appreciate

the opportunity to contribute to this issue, to give recognition and express our appreciation to the many, many people and organizations who have helped to meet the duties and responsibilities assigned to us under the special Klamath legislation.

With the publication in the Federal Register of the Secretary's proclamation declaring that the Federal trust relationship to the affairs of the Klamath Tribe and its members has been terminated, the era of Federal control and supervision over the Klamath Reservation has now ended.

During the seven years which have elapsed since the enactment of Public Law 587 there have been problems which at times seemed insurmountable. In finding solutions, it was not always possible for the Bureau to obtain full agreement or the support of all members of the Tribe. The views and suggestions offered by non-tribal interests were also varied and divergent. Nevertheless, we believe that an over-all review of the accomplishments must conclude that the objectives and requirements of the Act as amended have been fulfilled generally to the satisfaction of all concerned.

There have been many people, both in the Department and outside of the Federal Government, who had a great deal to do with carrying out the provisions of the Klamath program. But credit for the satisfactory conclusion of the Federal-Indian relationships must first go to the Klamath tribal members themselves, including the Executive Committee and other tribal leaders, for their advice and assistance, and above all, for their forbearance as the many specific actions required by the Law were being accomplished.

The outstanding contribution of the Oregon State Department of Education in carrying out the educational and informational requirements under Section 26 of the Act is deserving of special praise. Mr. Harvey Wright, the State's Director of Indian Education, and Mr. Hiroto Zakoji, the Klamath Special Program Director, both gave unstintingly of themselves far beyond any normal job requirements, and certainly deserve special commendation for the excellence of the services provided to the Klamath people. Especially noteworthy has been the development and improvement of relationships of the Klamath Indians and their non-Indian neighbors and the Klamath

community generally through Mr. Zakoji's guidance.

We note with special appreciation the work which Mr. Tom Watters as Chairman and the other Management Specialists performed in meeting the very complex responsibilities assigned to them. It is doubtful if the Klamath program could have been satisfactorily concluded had these men not had the courage and foresight to point out the dangers existing in the provisions of the original Act and then in helping secure improvements which Congress adopted.

The Klamath County Commissioners, enforcement and welfare officers, financial institutions, and, in fact, the community generally gave valuable assistance in making the transition as smooth as possible. There were, of course, many others, including the Bureau employees who gave unstintingly to this effort in order that the best possible job could be done.

This office and all of the employees associated with the Klamath program wish the Klamath members every success for their future. There will, of course, be many new problems but we believe that the Klamath members will accept the new challenges and responsibilities with confidence.

We congratulate the Klamath people on the milestone in their development that is represented by the Secretary's Proclamation ending the Federal Government's special relationship to their affairs.

Perry Skarra



Staff members of the Chiloquin Office, Gleta Wampler, Bill Norval and H. Zakoji look over material for the final issue of the Klamath Tribune.

### A Letter By A. H. Wright, State Director Of Indian Education

It has been a pleasure to have been the Director of Indian Education for the State of Oregon for the past fifteen years. I have also served on many committees on Indian affairs on a state and national basis which I feel has given me a broad insight into Indian problems.

The American Indian is shrouded in mystery and folklore and is compelled to carry the burden of some 5000 treaties, laws, regulations and court decisions. He is a man set apart and frequently misunderstood.

All our records and statistics would indicate that the Indian is just another person. He is just as intelligent, can be just as industrious, and has the same aspirations and desires as anyone else. Available statistics prove that when the opportunity is provided, and there is proper motivation, the Indian can compete on any basis with anyone.

All of my experience would point to the fact that every effort should be made by the Indians and all governmental agencies to improve the environment of our Indian people. Education must be the backbone of our efforts to raise the social and economic standards of our Indian citizens. You Klamath people must accept the responsibility and duties of full citizenship; Klamath County and the State of Oregon must welcome you as full fledged citizens—as you have indeed been for many years. You can move forward and you must move forward, and I know that you will.

I have enjoyed working with the Klamath people. I know that you had a trying experience in this termination program and it was only natural that tempers would flare at times. Your Executive committee had a trying ordeal in attempting to carry out its responsibilities and when you reflect upon the complexities of the termination law and the circumstances under which it had to work, I am sure the Committee did a good job.

The termination law has been carried out. You, the Klamath people have now severed all special relationships with the Federal Government. An era has passed, time marches on, and the Klamath people will march forward with the times.

Our education program is also being terminated. You have co-

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 2)