

Pigsley, was to "investigate the rumors, determine the facts, and to give Council a more complete picture of the events in question."

### What is Truth?

The Task Force met for "two and half days reviewing personnel records, travel documents, financial reports, enterprise contracts, customer lists, inventory records, employment service reports, Royce Strong's record on salmon, and interviewing staff" according to its own report.

Task Force members Jessie Davis, Phil Rilatos and John Roe refused to discuss the report or the process behind its writing. Ted Werth also refused to comment, except to say that his participation on the ad hoc Committee "was a joke."

Officially entitled "Ad Hoc Committee Responses to Rumors," the twelve-page Task Force report is unsigned and undated. But a two-page memorandum introducing the report bears the initials of Jessie Davis and the date of Nov. 22, 1989. Private sources have indicated that Tribal General Manager Phil Rilatos was the primary author of the report.

The memo attached to the report ends with the following disclaimer: "The Committee could take an additional week to look into problem areas that surfaced during the 2 1/2 days. However, we feel that we have compiled enough information, supported by interview and/or documentation for the Tribal Council and/or STEDCO Commission to make a decision if necessary and to proceed with further review of specific problem areas, if necessary."

Despite the rush, twenty separate allegations appear in the report followed by the Task Force's responses. (See page 5, "STEDCO Task Force Report").

Once done with fact-finding, the Task Force reportedly issued its findings to Tribal Council and STEDCO Commission members. In a special joint session on Dec. 9, 1989, Tribal Council and the STEDCO Commission reviewed and discussed the Task Force report in a four-hour executive session.

With Tribal Council looking over their shoulders, four STEDCO Commissioners—Delores Pigsley, John Roe, Pat Morrell, and newly appointed Dan Van Otten—voted in open session to fire both Werth and

Staggs. Staggs' dismissal was immediate. Werth was given 30 days before his discharge.

Tribal member Kenneth Hatch was the only STEDCO Commissioner to vote against the firing. Commissioners Gary Sanders, Clyde Hamstreet, and Don Barth missed the vote but later joined Hatch in resigning from the STEDCO Board in protest of the dismissals.

Although no record of Tribal Council deliberation was kept, Tribal Council members Bud Lane and Delores Pigsley as part of a public discussion held at the Springfield Candidate's Fair on Jan. 6, 1989 indicated that the Council split 6 to 3 on the decision to fire Werth and Staggs.

Lane, Pigsley, and Gladys Staggs were reported to have opposed the firing. Jessie Davis, Pat Morrell, Dolly Fisher, Jane John, Manuel Rilatos, and Frank Simmons apparently supported the decision.

### Politics, Mismanagement or Growing Pains?

"Nothing in the [Task Force] report made me alter my opinion of STEDCO," said Don Barth, President of Yaquina Bay Bank, after he resigned from the STEDCO Board. "Sure, there were problems, but show me a young business where that isn't the case."

Barth's letter of resignation asked in part that Werth be "given a vote of confidence and allowed time to resolve these current problems with help from his commission." Contacted by phone, Barth repeated his opinion. "You couldn't have gotten a better manager than Ted."

Former Commissioner Kenneth Hatch agreed with Barth. "It was unfair to him [Ted Werth] that he was not afforded the opportunity to correct management deficiencies." Hatch also believes that Tribal Council should return to the reasons behind the creation of STEDCO.

"One of the reasons for the establishment was to separate business decisions from tribal politics," Hatch said. "It seemed to work that way for quite a while, but it is not working that way now."

Delores Pigsley, former Chair of the STEDCO Board, also sees politics behind the recent firings. "My concern has always been to keep politics out of STEDCO," Pigsley said. "Unfortunately—or fortunately—  
(Continued on page 8, "Storm")