

Editorial

In Step With the Tribal Council

With my appeal and all, I've had several opportunities to attend recent Tribal Council meetings. Like most of you, I'm also an avid reader of the Tribal Council minutes in the tribal newsletter.

I offer the following as stray thoughts on some of what I've heard and read concerning Tribal Council activities of the last quarter.

Thumbs Up: After reports that Frank Simmons advised T.C. members to vote in favor of a resolution Simmons introduced giving his employer, A.C. Brown and Company, a \$5,300 bonus for doing a substandard job harvesting tribal timber, Tribal Council did not renew Simmons membership on the Timber Committee.

Thumbs Up: Because of budget restraints, TC informally decided to forgo getting paid for "travel time."

Thumbs Down: TC left in place the change of ordinance made in July, 1989—an amendment never presented to the General Council—that allows them to receive pay for driving time/riding time/flying time.

Thumbs Up: TC agreed to hear an appeal of former tribal newsletter editor fired for refusing follow an order to censor portions of the newsletter.

Thumbs Down: On the day of the scheduled hearing, TC voted "not to hear" the appeal.

Thumbs Down: T.C. spent last year's Tribal Government's carry-over money—all \$40,000—in about 20 minutes without earmarking any of the money for the Culture Program—the line item axed the most for three years running because of "lack of funds."

Thumbs Down: \$11,000 of the \$40,000 carry-over monies went to padding the TC's travel budget.

Thumbs Up: Since February General Council meeting, T.C. has gone into Executive Session only once—then to discuss Bingo off the record but with Tribal

members allowed to stay in the room.

Thumbs Up: TC initiated a plan for STEDCO to make a partial repayment of the \$400,000 loan. The plan calls for TC taking possession of the Jantzi/Fish Hatchery Property after STEDCO purchases the property for around \$262,000.

Thumbs Down: TC didn't ask for a repayment schedule for the remaining \$140,000.

Double Thumbs Up: TC for the first time ever made it a contractual requirement for STEDCO to give preference to tribal contractors on logging sales. The unanimous vote, in effect, gives tribal operators a 10% advantage in the bid process.

Did I Hear This Right?

"I think Senator Hatfield is an environmentalist." Frank Simmons, speaking at the April 14th meeting. Simmons is the first person I know of to publicly accuse Mark Hatfield of this sin.

"The loan [which financed the construction of the 39 tribal houses] is considered public funds. I want to know if everything relating to that is public information." Phil Rilatos, as quoted in the TC minutes of 2/18/90. Rilatos apparently suspected that the files of 39 tribal member living in H.U.D. funded houses was open to public inspection.

"The Candidate Fairs should be stopped altogether." Dolly Fisher, as quoted in the minutes of the 1/20/90 meeting, just two weeks before final Tribal Council elections in Siletz. Fisher shared this belief with several others in tribal government who complain that this year's Candidate Fairs, set up to allow tribal members a chance to question the candidates, had brought forward the "wrong" sort of questions from tribal members. □

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Siletz News II is a quarterly publication devoted to the history and current affairs of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Publication began in September, 1989 after the editor of the tribal newsletter was fired for refusing to follow an oral directive to censor the newsletter.

In January, 1990, the management of the *SNII* along with all past donations were turned over to the Siletz Free Press, Inc., a non-profit, tribal-member controlled organization located in Eugene, Oregon.

Subscriptions to this newsletter are available on a sliding-scale (\$2-20 per year) for individuals and for an institutional rate of \$25/year. Subscription includes mail-box delivery four times a year at 1st class postage rates. To date, 24 tribal members have contributed \$421.00 to our efforts. Productions and delivery costs of the first three issues totalled \$587.52.

All work for this newsletter was provided by Andy Viles and other directors of the Siletz Free Press, Inc. on a volunteer basis.

This issue went to press on April 30, 1990.