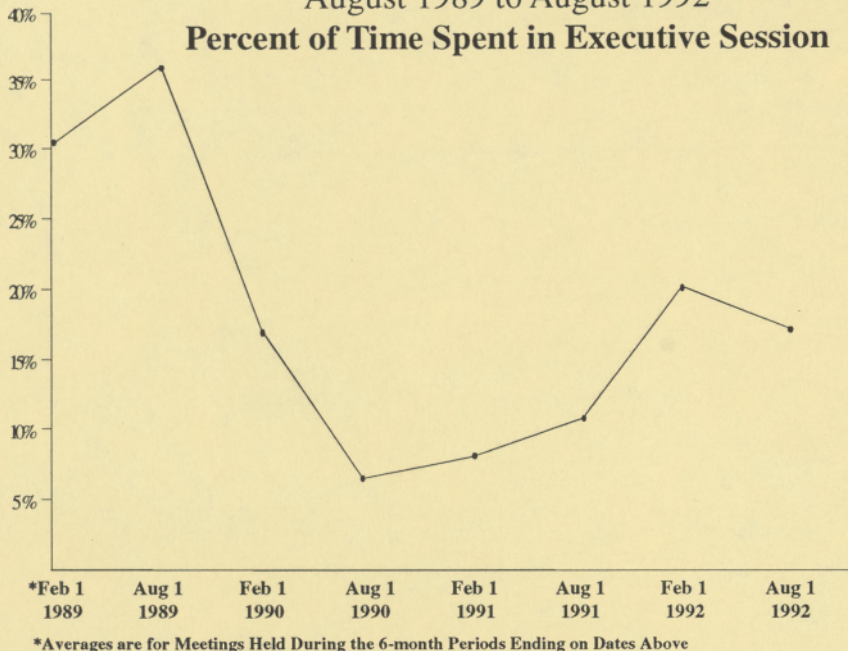


Siletz Tribal Council Meetings August 1989 to August 1992 Percent of Time Spent in Executive Session



The graph above was produced by totalling the total amount of time spent by Tribal Council in meetings during eight consecutive six-month periods and then dividing the total by the amount of time spent in Executive Sessions during the same periods. The graph does not distinguish between two different sorts of Executive Sessions. The first sort is a general clearing of the room of people, including tribal members, who are not members of the Tribal Council and who are not invited by the Chair of the Tribal Council to remain. The second variety is "to go off the record" while allowing tribal members and others in attendance to remain present. Tribal Council documents do not record this difference.

"Ingrates," continued from page 1

"illegal" activities such as feeding yourself and your family.

The advantage of this method is great. You don't have to be called an ingrate. You won't be encouraged to see other Indian people as ingrates, either.

Option 3) You can just stop noticing that what you're offered is not what you've been promised.

The main advantage to this method is that, theoretically, it's available to all Indian people.

The disadvantage is the "not-noticing" part. Generally, it is hard for a person not to notice a reality as harsh as perpetual injustice and on-going deceit. It's also hard to practice the art of forgetting when people around you still talk of the importance of remembering.

Drugs, such as alcohol, help people become numb to their realities. Violence has the same effect,

along with a number of other compulsive behaviors.

Once you've become numb, forgetting is easy. And while it's likely that people will call you a number of unfavorable names, you will never be accused of "ingratitude."

Option 4) It is possible to get rid of the word "ingrate" and the concept of this sort of "ingratitude." People who remember what a promise is and who notice that what's happening now is not in accordance with past promises are simply called something else.

Historians. Rememberers. Sages. Seers.

Or maybe just people. Our people.

This path is open to many. I know plenty of people who work for the Siletz, for instance, who don't accuse the people they serve of ingratitude.