

there before Restoration. Salem was the unanimous decision of the Council officially because it would maximize revenues for the Tribe and because the Department of Interior supported our proposal. Some tribal members still want Siletz; others want Portland. We can't satisfy everyone. The Council made it's decision based on the best available information at the time. You must also remember - we were invited by Salem officials to Salem but when the going got tough, our support left us.

QUESTION: DID SALEM CAUSE A LOT OF LOST TIME?

ANSWER: No. There is no loss! You must remember, the Governor would not allow any tribe to acquire land off reservation for gaming purposes. Without those efforts in Salem, we would not have the Lincoln City site. Two years ago, we would not have had congressional support.

* In the first year, 1992, we selected and fought for Salem. The Secretary changed his mind and disapproved our fee-to-trust application in December at the last minute - so we filed a lawsuit which is still pending. This legal challenge took one year - until January, 1994. At that time we received a mixed decision from the federal court. An appeal of that decision is now pending.

* In the second year, 1993, we began looking for alternative sites in Lincoln County then focused on Lincoln City. At the end of the year, we requested compact negotiations with the Governor.

*During the third year, 1994, We began negotiating a compact with the Governor and successfully completed negotiations in November.

We also successfully implemented a strategy to have Congress make the site in Lincoln City part of the Siletz Reservation eligible for gaming under IGRA. This was a long and difficult process, requiring intensive and concentrated effort.

In addition, during the third year, we successfully negotiated with the Comstock whose owners agreed to reimburse all expenses thus far! We also negotiated for property in Lincoln City.

QUESTION: WAS \$6 MILLION TO \$8 MILLION REALLY SPENT ON SILETZ GAMING?

ANSWER: The truth is , since we first began our gaming efforts, and as of November 1, 1994, we spent only \$768,000 on gaming expenses such as contracts, consultants, travel, supplies, etc. In addition, the Tribe purchased 20 acres in Salem for \$1.1 million and are currently making monthly payments for the balance due.

By November 1, 1994, the Comstock paid \$25,921.85 of taxes and extension fees on the Lincoln city property and in December, paid the full \$3 million for the final purchase of the eleven acres.

The Tribe now owns the Salem property. While we intended to use this land for Class III gaming, we are developing other alternative uses. The property has been determined to have high economic development potential.

QUESTION: WHY DID THE AD HOC GAMING COMMISSION FILE SUIT AGAINST THE U.S. OVER THE SALEM SITE?

ANSWER: It was not the Gaming Commission but the Tribal Council that voted unanimously to fight the Secretary's decision in court. We believe the Siletz Tribe is correct on the law on this matter. We secured a partial victory in the lower federal court

and are appealing to obtain a complete victory.

QUESTION: WHY DID IT TAKE SO MUCH LONGER FOR THE SILETZ TRIBE THAN OTHER TRIBES?

ANSWER: If we had adequate pre - IGRA reservation land on major highways like some other tribes or had fallen within IGRA's exceptions, we could have done the same. Tribes which establish a gaming center in existing reservation land do not have to go through the long process Siletz did.

Let's remember, too, that Cow Creek campaigned actively against us. The Cow Creek Chairman wrote letters to Congress, the Secretary of Interior, the Governor, the Salem City Council and the media, urging them not to support us. Grand Ronde also sent letters of opposition to federal and state officials. This obviously hurt our efforts. We forged ahead despite this opposition.

The Grand Ronde Tribe got their Compact because the Governor made a mistake. She thought the Grand Ronde property was eligible for gaming under IGRA as reservation land. It wasn't. It was trust land but not eligible reservation land. By the time the State figured this out, Governor Roberts had already publicly endorsed the Grand Ronde project, and it would have been politically embarrassing for her to reverse her position. To correct her embarrassing mistake, the Governor personally lobbied Congress (behind the scenes) to make the Grand Ronde parcel eligible reservation land. Remember, she had declared publicly several months before that she would oppose any off - reservation land for gaming by any tribe including Grand Ronde.

Grand Ronde had problems but their problem was easier to solve because the " forestry site" was already in trust and the local population figured they could not do anything to stop gaming on that site. Our Lincoln City site was not even in trust. It took months of quiet, intensive lobbying to get our bill enacted.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH ARE COUNCILMEN PAID FOR WORKING ON THIS PROJECT?

ANSWER: Tribal Council members earn \$8 per hour. Mostly, though, it's on a voluntary basis - without pay! We devote many, many hours on week ends and in the evenings most of the time without pay. For every hour listed on the time sheets just as many hours are not listed.

We are willingly devoting our time and energies because the gaming income is badly needed for everyone in the Tribe. It will help meet the needs of our people - young and old - now and in the future. (Many tribal members see us working late at night in their offices, who themselves devote many hours at night in their jobs).

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE INDIAN PREFERENCE AT THE GAMING CENTER?

ANSWER: There will be Indian preference. But we must keep in mind: only qualified people will be hired. I say that because each employee must undergo rigid background investigations. These rules are not rules set by the tribes but by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Indian gaming is under close scrutiny especially by those opposed to it. Congress is under

