

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman's Report

From: Delores Pigsley



Once again, Indian tribes face a major crisis. The pressure to undermine Indian gaming has been relentless. A number of bills pending in Congress, if passed, could be devastating to Indian tribes. This threat to Indian gaming has been with us for at least a couple of years. But now there are actual bills pending before Congress that would hurt, if not destroy, Indian gaming.

On top of that, the Senate voted to slash the funding of Indian programs by over \$240 million. The vote to cut the budget came about in the face of strong support for Indian funding by Senator McCain, Inouye, and Domenici.

The House proposed a less drastic cut. Because of the differences between the House and the Senate, the issue will be referred to a Conference Committee. The reality is, whatever comes out of the Conference Committee, drastic cuts in Indian programs are inevitable.

In both issues - Indian gaming and appropriations for Indian programs - we are cooperating with NCAI and NIGA. They have taken the lead in coordinating efforts at the national level. It is predicted that the tribes may suffer as much as a thirty percent cut in program funds. One problem of course is that as a Bureau within the Department of the Interior, we must compete with other Interior agencies. But beyond that, there is an active, perhaps even racist, attack against Indian programs.

Early in August Brenda Bremner and I contacted all the Oregon congressional delegation to let them know our Tribe's feelings regarding the budget cuts. The Umatilla tribal representatives joined us on some of those visits. On August 22nd, the northwest tribes held a rally in Portland to demonstrate our opposition to the proposed budget cuts. Along with other tribal chairmen, I expressed as strongly as I could, how adversely the budget cuts will impact our Tribe.

Along with other Tribal representatives, I was involved during last month, in successfully completing

negotiations with both the BIA and IHS for Self-Governance Compacts. Of course, future funding of self governance compacts will depend on overall congressional appropriations.

As most of you know, the Siletz Tribe has been struggling to address issues involving our court system and the Indian Child Welfare Act program. Regarding child welfare, we solicited the services of Terry Cross, Executive Director of the Indian Child Welfare Act program of Portland, to evaluate and make recommendations on tribal child welfare services. On August 19th, Terry presented the team's report which I believe was an unbiased, thoughtful evaluation of our tribal program. Tribal Council now must determine what action must be taken.

As for the study involving the court system, the American Indian Justice Service, which was contracted to conduct the evaluation, presented it's report to the Tribal Council in June. Several recommendations were made and Council must determine what actions will be taken.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the task force who participated in these reviews.

GAMING REPORT

Gaming Report

By: Jessie Davis,

Ad Hoc Gaming Chairman

During the past two months, the NCAI/NIGA Task Force has been involved in intense strategy sessions to address congressional efforts to amend IGRA. Various congressional bills have been introduced that pose a real threat to Indian gaming.

All tribes have a vested interest in seeing to it that Indian gaming is protected. It is for this reason that I attended the NIGA/NCAI Task Force meeting two weeks ago and have been actively involved with the Task Force for the past three years. Craig Dorsay attended the recent meeting and was involved in the Task Force's special session for attorneys.

As you know, we have been engaged in a bitter struggle to protect Indian gaming now for the past three years. So long as the anti-Indian forces are out there, we can't relax. Our struggle will be ongoing.

While in Washington, D.C., we had an opportunity to meet with NIGC

officials including Tom Acevito and to relate to them the status of the Siletz gaming project.

On other matters involving Chinook Winds:

* On the issue of table games, we have had to operate table games on an "ante" basis ever since we opened the temporary facility for business. After arguing our point of view, we succeeded in getting State approval for the operation of house banked, class III blackjack in our temporary facility.

* As for the status of the construction of Chinook Winds, we are steadily moving forward. The Tribal Council has been reviewing and will soon be approving the interior design. The Council approved Kurisu International Inc. to design the waterfall that will be constructed in the atrium. Details of the interior will be provided to tribal members in the next issue of the Bulletin. Ground breaking is expected to begin the week of Sept. 4th.

* We have been negotiating with Minnesota based Kids Quest for a

contract to establish and operate a first class children's activity center for children 4 to 12 years of age and a supervised arcade for children 13 to 17. The children's center, which will be a service to patrons of the gaming center, will occupy parts of the main floor and mezzanine.

* An entertainment center will be constructed on the main floor, which, when not in use as a first class showroom, will serve as the Chinook Winds Bingo Hall. Well known, high quality entertainers will be booked at least monthly.

* A Teleconference Center will also be established as part of the Convention Center. This is a collaborative effort involving the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lincoln City Economic Development Council, the Coastal Community College and Sprint/United. The Center will be equipped with state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment that will enhance the capabilities of the convention center and contribute to the region's economic development efforts.