

Editorial

E COOSH EEWA: (The way it is)

Tribal Council Agenda

- May 16 - Tribal Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
1. Realty
 2. 2:00 p.m. - Bear Springs Memo of Understanding
- May 17 - Tribal Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
1. Committee Appointments
 2. Committee Duties and Responsibilities
 3. Advisory Board for Group Home (per Health & Welfare Committee memo dated 3-9-77)
- May 23 - Tribal Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
1. Enrollments
 2. 2:00 p.m. - OEDP Update Airport Master Plan
- May 24 - Tribal Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
1. Minors Trust Funds
 2. 2:00 p.m. - Projects and Goals for '78
- May 30 - HOLIDAY
- May 31 - Tribal Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
1. Kah-Nee-Ta Monthly Report
 2. Management Report on Judgement Monies

Legislative Report By . . .

Senator Ken Jernstedt, District 28

There continues to be a lot of flak around the Capitol between the Governor and some members of the legislature, especially two or three Senators. Most of it concerns the Governor's plan for a Domestic Rural Power Act, commonly known as DRPA. This bill is in our Senate Committee on Environment and Energy and has been there for some time, despite the tremendous efforts of the Governor and his staff to get it moving. It has one of his highest priority items for this session.

DRPA would make the state a public utility district, allowing Oregon consumers to receive preference Bonneville power. Although this plan might give some Oregonians a break on their electric power bills it would not create more energy. In fact, all this proposal does is share the shortage of electrical energy. It would introduce government into the position of control, where private enterprise now resides. The question that needs to be asked is: will the momentary advantage of some lower rates be worth the long

term increase in government control of private business?

It is not the answer as far as I am concerned, and most of the other committee members seem to feel the same way. We do not want to see the state in the power business. We do not want to see the PUDS and co-ops come under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commissioner. We do not think that Washington is going to give up any of its cheap power to benefit Oregon. In addition, most of us are against DRPA because it deals with only the distribution of power and makes no provision for stimulation of alternate power sources that will be so desperately needed before the turn of the century.

The Speaker of the House may be about ready to come to the Governor's rescue, as he has announced that if DRPA is in fact stalled in the Senate, as similar bill will "very likely" be introduced in the House.

This week our Environment and Energy Committee listened to more than three hours of testimony as to why our power problems should be tackled on a regional basis,

rather than Oregon trying to make some temporary gains on its own. Conservation can be implemented better on a regional basis and additional power can be generated and distributed more equitably on a regional basis. Of course this is more than a regional problem—it is national, and also extends across our borders. But we should at least get started on a regional basis.

The drought in Eastern Oregon continues to be a major concern and House Speaker Phil Lang and Senate President Jason Boe have joined in a legislative effort to work on drought related problems. A Special House Committee on Water Resource Problems has been named by Lang. Unfortunately only one of the eight members is from Eastern Oregon. This is also true of the senators on the Trade and Economic Development Committee who are to work jointly in an effort to coordinate all legislative activities associated with the drought. There are 29 bills in both houses dealing with some aspect of the drought. One of the jobs of this special group will be to work on those bills with dispatch.

...About Your Social Security

A widower or a husband can get monthly benefits on his wife's Social Security record without proving dependency on her under a recent decision by the United States Supreme Court.

Previously a man had to prove he was dependent on his wife to get benefits on her records if she retired, became disabled, or died after working long after working long enough in jobs covered by Social Security. A woman did not have to prove that she was dependent on her husband to get benefits on his record.

Starting with payments for March, 1977, neither men nor women have to prove dependency. Husbands and wives can get reduced Social Security payments starting at age 62 or

full payments starting at 65.

Widowers and widows can get payments starting at 60—or starting at 50 if they are disabled.

Men who think they may be eligible under the court ruling can get information about applying for benefits by calling or writing the Social Security office in Bend, according to John Fullerton, Social Security representative in Central Oregon.

"Social Security payments may be affected by earnings," Fullerton noted. "You can earn as much as \$3,000 in 1977 and still get your full Social Security payment. After \$3,000 is earned, Social Security payments are reduced by \$1 for each \$2 earned.

"That means that if your

full Social Security benefit is \$225 a month, for example, you could earn over \$8,000 for the year before your Social Security payment for the year would be zero," he said.

A man already getting Social Security benefits may also be eligible for payments on his wife's record under the Court ruling, according to Fullerton. "However, he can only be paid an amount equal to the higher benefit—not both benefits," he said.

The Bend Social Security office is at 39 N.W. Louisiana Avenue. The phone number is 382-6922, extension 276.

A leaflet explaining how much people can earn and still get Social Security checks is available at the Bend Social Security at 39 N.W. Louisiana Avenue.

The leaflet, called 'If You Work After You Retire,' explains that in 1977 people under 72 can work and earn as much as \$3,000 and get their full Social Security retirement or survivors benefit.

For earnings over \$3,000, Social Security benefits are reduced by \$1 for each \$2 earned. "No matter how much you earn for the year, you can

get full payment for any month in which you neither earn over \$250 in wages or salary, nor do substantial work in your own business," according to John Fullerton, Social Security representative in Central Oregon.

People age 72 and over get their full Social Security benefits regardless of earnings, Fullerton noted.

Copies of If You Work After You Retire are free on request at the Social Security office in Bend or any Social Security office. The phone number of the Bend office is 382-6922, extension 276.

A Report From Your Congressman

Al Ullman

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Congressman Al Ullman reported recently that a House sub-committee will hold preliminary fact-finding hearings June 6 on two bills involving the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The hearing, which will be held in Washington, will be limited to House bills dealing with land consolidation and inheritance and will not deal with civil and criminal jurisdiction.

Rep. Teno Roncalio, chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands, will preside at the hearings.

The land consolidation measure, H.R. 2539, would authorize the Secretary of Interior to purchase, sell or exchange tribal properties in or

around the northeastern Oregon reservation.

The legislation contains no condemnation authority, but would authorize dealings with willing buyers and willing sellers.

The other measure, H.R. 2540, is a housekeeping measure that would bring inheritance laws governing the tribes into conformity with recent changes in Oregon state law.

Ullman said that Rep. Roncalio plans to hold additional hearings on the two measures after the proposals have been studied further.

Written comments or requests to appear in person should be addressed to Frank Duchenaux, House Interior Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands, Room 421, House Office Building, Annex 1, Washington, D.C. 20515.



Construction on the tribal apartments began May 2 and by May 11 there were visible hints of the townhouse-style structures. Willie Stacona cleans boards used to make fittings (background) on the construction site south of the rodeo grounds. Foreman Ben Anderson predicted that the project, contracted out to R.A. Chambers who brought you the Administration building, will be completed by October.

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