



Editorial

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(The way it is)

Task Force Reports To Secretary On BIA Reorganization

Members of a Task Force appointed in December 1977 to prepare recommendations on the restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Affairs presented their final report to Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus earlier this month.

The report will be published in the Federal Register and distributed to Indian tribes and organizations for comment through June 30, 1978.

After analysis of the report and consideration of the comments, Secretary Andrus will make specific decisions early in August on the management and organizational structure of the bureau, together with a schedule for carrying out the changes.

A preliminary report of the Task Force was presented to Under Secretary of the Interior James A. Joseph on March 31.

"While I have not had an opportunity to study the report in detail and have reached no conclusions on any of its specific recommendations, I share the basic conclusion of the Task Force that the organization and operation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs needs to be improved," Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus said.

"One of my primary aims as Secretary of the Interior is to carry out a fair and vigorous program for the benefit of our American Indian citizens. This requires that we provide a firm basis for Indian self-determination, that tribal governments are strengthened, that the trust responsibilities of the Federal Government are conducted effectively, and that services to the Indian people are provided efficiently.

"While changes will be instituted in an orderly fashion and every effort will be made to minimize any hardship on BIA employees and upon established relationships between the tribes and BIA officials, I am committed to the principle that basic improvement in the Bureau is necessary if we are to help meet the many challenges faced today by the American Indian people."

The preface to the Task Force report states that the group focused on what it viewed as the major organizational issues and problems.

The recommendations in the 130 page report include the following:

-The top level organization should consist of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs with three principal Deputies — for planning and evaluation, for operations (Commissioner), and for budget and finance (Comptroller).

-To reflect the high level of commitment to self-determination on the part of the Bureau, program and policy implementation for P.L. 93-638, the Self-Determination Act, should be placed under the Deputy Assistant Secretary — Planning and Evaluation.

-Consideration should be given to the location of field offices, there should be a review of each Area Office on a case-by-case basis to consider the need to retain or combine these offices.

-Top management should have the option of utilizing "Schedule C" appointments to fill Area Director positions.

Among the areas studied for

improving the BIA were: planning, advocacy, trust protection services, human resource development, social service delivery, personnel and administrative services, and consultation.

In addition to twice monthly

meetings in Washington, D.C., the Task Force also held field hearings in Phoenix, Arizona; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Denver, Colorado; Portland, Oregon; and Duluth, Minnesota.

Tribal Council Agenda

Apr 24 - Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. Committee Reports - Quarterly, Water Board
 2. Timber Resources: Timber Committee, Range Committee, Fish & Wildlife Committee, Natural Resource Dept.
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - WSFPI Board Meeting, Kah-Nee-Ta
7:00 p.m. - GENERAL COUNCIL, Agency Longhouse, Annual Report of WSFPI

Apr 25 - Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. - Criminal Justice Facility - Design
2. 2:00 p.m. - Management Reports, Grievance Procedure, Affirmative Action Program

Apr 26 - Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. Kah-Nee-Ta Complex - Management, Kah-Nee-Ta Advisory Committee

Apr 7-8 - Columbia River Basin Fisheries Alliance-Thunderbird, Astoria

NOTE: Interpretation of Budget Amendment to be scheduled

Ullman Requests Funds For Hatcheries, Water Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Congressman Al Ullman, earlier this month, urged the Public Works Appropriations subcommittee to give high priority to increased power output and improved anadromous fish runs in the Pacific Northwest.

Ullman testified in support of the Army Corps of Engineers' \$124 million budget request for construction on McNary Lock

and Dam, McNary Second Powerhouse and Bonneville Lock and Dam Second Powerhouse.

"Construction of these facilities will help increase power output and mitigate damage to fish runs," Ullman said, noting that one of the few negative impacts of Federal water resource development has been its impact on fish runs.

The 2nd District Congress-

man also testified in support of an additional \$5.2 million for the Lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan.

Construction of eight anadromous fish hatcheries in Idaho, Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington was authorized in 1976 because of severe reductions in salmon and steelhead runs as the result of the four hydroelectric dams on the Low-

er Snake.

Ullman said the \$5.2 million he is requesting would be used to construct the first hatchery at McCall, Idaho and designed three or four additional hatcheries. The McCall hatchery was designed last year.

An additional \$100,000 is needed to make the new Warm Springs Fish Hatchery fully

operational, Ullman said. Construction of the hatchery was completed recently.

In his testimony, Ullman urged the Subcommittee to give special consideration to these other Corps projects:

-\$500,000 to begin construction of the Willow Creek Dam Project primarily for flood control in the Heppner, Ione and Lexington area of northeastern Oregon. The project was first authorized in 1965.

-An additional \$61,000 for a total of \$115,000 for the Klamath Basin study to determine what can be done to correct the algae problems of Upper Klamath Lake and Lake Ewauna.

-\$125,000 for a study of the Crooked River Basin to consider potential water resources development.

In the Bureau of Reclamation budget, Ullman asked for an additional \$300,000 to be used for a study of the Umatilla, John Day, Deschutes and Grande Ronde Rivers with the focus on the improvements necessary to restore salmon and steelhead runs.

Ullman also asked that \$389,000 be added to the budget request for the Central Oregon Irrigation District, which is replacing flumes. The additional money will not increase the three-year cost of the project, but is needed next year to keep the project on schedule.

Ullman's testimony was on behalf of budget requests for the fiscal year which begins in October.

Is Carter Keeping His Promise To American Indians?

NOTE: (When Jimmy Carter was campaigning for the U.S. Presidency, he made the following promises to American Indians. In order for us to determine whether or not he is living up to those campaign promises, it is up to us to review them periodically. Now that Carter has been in office for a while, it is time for us to see how he is measuring up. With this purpose in mind, Spilyay Tymoo reprints the following for your review.)

By President-Elect Jimmy Carter

I recognize the unique relationship between the federal government and Native Americans, and I believe that to the greatest extent possible programs for Indian tribes should be designed, implemented, and managed by Indian tribes. Indian people should be able to make their own decisions regarding budget priorities, the operation of Indian schools, the best use of their land, water, and mineral resources, and the direction of their economic development. Self-government must mean that the majority of decisions affecting Indian tribes will be made in the Tribal Council room and not in Washington, D.C.

Today, duplication of effort, waste, and neglect pervade the administration of programs, while newly enacted legislation is often bogged down for months awaiting for the bureaucracy to develop confusing administrative regulations. A large percentage of federal money is eaten up through the administration overlap and waste. Federal dollars appropriated for Indian programs are often misspent and misallocated to programs that are unwanted by and of little use to Indians.

As part of my plans to reorganize government, I intend a complete review of all federal programs designed for Indian people

to be conducted with the full participation of Indian leaders from tribal, urban and national organizations. This review will determine the best manner by which the trust responsibility should be assured and maintained; it will consider how Indian legal interests can be represented in the future; it will analyze the administration of Indian programs and recommend changes to cut overhead costs and to assure that Indian needs are really being served; and it will develop plans for fuller participation by Indian tribes in the operation of Indian programs.

Indian families and children, like all American families, deserve to be protected and supported by government rather than ignored or destroyed. The rights of Indian families to raise their children as they wish have not always been respected by government. Today up to 25 percent of all Indian children are raised in foster homes or adoptive institutions. Some of these placements are unwarranted, and many could be prevented if proper social services as well as sufficient educational, economic and housing resources were available to Indians. I intend to insure that Indian families are assisted and bolstered by government policies.

Indians have a historic, legal and moral right to a fair share of available water resources. The ultimate resolution of conflicts concerning these rights, and the rights of others in the Southwest, will almost certainly be decided by the courts. In disputes concerning water rights, all sides must be assured full and competent legal representation. Legislation, however, may be necessary to speed the resolution of these conflicts, as an alternative to protracted legislation.

Finally, I will not take unilateral action on any issue regarding Indian affairs or Indian programs without full consultation with tribal representatives. Ours will be a government of participation, of action, of program involvement, and of true self-government.

