

AT NCAI MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

# TRIBAL LEADERS DISMAYED WITH TRUST FAILURES

Growing disappointment with the Carter Administration set the mood for the mid-year conference of the National Congress of American Indians held in Spokane June 26-28. But while tribal representatives expressed concern about Carter's recent water policy message and his "non-policy" concerning Indian affairs, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard pointed to favorable indications, saying "When backlash is part of history we'll still be around."

The recent focus of tribal leaders on anti-Indian legislation has shifted somewhat to the executive branch of government as evidenced by the agenda of the NCAI conference. Foremost in the minds of delegates and other participants were the President's water policy and its alleged disregard of Indian water rights, reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and implementation of P.L. 93-638 (the Indian Self-Determination Act).

With Washington governor Dixy Lee Ray's June 24 suggestion of treaty renegotiation still ringing in their ears, Indian leaders felt that their trust relationship with the federal government was being sorely challenged from all sides. The age-old cry sent up by the hundreds attending the conference was "Tribes must be consulted when our rights are being considered."

Gerard's Message

In his address to the as-



NCAI President Veronica Murdock posed questions to Forrest Gerard, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs at NCAI's mid-year conference held in Spokane June 26-28. Gerard and the NCAI have established a good working relationship since his inauguration last year. CDS Photo

sembly, Assistant Secretary Forret Gerard appeared to be equally concerned that the Department of Interior continue to fulfill the federal trust responsibility. Gerard said his office was opposed to the suggested transfer of Indian education programs for the B.I.A. to a new Department of Education. "Is this the time to begin dismantling the organization that fulfills a big share of the trust responsibility?" he asked.

However, Gerard said that challenges to the trust relationship were only temporary. "These attacks are momentary. They're an aberration in where we are in the history of Indian affairs."

Gerard said he was "prepared to give the field a trust budget for 1980," in order to beef up the role of the Interior as trustee for Indian lands and rights. But at the same time he committed himself to helping make P.L. 93-638 work, saying "We can put a trust budget together but I'd like to give you ownership."

Gerard said he intended to work with NCAI on such a budget, the dollars for which could possibly be diverted from archaic BIA programs. Too much money is going into such outdated efforts as relocation and not enough into the protection of fishing and water rights,

he noted. The trust budget will be assembled regionally, reflecting realistic, local concerns.

Action might be forthcoming in the northwest fishing controversy, Gerard strongly hinted. Regional task force negotiations will continue for the next sixty days and resulting agreements will be incorporated into legislation to be drafted by early spring.

Preferring the label "management improvement," Gerard reported on BIA reorganization efforts, laying emphasis on the need for increased efficiency. The launching of "Operation Integrity" should provide ready information on the status of BIA accounts, making the spending of appropriations more efficient, he said.

Gerard's good news was clouded by his public statement in early June supporting Carter's water policy, which he

called "a logical framework for a rational solution to the complex problems concerning scarce water resources in the West."

He said he was "particularly pleased with the President's recognition of Indian water rights as a key to settlement of this controversial issue, as well as a key to the maintenance of a permanent tribal homeland."

Water rights threatened?

The NCAI is distressed with Carter's water policy because it fails to incorporate all the recommendations made by their organization in behalf of Indian tribes and their reserved rights.

A joint NCAI-National Tribal Chairmen's Association committee formed early this year suggested to the Assistant Secretary, among other things, that Indian rights be considered separately from federal reserved rights and that quantification (measurement) of the resource not be considered because of its violation of the open-endedness of Indian rights.

President Carter's policy, announced June 6, recognizes the importance of Indian water rights but recommends the quantification of these rights through negotiations with individual tribes. The BIA has been directed to submit a plan for reviewing water claims over the next ten years with a view to permanently classifying and inventorying them in conjunction with development of the resource.

This implies limited and delayed development, an NCAI press statement indicated, and is a violation of the aboriginal priority of Indian water rights.

One member of the water rights panel at the NCAI conference interpreted the policy in this manner: "The federal government is saying, 'We're only going to build your water projects after you've sat down to negotiate with the states on what you're going to give up of what's yours already.'"

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## TOE NESS

There were these two guys who were watching a soccer game and they were seated behind two nuns. One of the guys said to his companion, "I can't wait to get back home because in my neighborhood there are just a few Catholics there." The other guy said, "It's that way where I live, also."

Finally, one of the Nuns turns and says to the guys, "You both should go to hell! There aren't any Catholics there." YIKES

SS SS SS

There was a guy on vacation and he was walking on the beach when he came upon a sea shell and picks it up, puts it to his ear, and hears the following: "Sorry, all sounds of the sea are busy. Please try again a little later." YIKES

SS SS SS

There was a lady that went into a market and goes over to the meat counter, picks up a chicken and lifts one wing and sniffs. Then she sniffs under the other wing, she does this with both legs. The butcher walks over to the lady and said, "Say lady, I wonder if you could pass such a test?" YIKES

SS SS SS

There was this young lawyer just starting practice in this City, and he wanted to make an impression on his clients, so he goes into a back-date magazine shop and asks for a selection of magazines at least five years old. When the proprietor expressed surprise the lawyer said, "Look, if you had just started practice, would you want all of your clients to know?" YIKES

SS SS SS

Teacher: "Jaime, tell me what you know about George Washington. Was he a soldier or a sailor?"

Jaime: "I think he was a soldier."

Teacher: "Why do you think he was a soldier and not a sailor?"

Jaime: "Because I saw a picture of him crossing the Delaware and anybody who stands up in a row boat ain't no sailor!" YIKES

SS SS SS

At an employment interview, the employer remarked, "For a person without any previous experience you sure are asking for a high salary." The applicant, "Because the work is twice as hard when you don't have experience." YIKES

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## QUIZ

- What do we call pure malt whiskey with natural grain?
- He was the only one of the seven dwarfs that didn't wear a beard. Which one was he?
- A few days after a baby's birth, his complexion becomes yellow. Should you be-

- come concerned?
- Benedict Arnold was a traitor to this country. Was he a hero in England?
- In 1803 the United States took possession of something great. What was it?
- What is the meaning of, "The red badge of courage?"

(Answers on Page 12)

## CHEMAWA ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM DUE TO VISIT

Coming to Warm Springs, July 5-6-7 will be Vickie Belgarde from Chemawa. Belgarde is the Assistant Director-Counselor of the Chemawa Alcoholism Education Program, which was put into operation on Jun 24, 1971.

The objective of the program, CAEC, is aimed at stressing and recreating an alcohol and drug free attitude on campus through education. During summer vacation, the staff and student counselors of CAEC travel throughout the service area of Oregon, Washington and Idaho conducting alcohol and drug workshops and seminars for the adult and teen-age residents of the various reservations.

The seminars aid in increasing the sensitivity and understanding of both CAEC representatives and members of the reservation to the problems which are related to the abuse of alcohol and drugs, by both students away at school and those within the community at home.

Through the Health and Social Services Branch, Belgarde is scheduled to hold seminars with various groups. On Thursday, July 6, she and Caroline Cruz will coordinate a presentation to be made to a group from the Summer Work Pro-

## HERE AND THERE

Spilyay was mingling with the employees at the Administration building one day and was asking the following question:

"What are you planning to do on your vacation?"

Here are some of the responses.

C.T. "We're planning on going to Cheyenne, Wyoming to the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo. That is the richest and the largest outdoor rodeo today."

D.D. "I'm going home again

and help harvest the hay and spend some time working around the place for a couple of weeks."

E.P. "We will probably go to the Crow Agency Fair again this year. There is a lot of activity there. They have their pow-wow, horse racing, stick games and the rodeo. And it's a good trip."

E.T. "I'm going to stay home and paint my house."

E.D. "We are planning to just travel and see as much of the country as possible, but we probably will end up on the coast

as we usually do. Its cooler down there this time of the year."

C.E. "I won't have a vacation this year, I haven't accumulated enough annual leave; the 4th of July week-end will be my vacation because of the four-day weekend."

L.Y. "We are planning on going to the coast, do what ever comes along. Let the kids run, play and chase sea gulls on the beach. Take advantage of the 4-day weekend."

S.R. "I'm going to the beach and become a human being again."