

NCAI Delegation Brings Home National Concerns

Reports offered on the work of education, reservation development, health and water rights committees

by Cynthia Stowell

Delegates to this year's National Congress of American Indians convention reported to the general council Tuesday, October 17 and offered glimpses into some of the national issues and concerns they faced in Rapid City, South Dakota last month.

Delegation reports were promised by the Tribal Council when they took office in May 1977. This was the second such report since that time.

More than a dozen people from council and the tribal organization represented the Confederated Tribes in NCAI workshops and committees. Eight were on hand to share their experiences with the membership.

Chairman Eugene Greene, a voting delegate to NCAI, quoted excerpts from NCAI President Veronica Murdock's opening address "We Shall Endure." Setting the mood for the convention, she cited the building backlash sentiments in Congress (the "nightmare 95th") and the neglect of the White House, while warning against "fear and hysteria."

"Now must be a time for faith and trust: faith in our rights secured for us in our treaties and in the laws of nations; faith in our tribal governments and their leaders; faith in our organizations; and trust in each other as people with a common and just cause."

Spelling out the success of the committee concept devel-

oped in NCAI in recent years, Murdock said that the real strength of the organization lies in its special committees, proving that leadership is not confined to a few.

Tribal Education Director Jody Calica reported on the victory of the NCAI Education Committee in opposing the transfer of Indian education programs out of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and into a new Department of Education. Taking the position that this move could be a first step in the dismantling of the B.I.A. leading to the eventual abandonment of the federal government's trust responsibility, the committee lobbied successfully for the Stevens Amendment to S. 991, exempting Indian programs from the transfer.

The amendment was supported by the Senate in a recent vote. Gene Greene pointed also to the impressive lobbying efforts of the Confederated Tribes, who sent letters of opposition to S.991 to every Senator.

Calica also brought Warm Springs up to date on other education matters. Pending legislation includes the Elementary and Secondary Reauthorization Act which would raise by 25 per cent the amount of Federal Impact Aid transferred to public schools in behalf of Indian students whose families don't pay property taxes. The act would also give Indians who represent the dollars more say in school

programs.

Attempts to reorganize the B.I.A. Office of Indian Education and centralize its major functions in D.C. instead of the area offices should be a matter of concern to Warm Springs, where a good relationship with the Portland Area Office is enjoyed, said Calica.

There is still concern among reservation tribes about the Indian Education Act Title IV monies that tend to go increasingly to non-reservation-based Indians. But a victory was achieved recently when congressional action made Indians eligible to participate in bilingual education monies.

Uren Leonard, assistant planner for the Tribes, outlined the comprehensive position paper drawn up by the reservation development committee. The paper details some of the common problems in Indian country that prevent economic progress, such as delays between the availability of federal funds and their effective utilization by tribes, and a rather shaky commitment to treaties and trust responsibility on the part of federal agencies.

Reforms recommended for federal agencies include improvements in the B.I.A.'s administration of the Indian Finance Act, elevation of the HUD Indian Desk to an Assistant Secretary's position, and Law Enforcement Assistance Admin-

istration (LEAA) funding to go directly to tribes and not through states.

The paper also suggested the formation of an American Indian Development Authority to consolidate Indian-oriented programs for economic development in the Departments of Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor and Health, Education and Welfare.

Larry Calica, councilman and new director of the Tribes' health, probation and parole department, participated in the health and social welfare workshop and had a grim report to offer on the Indian Child Welfare Act, which would be a commitment to the preservation of the Indian family and culture through proper placements of Indian children and assistance to tribal family development programs.

The bill "sailed smoothly through the Senate," said Calica, but was "sabotaged by backlash" in the House, despite his belief that it is a "fairly non-controversial bil." Apparently, opposition is coming from the executive branch, too, where S.1214 is felt to be unconstitutional since it involves the government telling the state courts how to proceed.

Calica also said a move may be on in Indian Country to exempt Indians from any possible National Health Insurance

plan and retain the Indian Health Service.

Delbert Frank was involved in water rights discussions which revolved around the President's water policy. NCAI approved a resolution offered by Warm Springs that called for the preparation of a position paper to assist the President in drawing up a separate policy for Indian water rights. As the only reservation with a water code, Warm Springs also recommended that other tribes follow suit, said Frank.

In other NCAI activity, Delbert Frank reported that efforts to reorganize the National Tribal Chairmen's Association failed on the floor and the scandal-ridden organization is now without funding and is essentially "defunct."

Amos Simtustus sat on the Resolutions and Credentials committees, Elmer Quinn on Indian Recognition and Veterans, Uren Leonard and Karen Wallulatum on Intergovernmental Relations, and Charles Jackson on Law Enforcement.

The Miss NCAI pageant, although disappointing for Warm Springs, was enjoyed by Aurolyn Stwyer who took the place of Miss Warm Springs Jackie Estimo. In a letter to the general council, the former Miss Warm Springs thanked the Tribal Council for the opportunity to participate, as it proved to be a learning experience for her.

TOE NESS

Spilyay Speaks

There was this guy who couldn't find a parking space near his apartment and had to park a couple of blocks away.

He looks out of his apartment and see's a parking space just outside so he goes after his car. The door was rather hard to open and a police officer stops and asks to see his drivers liscense, the guy said he has, but it's at home in his wallet. The officer said, "Do you have a registration?" Yes, but it is also at home. The officer asks the guy, "Do you have a gun?"

The guy see's some humor in the last question, so he said, "Yes, but it's also at home." Yikes.

SS SS SS

There was this guy who said that he came from a very small town. He said one election day they closed the saloon - and locked in all the voters. Yikes.

SS SS SS

There are politicians who keep promising to decrease unemployment. The only way they do this is to get their wives on the payroll. Yikes.

SS SS SS

There were these two house cleaners working at the Lodge late one night. They were cleaning the office. The head of the cleaning department came in and tells the two ladies, "Better check all the phons, there is usually someone still on hold." Yikes.

SS SS SS

One day this little boy named Bill decided to sell his turtle, so he put up a sign saying, "For sale, one turtle, \$1.00."

That evening his dad arrives home from work, sees the sign. He enters the house and said to his son, "When you are selling things you should think big." The next day the boy's dad returns and sees a sign. "Turtle for sale, \$10,000.00". He chuckled a little and goes into the house. The next day he returned, there was no sign up. He asks his son, "Did you sell your turtle for \$10,000.00, how did you manage that?" "Oh, that was easy," said the boy, "I just had to accept two \$5,000.00 cats." Yikes.

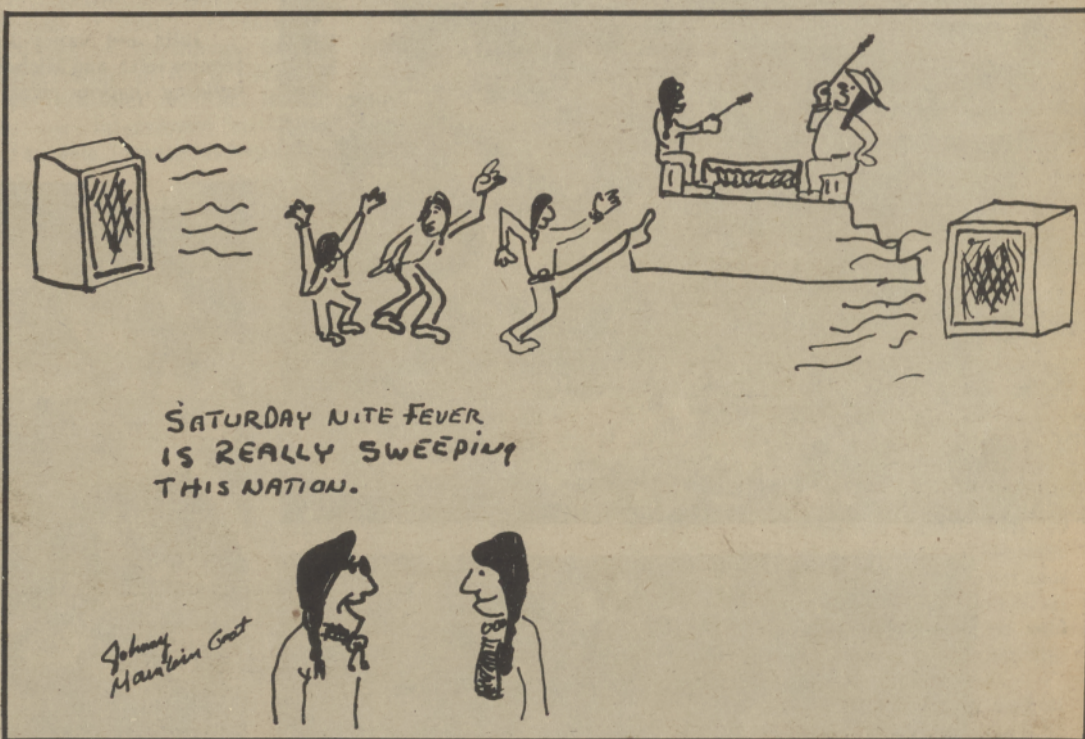
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THERE WERE THESE two guys walking down the street. They were on the prowl trying to find a date for the evening. One of the guys said, "Loo-Look, there's a p-p-pretty ga-ga-girl." "Where," said his friend? "Sh-Sh-She's ga-gone."

They continued on down the street when his friend again said Loo-Look tha-there's ah-another one." "Where?" Sh-She's gone. They go on down the street, Tha-There's ah-another oo.... "I see her the other guy said. Wa-Wa-Well why da-da-did ya-you step on it? Because I didn't want this one to get away also."

SS SS SS

THERE WAS THIS guy who was so lazy nobody could get him to do anything, he even married a pregnant girl." YIKES



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