

Editorial E COOSH EEWA:

(The way it is)



Washington Indians May Have Found A New Tactic

by Cynthia Stowell

A funny thing happened on the way to the Washington State polls this year. Indians were coming out of the woodwork.

The campaigned. They challenged. They strategized. They voted.

And in some respects they won.

Colville Vice Chairman Mel Tonasket captured more than 10 per cent of the vote in his third party race for the fifth District congressional seat.

Treaty abrogationist Jack Cunningham (R-Seventh District) lost a return trip to D.C., leaving the fate of his three anti-Indian bills uncertain.

And the seat voluntarily vacated by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (R-Second District) of water rights extinction fame, was filled by Democrat Al Swift who seeks to "eliminate conflicts" between Indians and non-Indians.

It may be a bit presumptuous to assert a causal relationship between the politicization of Indians and the election results. Washington state constituents may have simply tired on their own of the incessant legislative hammering their representatives took delight in administering to the Indian population. After all, the Washington State Opinion Survey carried out by the Yakimas last April showed that the average Washingtonian (not the sports fisherman) was

uninformed about but not hostile toward his Indian neighbor.

The races were close however and any campaign action by Indians could easily have had an impact on the fence-sitters.

This is what Indians did, according to Rudy Ryser, campaign coordinator for Tonasket and strategist par excellence.

Voter registration was as important as ever, with voter drives on the various reservations. Indians are notorious for not exercising their franchise.

But to play the white man's game successfully, Indians had to go beyond passive yeas and nays and devise an active political strategy, said Ryser. Thus the two prong attack: sponsoring their own candidate and getting involved in other key campaigns by way of position papers, briefings and press coverage.

Specifically in the Second District race for Meeds' seat, efforts were aimed at neutralizing the Indian issue while getting behind Swift. In the Seventh District, an "overt attack on Cunningham's position" was coupled with support for Democrat Mike Lowry who has gone on record as opposing treaty abrogation and advocating tribal sovereignty.

The Tonasket candidacy in the Fifth District could have the farthest reaching impact, noted Ryser, as post election energies

focus on the development of the Independent Party. Tonasket and troops plan to be watchdogs for re-elected Rep. Tom Foley, while continually directing the public eye to Indian issues and concerns and demonstrating how Indian and non-Indians issues are much the same. They will also be on the look-out for candidates for 1980.

"We may not have the physical numbers to outvote" large portions of the constituency, said

Ryser, but the prospects of coalition with non-Indians is very real. "You don't have to be a Congressman to effect political change," he continued "You just have to be forceful and honest and have access to the press."

Apparently idealism isn't dead and pragmatism is a welcome newborn.

For years Indians have sought political and economic clout, using methods ranging from AIM's subtly effective

"let's be friends" posture. The new game being played by Washington Indians strikes an interesting balance.

Perhaps some of the energy devoted year after year to grumbling, fretting and coddling in the rather isolated world of national Indian organizations could be better spent in the thick of things—playing the white man's political game with Coyote's wile but with characteristic Indian integrity.

From the High School Counselor:

by Ron Pinkham

The United Indian Education Conference in Portland was well received by students. Staff of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation gave the students the best of compliments for their participation and performance at the Tuesday evening banquet. Everyone here at Warm Springs should be very proud of the students who attended.

With the ever increasing importance of education on the Warm Springs Reservation, it behooves all of us to be very supportive to all students regard-

less of their grades. Yet, those who earn poor marks must be given positive reinforcement from the home end. That the student's efforts in school should be given now, not later, should be stressed. High School is the first step in gaining the fundamentals in which to travel further in the field of education, not to mention the job market.

Many young Indians must take responsibility for themselves in order to gain headway in this expensive world, and to do what they please within today's society. So remember, education

is not the total answer. But for now, it is one which is of paramount importance to Tribal Governments in gaining economic independence and becoming self-sufficient.

Remember there are programs and activities on the Reservation designed to involve the parents and students in two-way communication. This will lead to better understanding and mutual support. Become involved with me here at school and with your child so that we can best work together and gain the ultimate goal, a High School diploma.

Letters to the Editor

SUPPORT FAYE

To the people of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes:

We solicit your support and backing for a young lady by the name of Faye Hurtado who is running for the title of Junior Miss for Jefferson County.

Faye is the only entry from Warm Springs in recent years. She is really a top contender for this title and among other prizes, could win a scholarship to her chosen college.

I feel faye really is a very talented, poised individual who will represent well the citizens of the Warm Springs community.

So we are inviting every one to the pageant starting at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Madras High School cafeteria.

Respectfully,
Pat Woodsie
Faye's Advisor

AA HELPS

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Warm Springs Confederated tribes.

As an alcoholic individual and active in AA, I believe that AA is one of the main reasons for staying sober today.

To me as an individual, AA has made me a new person. It has given me a new lease on life. When I first joined AA, I thought that it was one big joke, but I soon realized that it is a very serious program, helping whenever needed, helping me to be able to talk openly and listen without harsh judgment on others.

The Warm Springs Alohool Center has helped me to understand that I have many things to learn about my people and their many drinking and drugs, and how they differ from the outside world.

The Center has a very effective program which can be fitted

to individual needs to help maintain one's sobriety.

One is the Antabuse program.

Two is AA meetings held each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Three is AA meetings held each Tuesday and Friday nite from 8 p.m. to whenever.

Four individual counseling for those who need extra help.

I believe as an Alohoolic person that AA, a higher power, and what help I can give to other people, are my strength in maintaining my own sobriety.

James L. Armstrong

CONFUSING SIGN

To the editor:

Due to a confusing sign at the Kah-Nee-Ta turn-off, about three people end up at our house each week looking for the resort.

The sign, which is just past the bridge when you're coming from Warm Springs, appears to point the way up Indian Head Canyon instead of along the Warm Springs River. This sends people toward Simnasho and

many miles later the frustrated tourists stop at our place for directions.

Can't Kah-Nee-Ta correct this problem so that visitors can more easily find their destination?

Chesley Yahtin

GIVE KIDS A GOOD HOLIDAY MEMORY

To the people:

People throughout the nation will be gathering together at various homes or special places in the next 2 months to enjoy the holidays. The holidays are Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve.

The holidays have a special meaning for each individual whether it be an adult or child. For the child, the age ranges from 1 day to eighteen years. The message on their behalf is, "please give them a special memory."

PATH-Foster
Care Program

Petition Bears Important Message

There are obvious problems with the petition for north boundary police protection now being circulated. As petitions often are it is impassioned and ambitious. It asks for a lot all at once.

Not that author Tony Suppah hasn't put a great deal of thought into it. The detail in his staffing and equipment requests is evidence of his familiarity with police workings. Rural fire and police protection is not a new or hastily hatched notion — the concern has the weight of time and repetition.

But Tony left some of his homework undone. Can he really justify a staff of three or more based on the numbers of citizens and the value of assets in the area? And where is the \$250,000 going to come from? Suppah appears to favor a grant, but grant proposals take a lot of careful documentation. Is he ready to follow through?

Tony's strategy could be questioned, too. The Council may have a real distaste for petitions after the Gold petition that so divided the membership in 1976. In addition, the tribal police department is in a precarious position with respect to the Council and negotiations could easily be upset with a noisy plea for more money and men.

And yet this may be just what the Council needs to hear. The petition, for all its shortcomings, bears an important message from the reservation community. It is a message lurking behind recent gatherings and sure to surface at the upcoming general council on the budgets.

We need improved law enforcement services, not a reduced program, the people are saying.

Council foiled the police department's attempt to reorganize and improve its own services by cutting back on several requested positions and programs, including the assistant chief and two juvenile positions. They also put on hold two patrolmen, a dispatcher and a Kah-Nee-Ta security guard. The apparent reasoning was that additions were not justified based on past performance. (Is it a true measure of a worker's ability to observe how he performs without the tools he needs to do the job?)

Perhaps this was the time Council should have taken a gamble with the police department. When public sentiment is crying for law and order, to undermine the existing program is to lower community morale a few more notches.

The petition is another call for improved services. There may have been a more convincing way to present it but can the Council afford to ignore the message it bears from the community?

Tribal Council Agenda

Nov. 20 — Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
1. 10:00 a.m. - 509-J Report
2. 2:00 p.m. - Kah-Nee-Ta Report

Nov. 21 — Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. - Committee Reports
2. Miss Warm Springs Committee
3. Prepare for General Council

GENERAL COUNCIL, Agency Longhouse
7:00 p.m.

Agenda: 1979 Budgets

Nov. 27 — Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. - Proposed resolution re funeral grants to Nonmembers married into Tribe-Vital Stat.
2. "Brief Lood at Warm Springs" - Review revision

Nov. 28 — Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. - Roads system, progress report
2. 2:00 p.m. - Management Reports

TO BE SCHEDULED: Funding - Irrigation Project & Justice Center