

Budget '80

Proposed Fire Department to provide full-time protection

by Donna Behrend

With every new year, there comes a brand new budget. And each new budget contains new programs and positions. The proposed 1980 budget is no exception.

This year Tribal Council was presented with a \$154,480 budget to cover five new employees in the proposed full-time fire department. It is also anticipated that a special HUD grant will come through which will cover the expense of fire buildings at Kah-Nee-Ta and Simnasho and some new fire equipment.

Warm Springs has never had its own full-time fire department. The present fire department consists of about 30 volunteers, 18 of which are active. Depending on the time of day, the average response time from the sound of the first alarm to the time the truck is pulled out of the garage is four minutes. According to Superintendent James Cornett, the present department's

record is "excellent."

Cornett also stated that a "large majority of reservations depend on someone else for fire suppression. If Warm Springs approves this fire department it will be the first tribally-owned and operated fire department in the Northwest, possibly the first in the United States."

The volunteer's role will change very little according to Tribal Fire and Safety Officer Ray Rivero. "There's no way the Tribe can afford to hire 30 or 35 full-time firefighters. So we will still need their volunteer assistance." The full-time employees can do the day-to-day chores and provide standard minimum response, says Rivero. "The full-time members will be on hand for quick response to the outlying areas such as Seekseequa."

Fire protection in Simnasho and Kah-Nee-Ta is felt by many to be a number one priority for 1980, along with housing. One of the new employees will be stationed at

Simnasho along with new equipment.

The need for rural fire protection is emphasized as rural building is steadily increasing. It is estimated that five new homes will be built in new rural sub-divisions per year.

It was hoped that firefighters could be hired this year under the CETA program. But due to program changes by Congress, funding is available but unusable. On the top of Rivero's priority list for this year is the development of a fire and safety code and a set of regulations for the reservation.

While presenting his budget to Tribal Council in September, Rivero stated that he intends to 1) organize an education program for adults as well as children; 2) identify current hazards on the reservation such as at the Mill and other buildings and 3) reevaluate the Bureau/Tribal relationship (in regard to fire protection).

Indian News Notes

by Vince Lovett
of The Bureau of Indian Affairs

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE SLASHES BIA BUDGET:

The Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee cut the 1980 BIA appropriations figures some \$53 million compared with the \$966 million passed by the House. The \$943 million approved by the Senate subcommittee is \$31 million less than the \$974 million in the President's budget and \$114 million less than the \$1,057 total appropriation for 1979.

The Subcommittee also moved to force closure of three off-reservation boarding schools: it ordered mid-year closure of Chilocco and Seneca Indian schools in Oklahoma and the Albuquerque Indian School programs in Albuquerque. The AIS operations are to be transferred to Santa Fe to the campus of the Institute of American Indian Arts.

The Subcommittee's reductions from the House-passed figures include a \$31 million reduction in construction and a \$25 million reduction in the operation of Indian programs, mostly in education and trust activities. The Subcommittee included \$6 million for implementation of the new Tribally Controlled Indian Community College Act. This was an increase of \$2 million over the House. The full Appropriations Committee was scheduled to take up the Interior budget October 9.

NCAI SPEAKER SEES PUBLIC SHIFT OF ANGER FROM OPEC TO INDIANS:

Sam Brown, director of the Federal agency ACTION, told Indians at the NCAI convention in Albuquerque "Native Americans might replace Arabs as the people to blame for the energy crisis and inflation." Brown said the focus of public anger over the energy crisis could shift from OPEC to the American Indians as they begin to benefit from huge energy resources on their tribal lands.

He added, "The irony of all this is that you will be simply doing what many major corporations have done for years." Brown said that the Indians would be affected by the country's political mood shifting from social justice to fiscal prudence as the measure of good government."

Noting that Native Americans own an estimated 20 percent of America's energy resources, Brown said: "You will be contending with a society which more than ever wants what you have." Brown concluded that the Indians needed to become more active in politics to protect their interests. He urged unity and coordinated action to give them an impact outweighing their numbers.

NOMINEE FOR COMMISSIONER'S POST TALKS ABOUT ROLE:

William E. Hallett, who was nominated September 28 by President Carter as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, apparently learned about the nomination from a *Denver Post* reporter. Hallett told the inquiring reporter September 30, "There are just some rumors going around as far as I know."

The *Post* published the following comments about the role of the Commissioner as Hallett saw it: "Making things happen is the primary task of the commissioner, he said, noting that the agency is so big it may have grown a little staid. The office has about 16,000 employees, Hallett said, and it is charged with coordinating federal programs with the needs and desires of the various tribal governments. That entails keeping track of 12 regional bureaus and 85 separate offices around the country.

It's a very large agency, one of the largest in the government," he said. One thing he would have to deal with is the "growing interest of our representatives (in Washington) to make government more efficient. That is the challenge that is before...." Before getting more specific about his plans for the agency, he said, "My feeling is that I should consult with the assistant secretary and the secretary of the Interior."

Hallett is a Chippewa from the Red Lake Reservation. He has been since 1975 the assistant regional administrator of the Office of Indian Programs for HUD in the Denver region.

FIRM PUTS OUT NEWS BULLETIN FOR INDIAN LEADERS:

Volume 1, Number 2 of *The Clary Institute News Bulletin*, dated September 17, is 13 typewritten pages of information for Indian leaders about legislation, regulations, hearings, conferences and other mostly-Washington-based activities. The first issue was circulated to tribal chairmen for review and comment and, according to an Institute spokesman, got generally good grades from the chairmen. It is being sent free to the tribal chairmen.

Jay Edwards Report—Washington Update

On October 5, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus issued a press release stating that the energy crisis presents Indian tribes with opportunities to break the cycle of dependence on the Federal Government. He also cited the proposed Windfall Profits Tax, the Energy Security Corporation and the Energy Mobilization board as vital in achieving this goal.

Also released by the Department of the Interior on October 9, was the announcement of proposed revisions to regulations dealing with the tribal purchase of certain property interests of decedents under special laws applicable to the **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**, among others, to be printed in the Federal Register.

On October 10, the Senate

Appropriations Committee ordered favorably reported H.R. 4930, the fiscal Year 1980 Appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies. The Senate scheduled consideration of the bill for October 12.

Senator Gary Hart (D., Colorado), with Senator Domenici as a co-sponsor, introduced S. 1880 on October 11th, a bill to amend the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, to provide comprehensive assistance to states, local government and Indian tribes, to mitigate the adverse social and economic impacts caused by major energy developments. It was jointly referred to the committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Government Affairs. No action has yet been taken.

The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs announced on October 11 that confirmation hearings are set for October 29, for William E. Hallett, a Red Lake Chippewa, to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The BIA printed Final Rules in the federal Register on October 9 prescribing the policies for the Administration of all BIA education programs, including the operation of the BIA school systems.

TOE NESS

THERE WAS THESE TWO Hillbillies talking when Clem asked Jason, "How old is your mother-in-law?" Jason said, "She's getting along in years. She had a birthday just the other day and I saw 25 candles on the cake."

Clem, "That thar ain't bad, only 25 candles." "Well Clem, I don't know about the rest of the cake, but that's what was on the piece I was eating." YIKES

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NIGHT AFTER NIGHT A girl's phone rang and each time she answered, a voice would murmur, "Oh my darling, I love you very much, I would love to hold you in my arms, kiss you passionately..." Her friend said that she should tell the police and have her phone tapped. Finally the mystery caller was caught-A huge Polack. After the Polack was booked he was allowed to make one phone call. He went to the phone, deposited his dime, dialed a number and said, "Oh my darling, I love you very much, I would love to hold you in my arms, kiss you passionately..." YIKES

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THERE WERE THESE THREE guys who were all killed in a car wreck. When asked at the golden gates, "What was the worst sin that each of you committed on earth?" The first, named Johnson, said, "The worst thing I did was, I raped one girl." The second guy, Martin, said, "I've raped two girls." The third named John said, "I've raped four girls."

St. Peter said, "Okay Johnson, you can drive the Golden Cadillac, and Martin you may have a '55 Chevy pick-up and John, yours is a ten-speed bike." One day Johnson and Martin were riding in the Golden Cadillac when they saw John lying alongside of the road, laughing his head off. They stopped and asked what was so funny. "Oh, I just saw the Pope go by on a skate board." YIKES

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THERE WAS THIS GUY who had just all types of used cars for sale. He had some nearly new and right on down the line. Here came a guy and his wife car shopping. He told the salesman he wanted a reasonable priced second car and said that he would even pay a little to get the car in shape. The salesman, "You mean an as is? I've got just what you want," and shows him a car with bullet holes all over the windshield and the driver was still slumped over the steering wheel. YIKES

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