

# Washington update-August 8 Indian News Notes

By Vince Lovett

## Hearings Held

On July 24, 1980, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs held an oversight hearing on the implementation of Indian educational programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Testimony was heard from public witnesses, including representatives of **The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**. Testifying on behalf of

the Administration was Earl Barlow, Director of the Office of Indian Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

On July 28th, the House Education and Labor Committee held an oversight hearing on the Indian education administrative funding of the Portland Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Just prior to the hearing, the problem—a dramatic reduction in Fiscal Year 1981 funding—was rectified administratively by readjusting monies to be appropriated for the Portland Area Office.

The problem stemmed, in part, to a misunderstanding of the process used during the last fiscal year and the BIA office responsible for allocation of these funds. During the hearings, Chairman Dale Kildee (D., Michigan) lauded the **Warm Springs** on several occasions for their efforts in resolving the problem.

## Committee Action

On July 21st, the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reported out (H. Rept. 96-1159) H.R. 7267, the bill introduced by Congress Les Aucoin to establish a reservation for The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon.

On July 24th the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee ordered favorably reported H.R. 6959, the bill introduced by Congressman Pritchard to

provide for the conservation and enhancement of the salmon and steelhead resources of Washington State.

Amendments made to the bill include extending the provisions to include all states, which virtually eliminates any real benefits for the Northwest. The bill is now expected to go to the Interior Committee, where some of the damage could be undone. Interior scheduling is uncertain.

On August 1st the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs reported out and recommended confirmation of Thomas W. Fredericks of

Colorado to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs. Mr. Fredericks is a former Staff Attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, OEO Director for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Chief Lawyer for the Department of the Interior.

## Passage

On July 21st, the Senate passed S. 2767, Senator Hatfield's bill to allow Indian tribal governments to make per capita payments to their members. The bill has been referred to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, where no action has yet been scheduled.

On July 25th the Senate passed S. 1280, the Energy Management Partnership Act, which was introduced on

behalf of the Administration by Senator Jackson on June 5th. The purpose of this bill is to assist states and local governments in expanding and strengthening their participation in conservation and development of renewable energy resource programs.

Features of the bill include operation of low income weatherization, planning for energy emergencies and

development of plans required for the residential energy conservation service. The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to annually reserve some portion of the sums available for financial assistance to Indian tribes and that regulations shall be written within 90 days after enactment for the allocation of these monies.

On July 31st the Senate passed S. 2332, the Department of Energy civilian authorization legislation, which included an amendment offered by Senator Wendell Ford on energy impact assistance for States, local governments and Indian tribes to offset the adverse affects of energy development. The bill, as amended, now goes to the House for consideration.

## Administration

At the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Dave Harrison has left his position as Director of Trust Responsibilities to enter the private practice of law. Ralph Reeser, who has been Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, will fill Harrison's position for about a week, when Ken Fredericks will take over. Reeser will return to his legislative responsibilities.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary-nominee Tom Fredericks, presently operating as an Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary until his Senate confirmation, has reportedly begun to shape his administration by hiring Sam Deloria and Michael Fairbanks to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretaries.

It is anticipated that Alan Parker will shortly become the Director of the Office of Indian Affairs in the Department of Energy's Division of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Parker has previously served as Staff Counsel for the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

## AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS PROPOSED AT WARM SPRINGS MEETINGS:

Commissioner of Indian Affairs William Hallett met July 7-9 at the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon with approximately 15 resource persons to discuss matters affecting economic development in Indian country.

The Commissioner said that one of the proposals coming from the meeting called for the creation of an American Indian Institute of economics to develop a forum for the exchange of papers on Indian economic development, the creation of a library or research center and other related purposes.

One suggestion at the meeting was that membership in the proposed institute be limited to persons who would, at least once or twice a year, prepare and submit a paper on a topic pertinent to the economic situation of Indian reservations. The meeting was the second gathering of resource persons, called together by Commissioner Hallett as part of his economic development initiative.

An earlier brainstorming session, involving about a dozen resource persons was held June 4 in Washington, D.C. Participants in the meeting included Ken Smith, General manager of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes; Robert McLaughlin, economist/planner consultant, Standing Rock Sioux; and Ernie Stevens, executive director, economic development division of the Navajo Tribe.

Commissioner Hallett has indicated that he will issue in September a report on the status of his economic development initiative, including brief summaries of the two meetings, what his staff is doing and plans for the next several months.

## ALBUQUERQUE WILL HOST NATIONAL INDIAN CONFERENCE ON AGING SEPTEMBER 8-10:

The third National Indian Conference on Aging will be held in Albuquerque September 8-10. Under the sponsorship of the National Indian Council on Aging, the Conference will be used for the purpose of developing resolutions, strategies and a position paper for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

The first two days of the conference will be for workshops on various topics, with all participants coming together on the third day for the adoption of resolutions and identification of potential delegates to the 1981 White House conference.

Featured speakers include Peter McDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribe; Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico; and Robert Benedict, Commissioner of the Administration of Aging.

## NORTHWEST INDIANS SEE WATER RIGHTS ISSUE SUPPLANTING FISHING ISSUE:

Gary Kimball, executive director of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, said recently "Quantification of water probably will eclipse the issues over Columbia River fish." The intertribal commission sponsored a meeting of eleven Columbia basin tribes held in Portland August 1-2 to discuss the complicated and controversial water rights issues the region faces.

One of the major topics of the conference was to be the beginning of planning to form a tribal water commission to deal with water rights in the basin. The eleven tribes are the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce, all members of the fish commission, plus the Flathead, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene, Shoshone-Bannock, Spokane, Kalispell and Colville.

## TOE NESS

There was this not-so-bright bride who became confused at her wedding and answered, "I did." YIKES

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There was this couple who were discussing the possibility of getting married when the man said, "I must confess that I'm a golf-crazy guy. I play every day after work during the spring, summer, fall and winter, also every Saturday and Sunday. I'm out late every day.

"Thank you for your frankness," the bride-to-be said. "Now I think that I should tell you things of myself. She said, "I'm a hooker." "I wouldn't worry about that," said the man. "Just remember to keep your backswing smooth and your wrists straight." YIKES

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There was this city dude who just spent a week at a dude ranch and when he returned to the city he told his friend that he saw the guy who makes horses. He said, "When I first arrived at the ranch I saw this guy just finishing this one horse. He was nailing on the feet." YIKES

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CONFUCIUS SAY: "Height of conceit...guy who send congratulations to his mother ... on HIS birthday! YIKES

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"Drive-in banking was invented so that cars could go in and see their real owners." YIKES

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## Ullman assures seniors of continuing benefits

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman said August 16 that proposals before Congress to make Social Security benefits taxable are dead.

Speaking to senior citizens in Woodburn, Oregon, Ullman said he is committed to maintaining the integrity of the Social Security system, which provides retirement benefits and other assistance to 35 million Americans.

"In the last several months, we've heard proposals advanced to tax your benefits, reduce your benefits and even to eliminate some benefits," Ullman said. "As long as I'm Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee those proposals are not going anywhere."

"The elderly already bear too much of the burden of

inflation, and the cost-of-living adjustment under Social Security is the only shield that many who live on fixed pension incomes have against rising prices."

Ullman said he doubts that responsible Members of Congress would support proposals to convert the broad-based Social Security system into a narrow, voluntary contributions program.

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