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Spilyay Tymoo

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Atiyeh proclaims Oregon American Indian Week

May 25-31 has been declared Oregon American Indian week by Oregon state governor Vic Atiyeh. The proclamation which was signed May 22, 1981 reads:

"The original leaders and great contributors to our American History of the United States were American Indians.

American Indians have determined many of the characteristics of American life as it is lived today. Their confederations and culture have helped shape the government and the history of Oregon and the United States.

Currently, American Indians are full partners in planning, developing, and the administration of programs and services to improve all facets of Indian life in America and in Oregon.

Therefore, as governor, I am pleased to proclaim May 25-31, 1981 OREGON AMERICAN INDIAN WEEK. I encourage and urge all Oregonians to recognize the American Indians of Oregon and reflect on their many contributions to our culture."

Opening ceremonies for the celebration of Indian week included dancing by the Warm Springs senior citizens and other members of the Warm Springs community. With senior citizen coordinator Wilson Wewa, Jr. acting as master of ceremony a dancing exhibition was given on Tuesday, May 26 at the park opposite the federal building in Portland. The demonstration of various traditional dances drew a large crowd during this lunch hour demonstration.



Opening Ceremonies

Warm Springs senior citizens helped to open Oregon American Indian Week on May 26 by staging a dance exhibition at the park opposite the Federal Building in Portland, Oregon.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Smith sworn in to top BIA post

by Sandy Rangila

It's official! We have a new Assistant Secretary," said an excited Carl Shaw, Ken Smith's press person in Washington D.C. The announcement came in a phone interview following Smith's final confirmation and immediate swearing in Thursday, May 14.

Although Smith was already officially the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs May 14, a public ceremony took place at 11 a.m. the next morning at the Interior Department auditorium. His wife Jeannie held the Bible while Ken took the oath of office. The public ceremony is common practice, said Shaw.

Shaw said that Smith's Senate confirmation was done by unanimous voice vote and that there was no opposition. He was sworn in by Interior Secretary James Watt.

Having resigned in mid-May as General Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Smith is free of any possible conflict of interest in regard to his new position.

The White House an-

nounced March 30 that President Reagan intended to nominate Smith for the top Indian job. On April 14 the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs received the nomination and the confirmation hearing was held April 28.

When he met with BIA area directors May 19-21, Smith said that he planned to give the Bureau a new "sense of direction." Asserting that strong tribal governments are the key to economic development in Indian Country, Smith said he wanted the Bureau to work with tribes for Indian self-sufficiency.

"Together with tribal governments, we can discover the solutions" to reservation economic problems, he said. Smith told the area directors that it was time for the Bureau to stop being defensive and to "go on the offensive for once."

He said he plans to develop with area directors a statement of goals and objectives for each area. "I feel very strongly that we need to get a sense of objectives." Smith said he sees the Bureau's role as supporting and promoting tribal governments. "If you've got a strong government, you most likely will have strong fiscal

management," he added.

Smith also announced that day that "for the time being" he plans to operate with two deputy assistant secretaries — one to handle day-to-day operations and the other to work on policy matters. He said that the Bureau's director of Indian education would report to the deputy assistant secretary for operations.

Smith said that he planned to establish a strong program of employee recruitment for the Bureau. He added that within 90 days all key positions would be filled, eliminating all "acting" designations — at least in the central office. He also met privately with each of the area directors during the course of the meeting.

Prior to his confirmation and swearing-in, Smith said that he had agreed to come to Washington because he was concerned about what was happening in Indian Country and that the time was ripe to make some changes.

He said that "four years from now" the achievements and successes of the tribes on the reservations would be the gauge he would use in measuring his own success.



Trudee Clements
1981 Miss Warm Springs
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Spilyay photo by Rangila