

Spillyay Tymoo

Title IV budget cut Needles yield baskets, etc.

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Representing Warm Springs a delegation was sent recently to Washington, D.C. to express the concerns of the Warm Springs people towards the proposed budget cut. Their concerns reflected those of other reservation and urban Indian groups around the country.

Speaking to the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies on February 22, Rudy Clements presented the Tribe's concern.

"First," Clements began, "Indian education is the trust responsibility which the Federal Government has pledged itself to support for our Confederated Tribes.

"Second, the Congress should maintain full appropriations for impact aid funds which serve Indian students. These funds, which are paid in lieu of local taxes, are critical to the survival of many school districts on or near Indian reservations.

"Third, Congress should provide full appropriations for all elements of Title IV of the Indian Education Act.

"Fourth, the Congress should either appropriate additional funds to the BIA for vocational education, or it should increase the Indian set-aside in the Vocational Education Act to two percent for distribution by the Department of Education.

"Fifth, the Congress should continue its support of the efforts by Indian tribes and communities to assure that BIA boarding schools remain viable Indian education resources."

Indian education is lacking, at this time, planning, expertise and lack of interest by both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Education," said Clements.

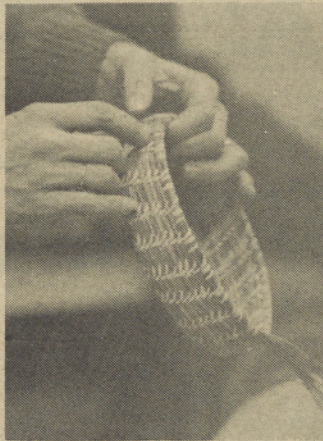
He feels the administration "has set its course, and it intends to pursue it—deaf to the concerns, dumb to the implications, and blind to the consequences" of its affect on Indian education.

In closing his statement to the committee, Clements asked Congress' support for Indian education appropriations.

The Standing Committee on Education Issues consisting of Rudy Clements, Charles Calica, Mike Clements, Zane Jackson, Sal Sahme and Nelson Wallulatum prepared a written statement of recommendations which were submitted to Congress expressing education and appropriation concerns of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The right to more than a minimal education for Indian students is emphasized throughout all statements presented before appropriation's committees and Congress. The Treaty of 1855 makes assurances to the tribes involved that the government would live up to their trust responsibilities. One of these trust responsibilities, the Warm Springs Tribe feels, is education.

"Education has always been one of the primary means by which the federal government carries out its trust responsibility," as cited in a statement by the Standing Committee on Education issues. "Just as society changes, and tribal needs are never ending, so is the necessity for education. For these reasons Indian education has been an essential service which the federal government assumed centuries ago...The responsibility for Indian education is of equal stature with the other treaty commitments which the United States made."



Spillyay Tymoo photo by Miller

Basket making with pine needles can be an interesting hobby. A class scheduled for Spring term will be on tap for those interested.

Ever wonder if there was anything one could do with pine needles besides being poked on the seat or the bare feet in the heat of the summer.

Well, during the winter term through the COCC adult learning center. Nancy Garrison taught a class in basket making using Ponderosa pine needles. Its amazing how nice the baskets look after completion. There were 15 adults who signed up and took the nine week course. Class members were Edith Danzuka, Don Gold, Silvia McCabe, George Schneider, Eloise Zher, Nellie Main, Nancy Cochran, Eraina Palmer, Tricia Bhogan, Myrna Courtney, Wanda Holum, Lucinda Green, Anita David, Louise Jackson and Anita Jackson.



Spillyay Tymoo photo by Miller

Myrna Courtney, one of the adults who just completed a course in basket making displays some of her work on the final night of the Winter term class.

All who took the course enjoyed the entire time and said it was a fun class. All types of baskets were made.

There is a spring term class

which will get underway on Monday April 4. This is a nine week course and meets once a week. See COCC class schedule.

Woodstove inspections for safety offered

Recent inspections indicate that people are storing paper and kindling wood way too close to their woodstoves.

Combustibles, such as those, should be back at least 18 inches to be safe.

If you want an inspection of

your stove or flue please call Fire and Safety at ext. 200/208. Jerry Huff, Fire and Safety.

New program for employees. . .

Tribes now self-insured

by Donna Behrend

In these difficult economic times, everyone is looking for a way to save money and cut expenses. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are also concerned about expenses—thus the new health insurance program. The Tribes no longer have Washington National Insurance Company as carrier for their health insurance but rather, they became "self-insured" as of January 1, 1983 and are re-insuring through Washington National.

The term self-insured is a bit confusing, but simply, the Tribes are responsible for 90% of all covered medical expenses up to \$5,000, all covered claim payments will be paid by the Tribes, rather than Washington National. Only when the total of the claims exceeds \$5,000 per individual does Washington National step into the picture, serving as an aggregate stop-loss. For these claims over \$5,000, the Tribes will be reimbursed by Washington National after the accounts are audited.

Medical benefits for tribal and Kah-Nee-Ta employees remain nearly the same. The major medical portion of the



Spillyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

Insurance department personnel Charles Nathan, Becky Quinn and Antoinette Wolfe began handling all payments for covered medical expenses when the Tribes became self-insured January 1. The new program, says Nathan, will expedite payments and save the Tribes \$200,000 in 1983.

insurance is improved. Instead of the employee paying 10% of the claims up to \$500 and 20% of the next \$2,500 with Washington National picking up 100% of the bills over \$3,000, the employee now pays

10% up to \$5,000 and the Tribes pay the remainder plus 100% of anything over \$5,000, which will be reimbursed by Washington National. For those eligible for IHS services, IHS will pay the first \$500, if

the services are authorized by IHS, the Tribes will pay 100% over the \$500.

Vision benefits have also improved. Previously, Washington National paid from \$0 to \$95 per person per year.

based on a completed schedule of benefits. Now the Tribes will pay 90% of the first \$100 for eye care.

Dental benefits remain the same. The employee pays the first \$25 of the bill and of the remainder, the Tribes will pay 70% and the employee is responsible for 30% up to \$250 the first year and up to \$500 every year thereafter. The vision and dental program will be totally managed by the tribal insurance department rather than Washington National.

The Tribal insurance department employees began briefing each tribal employee March 14. Each person has been given a handbook explaining the medical benefits as well as important excerpts from the personnel manual. Insurance identification cards have been issued to each employee and eligible spouse. Services will not be provided to either the employee, spouse or dependent without this identification card.

Planning for this program began over three years ago and Tribal Council authorized management to move ahead with the program late in 1982. Besides speeding up the payment process, the program will save the Tribe an estimated \$200,000 in 1983.