

Editors Note

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes articles and letters to be published from its readers. Short letters preferably 300 words or less and must include the writers signature and address. Thank you letters and poetry will be published at the editors discretion.

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Thanks for support Smith urges better fiscal accountability

To the Editor,

We would like to take this time to thank all of the people who took the time to turn out for Sammy Allen's luncheon on August 1, 1983. Your respect and support meant a lot to her. Her family would like to thank the following people: Carol Allison, Lucinda David for preparing the salads, Caroline Tohet for the

wonderful speech and kindness, Charles Calica for being there to present her award from the United States Achievement Academy and for the nice letter written to her from Sal Sahme, Education Committee Chairman, and Zane Jackson, Tribal Council Chairman.

Thank You,
Kenny and Frances Allen
Parents

Ken Smith, Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, today announced a "major initiative to bring a high level of fiscal accountability to both Indian tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

In a letter to tribal leaders across the nation Smith noted that he has received more than 150 audit reports from the Interior Inspector General in the past two years which have identified weaknesses or abuses in tribal or local BIA financial management procedures.

"Too often in the past," Smith said, "problems in either the Bureau or tribal administrations have been identified and then, apparently, ignored. I have advised BIA officials that I will not tolerate such non-responses."

Smith said waste or wrongful use of federal funds in any "Bureau or tribally-operated program has an impact on all Indian programs. Pressure is created to cut back or halt funding across the board for all Indian programs."

In his letter to tribal leaders,

Smith identified the kinds of assistance provided by the BIA to help tribal governments develop effective administrative systems and avoid the kinds of problems identified in the past by the Inspector General. Included were self-evaluation process for the tribes; a project to help small tribes develop management capabilities; and a program to give tribes on-site technical assistance for their accounting systems, payrolls and other administrative functions.

Smith emphasized the need for a good annual audit for every tribe. "I know of no management tool that is more useful or beneficial." He said the audits would help tribes to identify problems and develop solutions for them. He added that they would be useful also in dealing with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

The Inspector General's office, Smith said, planned to expend 15 staff years in BY 1984 to audit tribes with indicated problems.

Support given for return of land

The Reagan Administration has announced support for a bill to transfer title to 25,000 acres of land within Caja del Rio National Forest to the Indians of Cochiti Pueblo in New Mexico.

Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith, testifying before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee July 26, said the land had been fraudulently taken from the Pueblo in the early 19th century and failure to return it to its rightful owners would be a grave injustice.

The land has "considerable symbolic, religious and economic significance to the Pueblo," Smith said.

Smith said that Interior Secretary James Watt strongly supported the bill, H.R. 3259. He commended Watt for working closely with the Administration to initiate return of the land to the Cochiti Pueblo.

The Cochiti's claim to the land is based on a 1744 purchase of the land from a Spanish grantee. The Indians were deprived of the 25,000-acre tract by a fraudulent conveyance in 1805. A Spanish colonial court subsequently declared this 1805 conveyance void—but that court order was lost and the document not uncovered until 1979. U.S. courts, in the meantime, had denied the Cochiti claim, foreclosing the possibility of correcting the title through the court system.

Assistant Secretary Smith, in a May 13 briefing paper to Secretary Watt, said: "It is clear that the loss of this land in the past has been a grave injustice to the Pueblo de Cochiti. By the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States was obligated to respect and protect vested Indian property rights. Had the recently-discovered Spanish Colonial Court decree

been available at the time the question of the Pueblo's title was pending courts of the United States, the Pueblo's title to the Santa Cruz Spring Tract would almost certainly have been confirmed." Smith, in his testimony pointed out that the Cochiti claim is unique. "It represents the only known case of an Indian tribe pressing for land restoration on the basis of a paper title acquired by purchase."

The legislation expressly limits future use of the land to its present uses and specifically grants access through the land to existing recreational areas.

Sociologist to study Indians

According to available statistics, Native Americans have the worst health, poorest housing, most unemployment, and least education of any ethnic group in the United States today. In the past

reliable data on this most disadvantaged group among all American citizens has been scant. However, University of Maryland sociologist C. Matthew Snipp has received a grant from the Social Science Research Council which will soon provide a first-time opportunity to more accurately assess the number, as well as the place, of Native Americans in contemporary American society.

Snipp, who is of Oklahoma Cherokee and Choctaw descent, will use 1980 census data to complete the most extensive demographic analysis ever undertaken on Native Americans. The results of Snipp's work will be published in a book, *Native Americans: A Contemporary Assessment*, to be completed late next year.

In the 1980 census, the U.S. Census Bureau made an unprecedented effort to locate and count American Indians and Alaskan natives. It also compiled information from a special questionnaire administered on reservations and historic areas in Oklahoma. This abundant data, which has never before existed and which may not be collected again in the 1990 census, will provide the basis for Snipp's

demographic profile of current Native Americans and their position in American life.

The sociologist will examine the extent to which Native Americans have continued to be a distinct and unique segment of the U.S. population as well as how similar they are to the non-Indian population. He will also explore what impact the federal government has had on the Indians.

"Federal intervention, especially on reservations, is a pervasive influence on Native American life," says the sociologist. "The federal government's influence on Native Americans can be directly observed in housing quality, access to health care, patterns of employment, and schooling." Snipp's research is intended to provide an up-to-date analysis of this relationship.

Snipp received his Ph.D in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin in 1981. He has been an assistant professor of Sociology at UMCP since 1981. A specialist in rural sociology, he has done previous research on the Chicano labor force, studied unemployment of Wisconsin Native Americans and studied the effects of energy development on Native Americans.

Nevada tribe seeking water litigation

On June 30, 1983, the Tribal Council of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe met with the Tribe's attorneys to discuss the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Nevada vs. United States. In that case, the Supreme Court held that the Tribe is barred by res judicata from existing appropriators of Truckee River water even though the federal government inadequately represented the Tribe in the Truckee River

adjudication and sacrificed the Tribe's interests in favor of the Newlands Reclamation Project.

Following that discussion, the Tribal Council passed a resolution reaffirming its commitment to doing whatever is necessary to gain sufficient Truckee River flows to Pyramid Lake to maintain the lake's level and to restore the natural spawning of Lahontan cutthroat trout and cui-ui in the Truckee River. Included in that

resolution was a direction to the Tribe's attorneys to renew their efforts in all existing litigation regarding Truckee River water quantity and quality and to actively pursue the possibility of federal legislation.

Following the Council meeting, Tribal Chairman Roy Garcia stated; "We are, of course, disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision. We remain of the belief, however, that Pyramid Lake is a natural resource of this nation that must be preserved and protected for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The Tribe is proud of the great progress that we have made over the past 10 years and we will continue to fight in any way we can to ensure the survival of Pyramid Lake. In the end, I am sure that we will be successful."

Yikes Yikes Toe Ness Yikes Yikes

There was this duck hunter who claimed to be an expert marksman. One day he took his friend out duck hunting to prove his fine marksmanship. After some time had passed they saw this lone duck flying by. He said, "Watch this," and takes aim and fires, the duck kept on flying. "Oh gee, you're witnessing a miracle, there flies a dead duck!" YIKES

SS SS SS

There were these two golfers talking after a good round, the first asked, "How many strokes did it take you to get out that last trap?" "Three," the other replied. "But I heard six." His friend said, "Oh, the other three were echoes." YIKES

SS SS SS

There was this young marine recruit who turned his nose up to the chow and complained to the mess sergeant, "Don't I have any choice here?" "Certainly, my boy," replied the sergeant. "Take it or leave it." YIKES

SS SS SS

There was this family who invited the pastor over for a meal and they asked him to lead in prayer. After a brief prayer junior said, "You don't pray so long when you're hungry, do you?" YIKES

SS SS SS

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