



Gordon Thayer, Minneapolis Area Vice President, far left, and Joe De Law Cruz, NCAI chairman, look on as Ron Winkler and Delbert Frank listen to Georgianna Tiger present an oral memorial on the late Warm Springs chief Amos Simtustus, Sr. A Pendleton blanket was accepted by Frank from the Rules and Credentials committee to be given to Simtustus' wife, Dorothy.



Peterson Zah, keynote speaker at the 40th annual convention of NCAI.

Tribal Council, who in turn will present the gift to Dorothy Simtustus.

Peterson Zah, Chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council was the keynote speaker for the 40th NCAI convention directing his remarks toward a nation-to-nation type of framework being done in the Southwest at the present time. Zah said that for over a hundred years, the Navajo and Hopi tribes have been fighting and have not been able to settle their differences or make any headway on a fair settlement. It is believed that the involvement of the press, lawyers and the bureaucrats have been standing in the way and causing the continuous struggle between the two tribes.

Just recently, a meeting between the two Tribal Councils excluding lawyers, the press and BIA personnel have been making a big headway, said Zah. In the past you would never see the Hopi or Navajo Tribal Chairmen in the same room. But working on a nation-to-nation basis, things are starting to materialize and both Ivan Sidney, Chairman of the Hopi Tribal Council and

Zah agreed as both chairmen were present during the session.

During the second session there was time set to allow Jessie Jackson, a Black Civil Rights leader, to address the convention. Jackson's appearance at the NCAI was during a period of turmoil in Indian Country; a time when the Secretary of the Interior handed in his resignation and left many issues up in the air. Jackson's timing and appearance was good if he was seeking support from all minority groups for him to run for the Presidency.

Well-chosen words rang loud and clear to many as they cheered his remarks. On several occasions he included the Indians along with the Blacks, Hispanics and Asian Americans, stirring excitement with words like, "we must stand together to fight for our rights, we minorities must turn to each other and not on each other to fight for our rights, we cannot survive alone." Jackson went on to say, "the U.S. has broken the treaties with the Indians. Broken promises and broken treaties to the Indians, Blacks, Hispanics and Asian Amer-

icans." He said the U.S. has kept its promises to rebuild Israel, rebuild Europe and now must rebuild and involve its Indian population. To arouse the group, he said, "We're not fighting for charity, we're fighting for parity."

Jackson's words not only excited many conferees, but disturbed others as well. As some cheered his statements, others left the room in disgust.

The week long convention included a feed and powwow from the host tribe the Oneidas. Also a pageant of Indian beauty, as young Indian girls were vying for the "Miss NCAI" title. There were 14 girls in all from across the country and Alaska.

Lenora Starr represented the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and did a great job. But in the final tally by the judges it was "Miss Colorado River," Janise Tsosie of Parker River, Arizona who claimed the title.

The 41st NCAI convention will be held in Spokane, Washington next year and the mid-year meeting will be held in Denver.



Janise Tsosie was crowned Miss NCAI 1984.

Spilyay Tymoo
Coyote News

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Scores of dancers turned out for the feed and powwow during the NCAI convention.