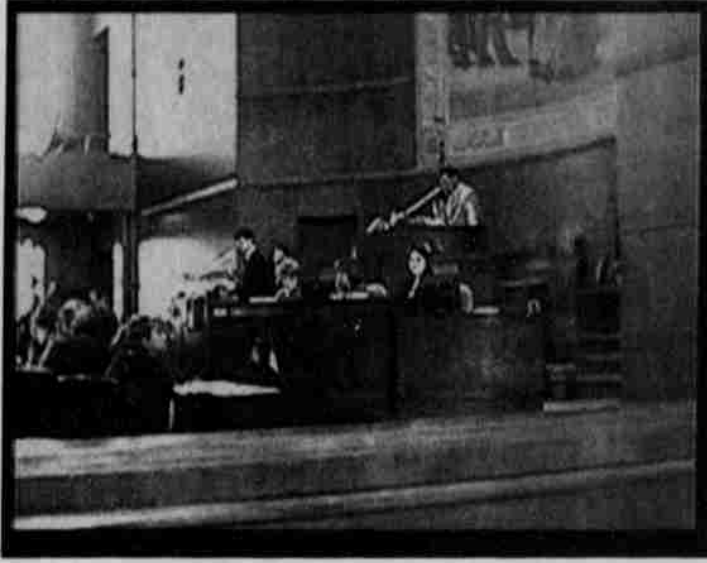


THE CONFEDERATED LANGUAGE LESSON

Elders and Language Program support Senate Bill 690



Witnessed by the many elders who speak the languages of the Wasco, Warm Springs, and Paiute people, the vote at the senate hearing regarding Native American Language Certification passed through the senate with overwhelming support from all districts. The vote was 28 "A's" and 0 "Nays," in favor of creating a license that would grant special certification of Native American Speakers to teach the language in classrooms.

Below is an excerpts from the Statesman Journal written by Steven Carter who witnessed this "historical moment."

"The bill sponsored by Sens. Bev Clarno, R-Bend, and Kate Brown, D-Portland, was sought by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to give official teacher status to older tribal members who are passing the Wasco, Paiute and Sahaptin languages to a new generation. Brown said Native American languages are in danger of disappearing, and with the much of cultural

history of the tribes.

The bill passed 28-0 and was sent to the House, Madeline Brunoe McInturff, 85, said she wants the law to raise the status of native languages speakers in the tribe. She is teaching Wasco to younger tribal members who are in turn are teaching it all children in Warm Springs Elementary School. She is one of the few remaining tribal members who speaks the language fluently."

The bill allows tribal members who know the various languages to set standards of proficiency for native language teachers. If the bill becomes law, it would allow the special licenses in 2002."

Native American people throughout the state came to witness the legislative process. Representatives from Grand Ronde, Pendleton, Klamath, Burns and Warm Springs lined the halls in their best regalia and brightest faces.



It was a day to be remembered by these language warriors. A process that started over 20 years ago, by elders who had a premonition that our languages would no longer be spoken by our

children. They were right and here we are, grasping on to what we have. Trying to revive the languages through our children, and succeeding in a way that surpasses our expectations. While some are being exposed to one language many are being exposed to their family language and a sister language as well, and a select few are learning three languages at the same time.

The language learning doesn't stop with the third grade, the high school students are learning as well. While being exposed to all three languages, the students were able to separate and master most of the animals, colors and immediate family in 6 hours. Given an exam at the end the of the class, most knew at least 80% of what was being taught and one student had missed two questions out of three exams. Quite impressive. These students can share with little brothers or sisters (cousins) what they've learned.

We look forward to the day when our children will ask an question in ichishkiin and the response will be in kiksht. And the person overhearing them will share in numu their point of view and everyone will have an understanding of what is being said.

This special license, if passed by the Oregon State Government, is granted to teachers who the Tribe permits to teach the native languages to our children. The Tribe sets the guidelines and standards for those who enter into the classroom, it declares who is fluent enough in the language to teach.

Unfortunately unless you make a point to learn this language...it isn't for you, it will be for your children and grandchildren.

What Do You Think?

About the radio broadcast and the three languages on the radio?

Your favorite Language is now on everyday! Listen to KWSO at 6:30 AM, 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

9:00 All teachers at WSE
 10:30 First grade teachers at WSE
 1:45 Dallas & Arlita at WSE
 2:30 Dallas & Arlita at WSE
 All classes are 1/2 hour each

1:00 Wasco Cur
 3:30 Paiute Class
 3:45 ECE
 6:00 Wasco Comm Class

1:00 Wasco Cur
 3:30 Paiute Class
 3:45 ECE
 6:00 Wasco Comm Class

1:00 Wasco Cur
 3:30 Paiute Class
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 3:30 Paiute Class
 3:45 ECE
 6:00 Wasco Comm Class

1:00 Wasco Cur
 3:30 Paiute Class
 3:45 ECE
 6:00 Wasco Comm Class

Don't Have an Aqwałq (root digging bag) for your child for the Root Digging Field Trip?

Make one...with us. The K-1 Language Teachers are having a get together on

April 9, 2001
@ 3:30 to 5:30 PM
at the old boys dorm.

All you need is a old pair of men's denim jeans or canvas material. Join us, we'll have lots of fun. Call Deanie, Suzie, Pat or Val to sign up @ 553-3393/3356.

Root Digging Field Trip Scheduled for April 11-Kindergarten April 12-First Grade Materials Your Child Will Need (if you have them)

