

FROM THE COUNCIL

On October 31, 1981, a meeting was arranged by the Commission On Indian Services with Governor Vic Atiyeh and representatives from the terminated tribes of the Northwest. Tribal leaders from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Klamath, Cow Creek and Coos attended. Also attending were representatives from the Indian Ed. Title IV Program in Eugene, the Urban Indian Council (Portland), Commission on Indian Services, and the Native American Program-Oregon Legal Services of Portland.

The meeting was held in the Governor's ceremonial room in the State Capitol building and was an informal, no agenda session. The session began at 10:00 A.M. and adjourned at 3:00 P.M. Mrs. Atiyeh served lunch at the Governor's home for the people attending.

The purpose of the meeting of the non-reservation tribes was to present problems of importance to the Governor.

Education and the effectiveness of Title IV-A Programs both academically and culturally was discussed. The percentage of drop-outs among Indian students was a concern of Governor Atiyeh and the tribes represented. The drop-out rate is extremely high in the first and second year of high school.

Employment was another great concern both of the tribes and the Governor. Employment and drop-out rates are very near being the same. High School drop-outs are unemployed at the time of quitting school and remain unemployed.

Other issues discussed were: Burial grounds and protection and patrol to discourage artifact hunters; game animals in the Klamath area (legal action is being taken in this case);

There could be no immediate solutions to the problems presented, but this was not the intent of the meeting. These problems were presented to the Governor and he is aware of them. When probable solutions can be identified, the tribes and state government will be familiar with them and in a better position to assist in actually resolving them.

Restoration is the reason these tribal leaders and representatives of Indian organizations attended this meeting. The tribes involved are in the process of seeking restoration. This process is a lengthy and difficult task. By becoming a federally recognized tribe, we will be able to deal with problems that termination has caused among tribes of the Northwest. Becoming a federally recognized tribe is only a component to our long range plans of becoming a self-sufficient, productive tribe, but a very important component needed to implement our future plans.

TRIBAL COUNCIL

