



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On December 19 & 20, 1988, Ken Smith, our tribal consultant, and I were in Washington D.C..

The purpose of the trip was to meet with the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs in an attempt to secure funding to implement the Tribe's forestry program.

While in Washington D.C., we had the opportunity and honor, along with many other tribal leaders, to meet with U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye from Hawaii.

The meeting was scheduled to be thirty minutes long, but ended up being over 2 1/2 hours.

Mr. Inouye is the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. This committee has jurisdiction over any legislation introduced into the Senate pertaining to Indian Affairs.

This committee cleared the Grand Ronde Reservation Bill in August 1988.

Besides, being the chair of the Senate Select Committee, Mr. Inouye holds the chairmanship of the Defense Appropriations sub-Committee.

Mr. Inouye encouraged Tribes to actively pursue securing contracts with the Department of Defense, or corporations who may contract with the Department. "If you want to see me, the key to my door is you are going to show me you will be willing to contract with Indian Tribes," Inouye said he has emphasized with corporations who contract with the Defense department.

As Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, Mr. Inouye said he was the only chairman to actually visit Indian reservations and communities throughout the country.

Mr. Inouye also stressed the importance of voting. "If the democratic system is to work perfectly, it is our duty to vote," Inouye said, "not only in tribal elections, but in state and national elections as well," the Senator told the group.

"Now is the time to start organizing a meeting with Tribal leaders and the new U.S. President. If all Tribes get together and speak with one voice, it will surely have a positive impact on the new Administration," said Inouye. "If all the Tribes start working now, it is possible to meet with the President much sooner than his term ends," he said.

All Indian people throughout the United States should be very thankful to have such powerful elected officials who are supportive of the Tribes. It is very important for Tribal leaders to maintain contact with these elected officials. Without our contact and support, it would be very difficult for Indian Tribes to govern their destiny, now or in the future.

On other business, the Tribe wishes to thank Bob Mercier for grading the streets adjacent to the Tribal Office. On January 8th, Bob brought a grader out, and graveled the road, eliminating the many pot-holes and making the streets smoother.

Sincerely,
Mark Mercier

TRIBE HOSTS OPEN HOUSE FOR YOUTH TREATMENT CENTER IN KEIZER

On Saturday, January 21, 1989, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted an open house at the newly named Nanitch Sahalie facility in Keizer, Oregon.

The facility will be used to as a Youth Residential Treatment Center for American Indian youth in the Pacific Northwest needing alcohol and substance abuse care.

Nanitch Sahalie, chinook for "look to the sky", is something our ancestors, must have done many times, looking for answers to problems, and questions they may have had, said Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier in opening comments.

"Our tribal leaders have long been aware and concerned of alcohol and drug abuse, not only in our local community...but throughout the Pacific Northwest," said Mercier.

"It was always a struggle to find ways to address a problem such as this, especially when resources were so

few and limited," Mercier said.

In early April 1988, the first opportunity to establish a treatment center was available, when the Tribe learned the Keizer building was scheduled to close, recalled Mercier.

"Thus, the Tribe set out on a major effort to build a team, representing many agencies from the federal, state and tribal governments," said Mercier.

The Tribe worked with the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, State of Oregon Alcohol/Drug Department, Congressman Les AuCoin, Senator Hatfield, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Oregon's Indian Tribes, and many others to put together a plan to set-up the Treatment Center.

Wasco Chief, Nelson Wallulutum, from Warm Springs, sang Grand Ronde/Siletz tribal songs and emphasized the importance of such a facility in combating alcohol and substance abuse problems.

"It's (substance abuse) something that don't pick certain people, or classes of people, it just takes whomever," and if it can't be controlled, we fall down," said Wallulutum.

About one hundred guests and visitors attended the open house. Nanitch Sahalie is scheduled to open in early March and at full capacity will care for 44 youth.

A director for the program should be hired within the next few weeks. There are six candidates that will be interviewed for the position.

Following the hiring of a director, other job openings at the center will be advertised. At full capacity the Center will employ 25, including administrative, and maintenance staff, cooks, counselors, and teachers.

The Grand Ronde Tribe currently leases the facility, but plan to purchase it at a later date.

AUCOIN NOMINATES LENO TO NAVAL ACADEMY

Tribal member, Chris Leno, has been nominated by Congressman Les AuCoin for entry into the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Leno was among ten Oregonians nominated for entry into the prestigious Naval Academy which provides four years of education and training to those who gain entry.

Chris is really excited about it, said his mother, Janelle Stuckey of Willamina. His father is Robert M. Leno.

Chris is a freshman at Oregon State University where he was awarded a Minority Tuition Scholarship due to his high academic standing in high school. His major is Business.

In October 1988, the Grand Ronde Tribal Council passed a resolution supporting Chris's appointment to the Naval Academy.

AuCoin is expected, in March or April, to notify Chris and let him know if he has been selected to attend the Academy.

SINCERE THANKS

The family of Lester Holmes would like to take this opportunity to thank Tribal Council, family and friends for the cards, flowers, and food. The support shown on January 11th is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Val Grout, Ivanetta Cook, and Patty Hoopengartner for handling the food preparation and clean-up.

Sincerely,

The families of Merle Holmes, Arnold Holmes, Elmer Holmes and Clarice Ellison



Nelson Wallulutum