

SUPREME COURT RULES STATES CANNOT PERMIT NON-INDIANS TO ADOPT INDIAN BABIES

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court ruled today state courts lack authority to permit the adoption of Indian babies by non-Indians, even when the natural parents leave the reservation to give up the children.

Voting 6-3, the justices over turned the adoption of Choctaw Indian twins by a Mississippi couple. The high court sent the case to a Tribal Court for further study. The justices said Tribal-Rights and Indian culture-take precedence in such circumstances over individual rights.

"Tribal jurisdiction under (federal law) was not meant to be defeated by the actions of individual members of the Tribe," said Justice William J. Brennan for the court, "for Congress was concerned not solely about the interests of Indian children and families, but also about the impact on the Tribes themselves of the large number of Indian children adopted by non-Indians."

Justice John Paul Stevens, in a dissenting opinion, said the ruling "distorts the delicate balance between individual rights recognized by" the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

The law gives tribal courts exclusive jurisdiction over custody proceedings involving any Indian child "who resides or is domiciled within" a tribe's reservation. The case involved twins, a boy and a girl, who were born on Dec. 29, 1985, in Philadelphia, Miss., near the Choctaw reservation. Their mother, Jennie Bell, and their father, Windell Jefferson, are members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The twins were put up for adoption by their parents and were adopted by a non-Indian couple, Orrey and Vivian Holyfield.

A Mississippi judge, noting that Ms. Bell had traveled off the reservation to give birth, said the Choctaw tribe therefore lacked authority over the children. The Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the adoption. Choctaw leaders said the state court rulings would encourage illegal adoption of Indian babies, making Mississippi, "a potential adoption Mecca for... black marketeers trading in Indian children."

The U.S. Supreme Court said under federal law the domicile of the Choctaw babies remains the reservations' because their parents lived there. "At their birth the twin babies were also domiciled on the reservation, even though they themselves had never been there," Brennan said.

Dissenting with Stevens were Chief Justice William J. Rehnquist and Justice Anthony Kennedy. The case is Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians vs. Holyfield, -from Sho-Ban News.



Tribal Bookkeeper, Renca Provost

PSALM OF ALCOHOL ADDICTION

King Alcohol is my shepard, I shall always want.
He maketh me to lie down in the gutters.
He leadeth me beside the troubled waters:
He destroyeth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of wickedness for the effort's sake.
Yea, I shall walk through the valley of poverty and will fear all evil.
For though, Alcohol, art with me.
Thy bottle and glass try to comfort me.
Thou strippest the table of groceries in the presence of my family.
Thou robbest my head of reason.
My cup of sorrow runneth over.
Surely Alcohol addiction shall stalk me all the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the house of the damned forever.

FMHA REACHES OUT TO MINORITY FARMERS

Minorities interested in farming may want to inquire at any one of 19 FmHA county offices about a farm ownership loan under a new program designed to reach out to "socially disadvantaged groups" in Oregon. David T. Chen, FmHA state director said today.

Mandated by the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, the program is in its second year of operation. Under the program, FmHA again encourages eligible minority farmers to apply for a farm ownership loan for the purchase of farm land. Applicants who are unable to obtain credit elsewhere and can meet other credit qualifications for a loan, including a determination that the applicant has a reasonable chance to succeed in farming, should contact any of the FmHA offices listed below.

FmHA defines socially disadvantaged population groups as Hispanics, Native Americans, Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

"Eligible applicants can acquire a loan in two different ways. An applicant can find suitable farm property and then come to us to finance it. FmHA also has property in inventory in many counties and a list of available property is maintained in every office. In either case, they should come to see us about how to apply," Chen said.

"We have helped a lot of farmers with leased operations to establish themselves in ownership positions. We have also kept a lot of other farmers in business when they could not obtain credit elsewhere. This is an attempt to encourage qualified minorities who may have felt excluded from opportunities to enter farming, to at least explore the chance with us," Chen added.

Last year, Oregon FmHA made the first loan of this type in Umatilla County. The county office in Pendleton assisted a minority applicant in purchase of 80 acres of farm land.

Farmers Home Administration County offices serving all 36 Oregon Counties, are located in Albany, Baker, Coquille, Dallas, Eugene, Hillsboro, Klamath Falls, LaGrande, Madras, McMinnville, Medford, Ontario, Oregon City, Pendleton, Redmond, Roseburg, Salem, St. Helens and The Dalles.

WARM SPRINGS MEMBER RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD.

Michael R. Clements, President of the board of directors of the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), has been awarded the Indian Leadership Award by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A citation and plaque was given to Clements March 29 at the annual ITC Symposium in Phoenix. William (Pat) Ragsdale, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, presented the award to Clements for "outstanding and significant contributions to the Indian forestry program and Indian forest owners."

A member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Oregon, Clements has headed the Indian timber owners' association since 1982. During his tenure, membership grew from 17 tribes and Alaska Native organizations to a high of 57 today. "His enthusiastic leadership and ability to communicate inspires the membership to attain the highest standards in the management of their forest resources," the citation reads. He has testified annually before Congressional Committees regarding the State of the Indian forestry program and was instrumental in promoting a Native American Forest Products Marketing and Business Development Study to identify marketing opportunities that assisted Tribes with business ventures. "The Indian people can take great pride and satisfaction in knowing they have a capable, articulate, and willing spokesman in Mr. Clements," Ragsdale said. "He embodies all those successful ingredients we look to as a role model for our Indian youth and I hope that is what he is accepted as."

POW WOW COMMITTEE NEWS

First of all, we would like to apologize to everyone for the pinochle night because the Pow wow committee members forgot about it. We are ready to try again though, so tell your card playing friends to come to the tribal office on June 10th at 6:00 pm. If there are folks who don't want to play pinochle, but who like to play other card games, bring them along too. There will be refreshments provided, but if you happen to have a card table please bring it along. The cost is \$2.50 per person and \$5.00 per couple. The proceeds will be used to fund this year's pow wow.

During Indian Week, the Social Services Department and the pow wow committee sponsored a barbeque and mini pow wow. The event was a huge success! Three drums provided music for the event and lots of dancers round-danced their way around the elementary school gym. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make the mini pow wow a success.

Chemawa students have been drumming and teaching our youth dancing during April and May at our Tuesday night classes. These students have shared so much with our kids, and we would like to thank them for the time and energy they have contributed to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Tickets will be circulated soon for a beautiful silver and turquoise squash blossom necklace. Raffle proceeds will help defray pow wow expenses. The necklace will be raffled off on August 19th at our annual pow wow.

June 15th at 6:30 pm is this month's pow wow meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and get involved. Also, please don't forget the card night on June 10th at 6:00 pm. See you there!

Shelley Hanson
Pow wow committee vice chairman