

Committee Reports On Indian Termination

Immediate termination of federal control over the Umatilla and Warm Springs reservations is not in the cards, Senator Leander Quiring of Hermiston declared recently in commenting on the findings of the Legislative Interim Committee on Indian Affairs.

Quiring is chairman of the seven-member committee, which recently completed its report, "A Reintroduction to the Indians of Oregon," for presentation to the 1959 Legislature.

He said the committee feels that termination of all tribes must come someday.

"However, some tribes are better prepared for it than others," Quiring pointed out. "The Umatillas have a larger proportion of older reservation Indians, and sudden termination would represent too sharp a readjustment in their way of life."

The Hermiston senator said that the primary function of his committee's studies and report was "to inform the public on who and where our Indians are, how they are progressing and what they are thinking."

He added, "The near debacle of Klamath termination brought an awakening to the imperative need for such a stock-taking."

The interim committee report, 130 typewritten pages long, is thought to be one of the most comprehensive inventories ever taken of Oregon's Indians and their health, education and outlook, in general.

Its scores of observations and recommendations include an urgent request to the 1959 Legislature to call on Congress "to set up prohibitions against termination of any Indian tribe without approval of the Legislature of the state

where the subject tribe resides." Quiring explained that the committee was convinced that the original Klamath Termination Act would never have won approval of the lawmakers at Salem. He said also the committee felt that consultation between all tribes of the region should precede termination of any tribe—since, for example, the Klamath termination adversely affected land management on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The committee called for a second memorial to Congress, this one urging congressional review of House Concurrent Resolution 118, the basic instrument of federal termination policy (described as a source of "turmoil").

The committee found that the stepped-up transfer of Indian services away from the federal level made an Oregon state Indian agency a necessity. It recommended continuation of a low-budget interim committee to meet this need, rather than creation of a "more expensive and permanent state commission."

The committee expressed hope that "serious discussions will be devoted by Oregon leaders, including members of the Legislature, to means of combatting racial prejudice affecting Indians." Particularly, the committee took note of the period of "special emotional insecurity" facing the Klamaths in consequence of termination.

"Unaccustomed liquid wealth and inexperience with money management will work hand in glove to hasten the dissipation of the \$58,000 shares of many withdrawing members," the report stated. "Perhaps a committee of top Klamath County citizens can be formed to help insure the Indians against repudiation and victimization."

The committee warned that carrying out of the Klamath Termination Act, as amended, may temporarily impair the Klamath Basin's economy. It recommended that the 1959 Legislature memorialize Congress and the secretaries of the interior and agriculture asking that timber sales on federal lands tributary to Klamath County be accelerated but still held within allowable cuts.

Quiring estimated that the necessarily complicated disposal of Klamath Indian timberlands might cause a reduction as much as 70 million feet annually, until 1962, in logs flowing to Klamath County mills.

The report noted that the quality of health among the 26,000 Indians in Oregon, Washington and Idaho is far below that of their non-Indian neighbors. It recommended development of fiscal data for arriving at an equitable sharing of Indian services, facilities and programs by all levels of government and the Indians themselves during the transition of terminated tribes.

"As special services for Indians on reservations are discontinued," the report said, "local community health and welfare agencies must plan for increased service and financial aid." At the same time, interpretation of health programs to the Indians themselves was recommended as a means of encouraging them to take responsibility for their own health services and to avail themselves of community and state health facilities.

"Education holds a majority of the answers to the dilemma of the American Indian," the committee observed. It recommended intensification of religious and family counseling to stabilize the "Indian family climate" so as to promote progress in education. It suggested additional attendance officers where needed and special indoctrination courses for law enforcement officers, educators, professional people, clergymen and others who work with Indians.

The committee asked that a Federal-State task force be appointed to "sharpen this whole muddy picture" pertaining to jurisdictional conflicts in, say, cases involving commitment to an institution. The report questioned the Warm Springs Reservation's special Indian law and order system, declaring that the "committee objects to any such set up which unnecessarily emphasizes the existence of a racial principal."

Also suggested was closer consultation between the Indians and State Game Commission in an effort to prevent trespass and vandalism on the reservations and to improve game management programs.

Serving on the committee with Senator Quiring are Sen. Dwight Hopkins, Imbler; Representatives Dave Epps, Sweet Home, and L. John Kerbow, Klamath Falls; Roy Gienger, Chiloquin; Tom Law, Sam Wilderman, Portland; the son McCall of Portland is executive secretary.

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Doctor Dies Deer Hunting

PENDLETON (AP)—An elderly Pendleton doctor died yesterday after dressing the carcass of a deer he had just shot.

Pat Folsom, Umatilla County coroner, said Dr. C.O. Wainwright, 73, apparently died of a heart attack.

Mrs. Wainwright told officers she and her husband were driving on the Ukiah road, when he spotted a deer, got out of the car and shot it.

Mrs. Wainwright said she drove away while he dressed the animal, but was unable to find her husband when she returned. Officers found his body near the carcass in the woods nearby.

TO HONOR FUCHS

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The National Geographic Society announced today that its Hubbard Medal will be awarded to Sir Vivian Fuchs, the British explorer who led history's first overland crossing of Antarctica this year. Dr. Melville Bell Grosvenor, president and editor of the society, said the award will be presented when Fuchs comes here to address the society next Feb. 6.

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