

Anti-treaty group met by opposition in Salt Lake City

Protesters disrupted the opening session of a three-day conference on intergovernmental relations assailed by Indian leaders as an attempt to abrogate treaties.

The National Coalition on Federal Indian Policy conference, which began Jan. 18, was sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association, a group of local elected officials.

About 60 officials from counties in 12 states, including Michigan, attended the conference. Organizers said they hoped to create a "mechanism" outside the courts for resolving treaty conflicts.

Indian leaders said they feared the hidden agenda for the meeting was the formation of a group or lobby for the abrogation or modification of Indian treaties with the U.S.

Suspensions were fueled by the fact that several Indians were denied admission to the meetings with the explanation that only pre-registered participants were allowed.

About 50 protesters picketed outside the meeting room door.

tribal observer



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UTAH INTER-TRIBAL COALITION WE ARE ONE VOICE WEEK

January 18-19

Tribes from 5 states protest the National Coalition of Federal Indian Treaties convention at the Embassy Suites, 600 South West Temple, SLC

Feel Free to Join In Any Time

**THIS COALITION WANTS TO
DESTROY ALL TREATIES!!!**

January 20

**UIC OFFICIAL PROTEST AGAINST THE DESTRUCTION OF
TREATIES. MEET AT THE EMBASSY SUITES AT 9 A.M.**

January 21

**Rally with speeches by Indian leaders and a
pow-wow at the Indian Walk-in Center, 120 W. 1300
South, SLC 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

January 22

INDIAN MARCH FOR CHANGE

9:30 a.m. Meet at ZCMI mall downtown SLC

10:00 a.m. March to the Capitol

**11:00 a.m. Speeches by Indian leaders on Capitol
steps (WEAR WARM CLOTHES!!!)**

**Noon Present petitions of all Indian groups
to the Governor**

**There are thousands of signatures on the UIC
petition. Navajo, Ute, Paiute, Western Shoshoni, and
urban Indian leaders will attend. We expect
thousands of marchers from all parts of the state
and national news coverage.**

PLEASE COME AND MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!

Flyer distributed by Native American groups opposed to treaty abrogation and the Wisconsin Counties association meeting in January, 1990.

Social Security taxes, payments increase for 1990

Jeffrey Johnston
Observer News Writer

There is good news and bad news from the Social Security Administration for 1990.

While a 4.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment will raise the amount of Social Security and supplemental security income (SSI) payments, Social Security taxes will take a larger bite out of paychecks, according to Donald Hire, Social Security manager in Mount Pleasant.

Hire said taxes would increase from 7.51 percent, the 1989 rate, to 7.65 for both employees and employers. Additionally, the maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes will increase from \$48,000 to \$51,300.

Self-employed people will benefit from a change in federal tax laws which allows them to claim a business deduction on one half of their self-employment taxes.

The cost-of-living adjustment for 1990 raises the benefit ceiling for a person retiring this year at 65 to \$975, Hire said, adding the national average retirement benefit from Social Security is \$566.

The full federal SSI payment goes up this year to \$386 per individual and \$579 per couple, though Hire said these figures may vary from state to state and according to living arrangements and income.

Questions about Social Security or SSI can be answered by calling 1-800-2345-SSA or by visiting the Mount Pleasant Social Security office at 304 W. Michigan. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Activities help promote self-esteem

Many students at West Intermediate School are involved in extra-curricular activities, such as band and sports.

There are several benefits to participation in these activities. Involvement in sports will not only improve one's level of physical fitness, it can also teach the value of teamwork, provide a sense of accomplishment, and relieve stress.

Involvement in band requires practice and patience. Learning a new skill takes time, but the reward is the ability to create beautiful music.

One of the greatest benefits of participation in these activities is the accompanying boost in self-esteem. The lessons learned in musical, sporting or artistic pursuits are important lessons in life: persevere, try harder, cooperate.

Parents can help their children by providing transportation to and from

practices, games and concerts; by preparing nutritious meals, attending performances and offering encouragement.

Among the students presently having fun and improving themselves through extra-curricular activities at West Intermediate are the following:

Band

Dustin Davis, Chris Sineway and Darcy Sprague.

Wrestling

Vinnie Kequom, Jason Quigno, Jason Wixson and Robert Lerma.

Volleyball

Summer Peters, Rose Shomin and Melissa Montoya.

Basketball

Paul Shomin.

Tribal survey set

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe will conduct a comprehensive survey of its three respective districts from March 12 to April 20, 1990. For the Isabella and Saganing districts, the tribe will conduct on-site interviews.

This is not a part of the 1990 U.S. Census. The tribal survey is geared specifically to tribal members.

Organizers of the survey ask members to cooperate, as information from the study will help establish tribal priorities. "By the people and for the people are what our governments are and should be founded on," said organizer Kim Sawmick.

Reminder: The May 4, 1990 deadline established by the Tribal Constitution requires tribal members to submit their legal name and current address to the tribal secretary. Please bring in the information in person or send it by certified mail so the tribe can keep up-to-date information on its members.

tribal observer

Announcements

Satanism will be discussed by a State Police representative at a Feb. 21 inservice at the Tribal Center. The program, which will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the Seniors Room, is designed to train human service staff to identify and understand various aspects of satanism.



Student "Odyssey of the Mind" trip to Delta College Feb. 24. The van will leave the Tribal Center at 9:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. Students must bring a sack lunch and a permission slip. Slips are available at McGuire School from Susan Tarmanen, or in the computer room.



What is the 100-Mile Club all about? You have four months to cover the distance of 100 miles by walking, jogging or using the rowing machine, Nordic Skier, or bicycle in the Fitness Center. There will be first, second and third place winners plus a "grand prize." Everyone who participates in the 100-Mile Club will receive a t-shirt printed with the club logo.



Update: First place: Leo Pego, second place: Norma Jean Jackson, third: Earl Pelcher, and fourth: Joe Kequom.

Fore! Junior golf lessons are offered for anyone age 8 to 17. Sign up at the Tribal Center reception desk or Fitness Center.

From babies to grandparents, there is something for everyone planned for the Third Annual Indian Olympics. Volunteers are needed to help with the events. Call Bonnie Ekdahl at 772-5700, ext. 205, for information.



Fitness Center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday. Recourses include aerobics, free weights, universal, rowing machine, and cross country ski machine. Monday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is teen night.



Expansion planned for Card Room

Bill Federico
Observer Special Writer

The demand by the public attending our black-jack and poker operation at the Saginaw Chips' Card Room has doubled over the past year. The card room currently serves about 300 patrons on week nights, with weekend traffic between 600 and 700 people per night.

Presently, tables can only accomodate 257 players at one time. In other words, more than half the patrons have to wait for a seat or never get to play at all.

The plans to increase floor space by one-third of the current area will involve the former food commodities area. This renovation has been approved by the Gaming Commission, and plans have been drawn up. The project is estimated at \$250,000.

The new area will include an employee break room, storage, a security loft, parking lot paving and the cost of relocating the main entrance. This additional area should provide space for 20 black jack tables and two poker tables.

Starting and completion dates have not yet been set by tribal administrators.

Tutor program underway at McGuire

Bonnie Ekdahl
Observer Special Writer

A tutoring program launched by the Saginaw Chippewa Education Department appears successful, according to student/parent advocate Bonnie Ekdahl.

The program provides academic assistance to Native American students from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Ekdahl, who coordinates the program, said there are currently 88 Native American students at

Mary McGuire Elementary. The education department employs three part-time tutors at the school, scheduling them so the entire school day is covered.

Tutors work with students on a teacher referral basis. Ekdahl explained if a teacher notices a Native American student having difficulties in the classroom, he or she lets the student spend time with a tutor during the school day. This may take place in the classroom or outside of class.

"Flexibility is the key," Ekdahl said, "if a teacher wants us to stay in the classroom, we will."

Census Data Benefit Your Community

When you answer questions on the 1990 census form by filling in the appropriate circles with a pencil, you have started the process of putting census information to work in your community.

Each dark dot becomes a bit of information that when electronically combined with all other census answers from your community, produces a valuable statistical profile of people and housing.

Just how are these census numbers used for your block, neighborhood, city, county, and state, once they are published?

Each person not counted in the census means a potential dollar amount lost to your local government for those programs in

dollars, hundred of jobs, and years of effort—could be put in jeopardy from decisions based on inaccurate information.

Local government planners and economic developers depend on accurate census statistics to plan for the future.

■ **Political Power**—Your community's representation in the U.S. House of Representatives is determined by census numbers. Fair political representation for your community means that everyone must be counted in the 1990 Census. People who do not return their census forms may contribute to under-representation in Congress and a loss of political power.

which it takes part. Census figures are used for 10 years (until the next census) as the statistical foundation for sending these program funds to local governments. So, the ramifications of an undercount go far beyond a one-year allocation period.

By making sure that everyone is counted, a community will receive all the funds to which it is entitled.

■ **Government Program Funds**—Billions of dollars in federal and state government assistance are distributed to communities each year

■ **Planning for Development**—Local government planners and economic developers depend on accurate census statistics to plan for

And you don't have to be a government official or an executive in a big corporation to put census numbers to work for you. Census information about your area is often as close as your neighborhood library. Just look at the ways civic and neighborhood leaders have used census statistics to help meet the needs of their communities:

■ Census statistics revealed a high number of working mothers with small children in a low-income neighborhood, prompting community leaders of a midwestern city to seek and win approval for a day care center.

■ A senior citizens' organization was able to argue successfully before the county commissioners for a new senior center by using census numbers indicating that elderly residents in an urban neighborhood did not have adequate recreation facilities.

■ Lacking adequate representation on the city council, minority organizations in a western city used census facts and figures to win a redistricting battle, enabling voters to elect additional minority council members in the next election.

As you can see, census numbers aren't meant to gather dust in a big volume. They are meant to be put to work in your community.

Each person not counted in the census means a potential dollar amount lost to your local government for those programs in which it takes part.

for a variety of locally-administered programs. By law, these funds are usually allocated based on census population, age, housing, income, poverty level, and other statistics. Such projects include education, health care, human services, and community development programs that help everyone.

the future. Expensive public and private development projects—such as schools, health clinics, factories and shopping centers—are linked to the study of census population and housing totals.

If the census is not complete, the success of these developments—which could involve millions of

Native Amer. remains cause controversy

(NANS) - The Smithsonian Institution's refusal to return skeletal remains to an Alaska Native village could lead to the first test of a new federal law on repatriation of Indian remains, according to an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund.

Henry Sockbeson, A NARF attorney representing the Larsen Bay Tribal Council, said in an interview he will try to meet with Smithsonian representatives soon, hoping to reach an agreement on the village's request that more than 800 skeletal remains be returned.

If no resolution is reached, NARF will sue the Smithsonian to Force return of the remains, Sockbeson said.

The village made its request through a law passed last Nov. 28 which directs the Smithsonian to return remains and funerary objects upon the request of descendants of an individual or of the tribe. Under the law, the Smithsonian is required to conduct a detailed inventory of the 18,650 North American Indian human remains and grave goods in its possession to identify their origins and to notify the appropriate tribes.

The Larsen Bay remains were excavated from the Kodiak Island village in the 1930s by Ales Hrdlicka, a physical anthropologist working under the auspices of the Smithsonian, according to Gorgon Pullar, former president of Kodiak Area Native Association. Pullar is working with NARF to secure the return of the remains.

The Smithsonian has taken the position that there is no connection between the remains and the present Larsen Bay Native people, Pullar said.

The theory, based on Hrdlicka's research, holds that a "population displacement" took place at the site, with the earlier group of inhabitants disappearing between 1000 and 1300 A.D., and present-day Native culture beginning in about 1300, Pullar said, describing the theory as "based on 1930s scientific opinion that is not accepted by anyone (except the Smithsonian) now."

Smithsonian Secretary Robert McCormack Adams was not available for comment.

Sockbeson said Sen. Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, has written a letter to Adams informing him the committee is watching the case closely, and saying he fully expects the Smithsonian will follow the spirit and letter of the law.

Inouye has said if the Smithsonian continues its refusal to return the Larsen Bay remains, he will move to hold Senate hearings on the matter this spring.

History society's records spark suit

LINCOLN, Neb. (NANS) - State Attorney General Robert Spire said he is "shocked and disappointed" by the Nebraska State Historical Society's efforts to keep Pawnee skeletal remains and artifacts the tribe wants returned.

The Pawnee Tribe, represented by Native American Rights Fund attorney Walter Echo-Hawk, had earlier requested an accounting of the Pawnee remains and artifacts through both the state open records law and a state law providing for repatriation of some Indian remains and burial goods.

Recently, the tribe asked for the society's records showing how it was complying with the earlier request. The historical society responded

by filing suit against the tribe and NARF to prevent access to its records, claiming it is not a state agency and need not comply with the open records law.

Attorney General Spire said in an earlier, official opinion the historical society must comply with the law. He threatened to go to court to force the society to release its records.

Spire said the museum has both the legal and ethical obligation to deal responsibly with the tribe and its attorneys.

"We must act with a genuine respect for the human dignity of the members of the Pawnee tribe and their religious convictions," Spire said.

Lujan to help settle land claim

WASHINGTON D.C. (NANS) - Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan has told congressional and state officials in South Carolina the federal government will offer assistance in resolving 10-year-old land claims by the Catawba Indian Tribe.

Don Miller, an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund, is representing the tribe in its effort to regain 144,000 acres in northern South Carolina and said the pledge of federal help is a "very positive development."

The tribe filed suit in 1980 to regain the land, which it claims was illegally sold to the state in 1840 because the sale had not been approved by federal officials.

Current occupants of the property have been unable to get the title insurance needed for development in the disputed area, which includes three cities.

The tribe has repeatedly said it wants to settle the claim, and has proposed a plan that would include an expanded federal reservation, federal recognition of the tribe, a cash settlement and creation of a fund for tribal economic development.

Voting Right Act violations alleged

ALBUQUERQUE (NANS) - Attorneys for the All Indian Pueblo Council have filed a motion to intervene in a U.S. Justice Department lawsuit alleging Voting Rights Act violations by the state of New Mexico and Sandoval County.

The suit claims the state and county violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act by not providing interpreters and voter information in Keres and Navajo, the native languages of area tribes. The suit further charges that no procedures had been

The Cold Within

*Six humans trapped by happenstance
In black and bitter cold
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.*

*Their dying fire in need of logs,
The first woman held hers back
For of the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.*

*The next man looking cross the way
Saw one not of his church,
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.*

*The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?*

*The Rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store.
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy, shiftless poor.*

*The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight,
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.*

*And the last man of this forlorn group
Did naught except for gain.
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game.*

*The logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from the cold within.*

-anonymous

established to give people living in isolated Pueblo and Navajo areas an opportunity to register to vote, cast absentee ballots or prevent cancellation of their registration to vote.

The AIPC objects to a redistricting plan for county commissioners which they say would dilute Indian rights to vote.

Groups promote cooperation

(NANS) - While county associations from several states gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah, to plot ways to abrogate Indian treaties, other groups gathered in the upper Midwest to promote peace and cooperation between non-Indians and Indian tribes.

In Milwaukee, Wis., the birthday commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. included a treaty rights forum.

In Duluth, Minn., a non-Indian member of a panel on Indian, white relations told his audience sharing resources is the key to eliminating treaty rights conflicts.

A representative of Protect America's Rights and Resources, traditionally an anti-Indian group, said the group now rejects abrogation of Indian treaties, believes in non-violence, and supports treaties as a way of protecting the environment.

Walter Bresette, a member of the Red Cliff band of Chippewas, told an audience at Marquette University that treaty rights are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and are clearly a civil rights issue.

He pointed out members of his tribe have been "subjected to terrorist violence" while carrying out traditional spearfishing.

During a live broadcast on the Lake Superior Radio Network in Duluth, Minn., the president of the Hayward Lakes Resort Association told other panelists the attitudes of white communities, not Indian treaties, are to blame for racial tensions.

President Ken Toebe said the best way to resolve disputes is by sharing resources and getting to know one another--something he said white communities have refused to do.

Another panel member, Matthew Kelly, Northwest regional director of PARR, announced his group is working with Chippewa tribes in the Upper Peninsula to oppose a planned low-level nuclear waste dump.