

NOTES TO THE NATION OCTOBER 15, 2008

A STORY OF AN EARLY WARNING

Over a year ago, we in Congress began to hear from an Osage lady in Colorado with warnings about what she feared was happening in the world economy. She was persistent. I shared her concerns but I didn't see it as clearly as she did. I told her that I would do what I could to position for a down turn. At the time I pushed for collateralizing all amounts over the \$100 thousand insured by FDIC so that those funds would not be at risk. In March, Faren Anderson introduced a Surplus Fund Plan but it was vetoed. We couldn't get the support for an over ride. I told the lady that we couldn't get too far in front of our constituency.

By April of this year, more people began to recognize the symptoms of what might be coming. Still, when we considered the first proposals for budgets for FYI 2009 the Executive Branch informed us that they wanted to spend 30% more than the \$25 million we had budgeted for 2008. I suggested a "flat" budget or the same as last year. Others recommended a reduced amount. We were criticized immediately. It was even suggested that we should be investing now, (The Dow was about 13,000) "while prices are low." The next day the state of Oklahoma announced a "standstill" budget. The Congress struggled for the next few months and by the end of September we managed to deliver a nearly "flat" budget of about \$ 25.5 million.

The predictions of the Colorado Osage lady are coming true worldwide. Some in Congress are encouraging caution and conservatism. The Congress is becoming more aware of the economy, but we still need a majority. Now it appears that our constituency is getting ahead of Congress.

We need to know what you think.

The lady is Tina Allen, Denver, Colorado.

APPROPRIATIONS APPROVED YESTERDAY

Yesterday, October 14, 2008 in the final day of our 15th Special Session the Congress approved an appropriation of \$ 1 million to fund the LLC Act which is a law establishing a board to investigate economic development investments for the Nation. The bill originally sought \$ 3 million. I had offered an amendment to lower the starting amount to \$ 250 thousand. I offered another amendment to increase the \$250 thousand to \$ 1 million after a board member reasoned that the Nation may need to demonstrate this commitment in order to convince a prospective CEO to accept a position with the Osage Nation. The majority of Congress agreed to begin with this amount and the debate shows the understanding that once a suitable project is located, additional amounts may be approved.

Also approved was \$ 4.9 million to purchase real estate. This issue was discussed for several days by members of Congress and debated yesterday on the floor of the Congressional chambers. You can hear the debate on both issues on the following link.

http://www.osagetribe.com/viewvideo.aspx?video=Special_Session_15_Day_6_10-14-08_Part_5.wma

I was glad we could reduce the beginning amount for the LLC by \$ 2 million, but disappointed that we could not stop the real estate purchase. My main objection was that we just could not justify the price we paid. I don't think anyone would have done this with their own money.

LEASE SALE TODAY YIELDS LITTLE MONEY FOR HEADRIGHT HOLDERS

The lease sale auction today ended in the sale of 6 leases for a total of \$ 28,100.00. The last sale (July I think) brought in \$777,130.00. We just can't ignore the economy when you have evidence like this.

In other Mineral Council transactions, they approved the lease to Oneoak Gas Storage, LLC for an underground gas storage facility near Tulsa for 5 years at \$195,000 annually.

REPORT ON ACCOUNTING ISSUES AT THE CASINOS RECEIVED TODAY

Members of the Osage Nation Congress Commerce Committee received a three hour report, in executive session, from the Osage Nation Gaming Commission regarding the Million Dollar Elm accounting problems. Since it was in closed session I can't go into detail.

I can say it is as bad as I have been saying since June of this year and those Congress members who investigated the records at Hominy were fully justified in their concerns. Time brings all things to light.

LOOKOUT FALL MEETING HELD LAST SATURDAY NIGHT

The fall meeting of the Lookout Chapter of the Native American Church was held Oct. 11. In the morning several names were given by Mogri Lookout, Geoffrey Standing Bear and John Henry Mashunkashey for their various clans. Mourners were taken care of and we came out about 12:30 PM Sunday.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OSAGES MEET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

I have been invited to speak at the meeting on various subjects.

The Annual meeting of the Northern California Osages will be held at the Pt. Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Ave., Richmond, CA at 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Contact information for the meeting is Melani King, Phone 1-510-620-9063, Email: melani@king2d3d.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OSAGES MET OCT. 4

Cynthia Boone and I were invited to speak at this meeting on Oct. 4.

The organization president, William Myers and helpers hosted a fine meeting. There were 44 Osages in attendance.