

NOTES TO THE NATION NOVEMBER 23, 2008

SPECIAL SESSION TO BEGIN DECEMBER 1

A Special Session will begin at 10:00 AM on Monday, December 1.

The business to be addressed will be a new Tobacco Tax Compact with the State of Oklahoma and an appropriation for potential legal fees associated with a suit we have against the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

I have a problem with appropriating additional amounts for attorney fees at this time and I will explain why. About 2 or 3 months ago, in an open meeting, a member of Congress proposed the idea of putting a million dollars in reserve for attorney fees. At that time, no one had approached the Congress on this subject. During the discussion, I said that I felt this would be a mistake. If we were to do such a thing and the attorneys could draw down the money without further Congressional action—they would: On the other hand, if Congress had to approve additional spending, a reserve would not be necessary.

We just completed the budget process a little over a month ago. Congress approved \$640,000 for professional fees in the Executive Branch budget. During budget meetings, I tried to add limitations on this amount, but it was passed in a lump sum. It can all be used for attorney fees.

THE ECONOMY

The Dow is down 40%, oil dips below \$50.00 a barrel, thousands of businesses expected to close within a year, unemployment hits 14 year high, and on and on.....

Alan Greenspan says he is “shocked”, the best brains in the county come up with a \$700 billion bailout and then reverse the plan a month later, Democrats say another plan can cost \$500 to \$700 billion more, etc.....

A boxer can slip one punch by throwing his head back but if another comes quickly, he's off balance and there's no more backing up—The U. S. is in a bad spot and our enemies know it.

Everyone in the world seems to know we're in a recession except the Osage Congress. We can't be Santa Claus to land promoters and attorneys. Our people are depending on us

COMPETITIVE BIDDING ACT ONCA 07-57

This Act requiring competitive bidding on construction contracts was passed in April 2008.

Alleged problems with construction activities at the Ponca City casino first focused attention on the need for this legislation. Although some departments are complying with the law, others are not. In a public meeting in September, the Chairman of the Gaming Enterprise Board stated that they “probably” had let several contracts without following the law. Minutes of a board meeting this month appear to show an additional instance of non-compliance.

I introduced resolution ONCR 08-38 on October 9, 2008 to encourage the Chief. It just means: “Do what you're supposed to do—enforce the law.”

The Resolution is now in committee. A copy is attached.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Osage citizens are showing a renewed interest in making amendments to the Osage Nation Constitution.

The easiest method is for the Osage Congress to pass a resolution that permits the people to vote on the amendment at the next regular or special election.

Several Resolutions have been introduced but none have received the necessary 10 votes.

NEWS ARTICLES FROM THE PAST
These articles are taken from Kansas newspapers from the late 1800's. The news was written from the white man's point of view and often the Osage didn't get treated fairly. These excerpts are passed on for their historical value only. More with each issue.

Walnut Valley Times, Friday, March 4, 1870.

THE OSAGE LANDS.

Washington, Feb. 16, 1870. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have agreed to recommend that the Government purchase lands of the Osage Indians at \$2,000,000, with the privilege to all present settlers to buy not to exceed 160 acres at \$1.25 per acre the Government to pay in four percent bonds, and guarantee the interest for support of the tribe.

The committee expects to pursue the same course with other large Indian tracts. This is the tract covered by one of the railroad treaties lately withdrawn.

Walnut Valley Times, March 11, 1870. Enoch Hoag, Indian Commissioner, in company with other grand sachems, passed through here on Tuesday on their way to the Osage Indian Nation. Friend Hoag said the Indians would soon be removed and that the treaty would be ratified, giving the lands to actual settlers at a dollar and a quarter per acre.

Walnut Valley Times, April 29, 1870.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs has agreed to report a bill providing for the extension of the general law concerning town sites over the Osage lands in Kansas.

Walnut Valley Times, May 20, 1870.

OSAGE INDIAN LANDS.

EDITORS TIMES: Pursuant to notice, the people of Cowley County met in convention at Creswell on Tuesday, 10th inst., to consider the questions connected with the Indian occupancy of the Osage lands. After some discussion, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, We, the citizens of Cowley County, in mass convention assembled, believe that the time has fully come in which the interests of civilization demand the extinction of the Indian title to the Osage lands, and

WHEREAS, We regard with regret and distrust the inactivity of our Senators upon this question, therefore

Resolved, That we urge upon our Senators, Pomeroy, Ross, and Representative Clarke, immediate and definite actions looking toward the removal of the Osage Indians from these lands and opening them to actual settlers.

Resolved, That while we are opposed to all great land monopolies like those contemplated in the "Sturges Treaty," we favor the policy of aiding the construction of railroads by granting to them alternate sections of land now unclaimed, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, to the amount of ten sections to the mile, reserving to the immigrant upon said lands the right of pre-emption and ultimate purchase at a fixed maximum price, not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents an acre.

Resolved, That we regard immediate action upon this subject as of permanent importance, and we earnestly urge that the question be finally settled before the close of the present session of Congress.

Resolved, That copies of the above preamble and resolutions be forwarded to each member of our Congressional delegation, and to the WALNUT VALLEY TIMES, Emporia News, Topeka Commonwealth, and Lawrence Tribune. H. B. NORTON, President.

C. R. SIPES, Secretary.

Creswell, May 11, 1870.

Walnut Valley Times, May 20, 1870. On Thursday last, the Senate occupied almost the entire day over the house Osage Indian bill.

The question in order, was on amendment of Mr. Ross, of this State, to take the land from the Indians, at 20 cents an acre, and cede them to certain railroads in Kansas in specified quantities and at specified rates giving settlers on the reservation the right to purchase 160 acres each at \$1.25 per acre.

Several Senators notably, Mr. Morrill of Maine, spoke against the bill at length. Mr. Morrill declared that the passage of such an act would be a "legislative scandal." Finally, a motion was made to recommit the bill, with instructions to report a bill for the removal of the Osage Indians to the Indian Territory, and for the sale of their reservation in Kansas for cash, as other public lands are disposed of. Pending discussion on this motion, the bill to abolish the franking privilege came up as the special order, and the Osage business was laid aside without definite action.

Arkansas City Traveler, January 17, 1877.

CHESTOPAH, a noted chief of the Osages, is very low with consumption, and is not expected to live. He is one of the most intelligent and probably the best Indian of the Osage tribe. The members of his band are daily mourning for him, and paint their faces. If he dies, there will probably be the largest mourning party organized that has ever left the Agency. The Agent has been assured by leading men of the tribe that they will not commit any depredation when the mourning party goes out, but that they will merely go through the form of sending an enemy's scalp with him to the happy hunting grounds. On such an occasion, it can hardly be expected that they will lay aside all religious rites and the established customs of their forefathers, and we would not like to be caught in the Territory alone while the party is out.

"Che-to-pah" means four lodges, and the name is derived from the old chief attacking and capturing four lodges of his enemies many years ago. He will be remembered by many of our citizens, who always had considerable esteem for him.