

NOTES TO THE NATION DECEMBER 1, 2008

SPECIAL SESSION 16 BEGAN TODAY

First day began at 10:00 AM. A Resolution was introduced today to authorize the execution of a new tobacco compact with the State of Oklahoma. This will be assigned to a committee tomorrow for review. The compact itself has been presented to Congress in closed session and if there are no changes in the previous document, the Resolution will likely be passed quickly.

Bill No. ONCA 09-07 was received late in the day and will be introduced tomorrow. At the present time there is already appropriated the amount of \$640,000 available to the Executive Branch which could all be used for legal expenses. If this bill were to pass, another million dollars would be appropriated for legal fees for one case against the members of the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The case is going to a two man firm that will be challenged to figure out how to gather up enough billable hours to consume the money. If they can't do it in one year, the bill gives them more time. I'm betting they can solve the problem.

Don't think this can't happen. Remember just a few weeks ago, in this unstable economy, this same Congress appropriated \$5 million dollars to buy land with no appraisal—nothing to substantiate the value. Caught up in the Christmas spirit, the majority of Congress may still want to be Santa Claus. None of gifts are going to Osages.

NOTES ON THE ECONOMY

Today, the market fell 680 points wiping out much of last weeks' gains.

When the market goes up, a lot of people think it's all over—when it goes down others think it will never get better. The wide swings in the Dow only seem to demonstrate that the fundamental problems run deep and we must be cautious with the people's money.

Even though some of the plans to rejuvenate the economy are promising, if they fail it could further delay recovery. John Maynard Keynes explained it in simple terms. Keynes' favorite scheme – employing people to dig holes only to fill them in – would make matters worse, not better. In the world of government budgets, the “hole” is deficit spending. The deficit is filled in – financed – with borrowed money.

Martin Hutchinson expanded on Keynes' ideas, saying: “Unfortunately, the money borrowed to fill in the budgetary hole would make matters worse, not better, because the money the government borrows would result in less money being available to invest in the rest of the economy. The little bit of money that was left over for private sector players to access would, naturally, command a higher interest rate, making the additional investments much more costly.”

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 sometimes the Osage didn't get treated fairly. These excerpts are passed on for their historical value only.

Emporia News, April 24, 1868.

A NEW OSAGE TREATY.

Commissioners are now on their way to the headquarters of the Osage Indians to make a new treaty with that tribe. We sincerely hope the treaty may result in the government getting possession of all their valuable lands in the south part of this State, and in sending the Osages south into the Indian country. Their lands are not exceeded in value, as an agricultural region, in Kansas, and the sooner they can be opened to settlement the better for Kansas and the country at large. After the treaty is made, if its terms are satisfactory, we hope our congressional delegation will use every exertion in their power in urging its ratification, in order that this valuable body of lands may be speedily opened for settlement. There are thousands of citizens waiting for the consummation of such a treaty, and not long after its being made available for settlers it will become one of the most populous regions in Kansas.

Emporia News, January 14, 1870.

(A Letter from H. B. Norton to the Editor.)

The Sac and Fox and Osage Indians were camped close by. They are perfectly quiet and harmless; perhaps over-awed by the number of settlers. We made the acquaintance of a few of them: the superannuated chief, Hard Rope, Little Bear, E-keep-son-Ge, whose name is, translated, Long-tailed Rat, and some others. Like all the other settled Indians, the Osages are a dying race. Very few children now grow to maturity. Strike-axe, one of the principal chiefs, told one of our party that he had lost nine children, and only one remained. At the present rate of decrease, these tribes will soon disappear from the earth. White man's food and consanguine intermarriages are mentioned as the most apparent causes.

We have the best evidence that the number of the Osages has been greatly exaggerated by interested parties; that 2,000 is above the figure. While encamped near them for some days, we were particularly struck by a sort of prolonged and unearthly wail, which rose every morning at daybreak from their villages a sound that wonderfully harmonized with the note of the owl and coyote rising and falling for several minutes in strange cadence. This was said by some to be their mode of worship; but Col. Manning, who has spent much time among them, told us that they were mourning for their dead. To us it seemed as if these pre-Adamite people were singing their own death-song.