

NOTES TO THE NATION MARCH 30, 2009

CONGRESS PASSES RESOLUTION ONCR 08-34 TO SUPPORT A MOTOR FUEL COMPACT WITH THE STATE

The Osage Nation Congress passed a Resolution ONCR 08-34 (Sponsor-Supernaw) supporting the Osage Nation to enter into a motor fuel compact with the State of Oklahoma.

A portion of the motor fuel taxes collected by the State of Oklahoma are set aside for Indian tribes and distributed to the tribes based on the tribal population in the state. Thirty three tribes have entered into these compacts and receive their pro-rata share. The smallest tribe (Tonkawa) receives about \$ 8,500 per quarter and the largest (Cherokee) receives about \$1,750,000 per quarter. My estimate, and it is only an estimate, for the Osages is about \$50,000 per quarter.

Previous administrations have talked about entering into a compact, but never followed through on it.

Also passed was ONCA 09-14, Sponsor- Red Corn, an Act which amends the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review legislation to allow the office to do additional work assignments for Congress. This was necessary due to the pending lawsuit filed by the Chief preventing them from doing their regular work. We don't have a budget analyst at this time and the director, Kelly Corbin, will be a great help to the Congress.

GAMING COMMISSION HEARING FRIDAY REVEALS COMPETITIVE BIDDING VIOLATIONS

Testimony at a routine Administrative Proceeding of the Osage Nation Gaming Commission last Friday revealed on the record instances of violations of the Competitive Bidding Act of the Osage Nation.

This law has been in effect since April last year and I have mentioned several times that I suspected that there have been violations. Due to the OFPR, formerly called the Internal Audit Department, being prevented from doing their work by the Chief's lawsuit, they have not been able to perform a review of the bidding practices. This testimony on the record and under oath should lead to a formal investigation.

PER CAPITA BILL TO BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW IMMEDIATELY AFTER SESSION

The Governmental Operations Committee will discuss the Per Capita bill tomorrow about 10:30 AM.

This bill is the authorization bill that establishes the Revenue Allocation Plan that will govern the distribution to all eligible Osages. I have explained the logic behind the introduction of this bill in my Notes to the Nation on March 16. Briefly it proposes a Per Capita distribution of \$500 to all members of the tribe. As I have said before, I was never in favor of a Per Capita distribution, but recently I have become convinced that current spending practices are not cost effective and are not reaching all our people. Some proposed programs have high administrative costs and just add to the ever growing size of the Osage government.

About three years ago there was a strong effort to sell the people on a new form of government. Everyone was told by politicians that they wanted everyone to experience participation in the Osage government. "One man, one vote," they said. "Everyone jump on the band wagon." As this wagon goes on it is becoming increasingly obvious that the only experience in government they really wanted you to have was the opportunity to vote for them. Your sharing any part of the money was not part of their plan.

We've got some good programs here on the reservation. We can do a lot for people that live here and we should. We can insure that the living culture of the Osage is alive and well and those that want to return here or move here can be confident that the tribe lives on. We can't do as much for those that live away from here but 80% do. We have the death benefit, a small medical benefit and college assistance for Osages wherever they are. We know that many people won't use these services.

The Per Capita plan would reach everyone. In order for the plan to be approved we must demonstrate that no existing programs will suffer—nothing here will be cut back.

So far, the response in favor of the plan has be overwhelming.

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.
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Arkansas City Traveler, October 4, 1876.

Four lodges of Osages are over trading with the Cherokees.

An Osage fell dead on Saturday last.

S. Matlack reports one half of the Pawnee tribe now sick.

Pony buyers from New York have made their second appearance this season.

Daniel Moulton, a white man from the New England States, died from hemorrhage from the lungs, on the prairie, in Coo-wee-scoo wee district.

Upon the subject of Indian affairs, nothing has yet been heard from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Iowa.

Indian Agent Cravens reports all the buildings at his agency, excepting three, as being carried away by the flood. His records and papers are all gone.

The removal of 40,000 Sioux Indians to this Territory will badly shake the imaginary castles that now occupy so much space beneath the *Star* of Oklahoma.

Dr. Daniels, of the Indian commission, was once agent at Red Cloud, and now finds many old friends among the Sioux.

A family of three persons have recently been found dead in Missouri. The parents evidently died of congestive chills, and the child in its efforts to obtain nourishment fell into a bucket of water and died.