

## **NOTES TO THE NATION SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

### **BUDGETING PROCESS UNDERWAY**

The Osage Congress and all its committees are concentrating on the budgets for FY 2009. The method of determining wages seems to be the biggest obstacle at this time.

The Appropriations Committee had recommended that wages be frozen at 2008 levels with no new hires and everyone was to receive a cost of living increase in the amount of \$900.00 annually. This, it was suggested, would give the assistance to those most in need of it— The lowest paid employees. One calculation determined that this would give 58% of the Nation's employees a larger increase than a normal step increase. At first this seemed to be accepted by most committees with a few exceptions. Today, it appears there has been a movement to change direction and use another method. Tomorrow during the session beginning at 10:00 AM there will be a vote that may discard much of the last few weeks work. We'll just have to wait and see.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We are always getting email from Osage citizens asking how they can help in the process of government. Well, here's something that sure would be of assistance to me and other members of Congress: Review and suggest improvements in the proposed Ethics bill. The link to this bill is:

[http://www.osagetribe.com/congress/uploads/12th%20Special%20Session%20\(May%208%20-%2022,%202008\)/12th%20S.S.%20Introduced%20Legislation/ONCA\\_08-33\\_Introduced.pdf](http://www.osagetribe.com/congress/uploads/12th%20Special%20Session%20(May%208%20-%2022,%202008)/12th%20S.S.%20Introduced%20Legislation/ONCA_08-33_Introduced.pdf)

This bill is in committee at this time and will be discussed and amended next week. The version that is adopted will have a large impact on the conduct of our elected officials. Some people have suggested that in the present form it could violate freedom of speech and the right to descent.

We have already received advice that we should cover the attendance issue and establish rules for holding Congressional hearings.

Many people are concerned that a poorly written law might be used to stop communications like the "Notes to the Nation" and might even be abused by the filing of numerous or frivolous complaints that could keep your elected representatives distracted from the Nation's urgent business.

Some of you receiving this email may be experienced in the area of ethics and I hope you will have recommendations for improvement of the bill. I know there are a lot of smart individuals out there who can give us a hand.

Any thoughts on this can be sent to our Office Director, Linda Lazelle, at [LLazelle@Osagetribe.org](mailto:LLazelle@Osagetribe.org) just ask her to distribute your email to all the members of Congress.

Thanks for your help.

Kugee Supernaw