

NOTES TO THE NATION FEBRUARY 17, 2009

SPECIAL SESSION MET AND ENDED TODAY

The 17th Special Session of the Osage Congress met today at 10:00 AM and adjourned before noon.

The sole purpose of this session was to discuss a management agreement entered into January 12, 2009 by the Chief and the LLC Board.

Members of Congress have agreed that the Chief has exceeded his authority by making an illegal appropriation by the terms of this management.

Originally this was to be discussed in executive session. I never felt that this was a proper subject to discuss in private and expressed my question last night and today in debate. I quoted something that Abraham Lincoln has said: "Calling a sheep's tail a leg, doesn't make it a leg." Likewise, calling documents confidential that are clearly public information does not make them properly confidential. Also, if we are forced to file a suit against the Executive Branch, the public needs to know as much as possible about why we took that action.

Today the Congress voted unanimously to release the agreement, our attorney's opinion and the letters we sent to be to the Osage public—not because of what Lincoln said, but because it was just the right thing to do.

I am attaching the whole packet with this mailing. The only thing I am not sending is Gray Pitchlynn's opinion, which was given to the Executive Branch.

There are several other issues that are coming before us that also may amount to improper appropriations and encumbrances in prior years. I will try to cover some of these in the Notes as soon as practical.

At 1:00 PM the Governmental Operations Committee, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Chair heard a number of constituent complains having to do with housing issues. We took as much information as we could and agreed to follow up during the March regular session.