



# NCAI BULLETIN



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## TEMPORARY VICTORY WON FROM INDIAN BUREAU AFTER STRUGGLE

### Colorado River Tribe Averts Lease Loss

The delegation from the Colorado River Indian Tribes temporarily solved several of their pressing immediate problems—the right to lease reservation land and to receive the income therefrom—after days of prolonged and heated negotiation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington.

Headed by Herman D. Laffoon, Chairman of the Tribal Council, the delegation consisted, besides Mr. Laffoon, of Jay Gould, Pete Homer, Dan Eddy and the tribal attorney Richard Harless.

The delegation explained to the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, which has been conducting hearings on the long-term leasing bill, that, though the Indian Bureau had approved their leasing of reservation land over a number of years, just two months ago approval had been withdrawn and affairs at the reservation, as a result, had come to a standstill.

The Senate Subcommittee, after several searching sessions, to one of which Indian Bureau officials were called to explain the decision, decided that the Bureau had acted improperly and ordered meetings between the delegation and the Bureau to settle the question.

The situation was complicated by the Bureau's colonization project, settling Navajos and other tribes on 65,000 acres known as the Southern Reserve of the Colorado River reservation. The delegation, and the Senate Committee, found it difficult to understand why this should affect the leasing of the Northern Reserve, the home of the Colorado River tribes beyond the memory of man.

Associate Commissioner Rex Lee said that the Bureau based its decision on a 1945 ordinance permitting the Bureau to settle other Indians on this reservation and on the original grant which set apart the land for the Indians of the Colorado River and its tributaries. The "tributaries" clause has been observed in the breach for many years.

The Bureau insisted on the necessity of settling the ownership of the entire reservation before any leases, or income from them, could be enjoyed by the tribe, requiring an Act of Congress which might well take years. The first solution the Bureau offered was to lease the lands, putting the monies therefrom into escrow but after several days of meetings, the Bureau agreed to allow the tribe to have the funds in the interim period before legislation settling owner- (continued on page seven)



AT THE WHITE HOUSE. The Colorado River Delegation with former Governor of Arizona, Howard L. Pyle, Deputy Assistant to President Eisenhower. Left to right: Richard Harless, attorney; Leland Gould, Dan Eddy, Gov. Pyle, Herman Laffoon, Chairman of the Tribal Council; Jay Gould and Pete Homer.





## FIRST INTER-TRIBAL INSTITUTE VOTES ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM

For five days officials from nine Arizona tribes—Gila River Pima-Maricopa, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, Papago, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, San Carlos Apache, Supai, and White River Apache—reviewed their common problems and laid down some specific plans and took beginning action to solve them. Meeting from April 11 to 15 at Phoenix, it was the first Inter-Tribal Institute sponsored jointly by the Arizona Inter-Tribal Council and the National Congress of American Indians, thus consolidating and strengthening the tribes' own organization.

Whether the problems facing the American Indian people today are health, the schooling of children, law enforcement, cooperation with government authorities, home improvement, recreation, or the betterment of economic conditions, it was agreed that the first steps to a good future must be taken by the grown men and women on the reservations. Too few of these adults, it was observed, have had opportunity for adequate schooling or experience in working through organizations and community agencies which might help in solving the problems.

Adult training, therefore, is a first necessity toward improving present conditions and providing for a better future, the tribal leaders agreed. This does not mean that grown men and women should attend school but, rather, that they might work through family groups and small community service clubs, with encouragement and help from Indian leaders, the tribal councils, church people, teachers, extension workers and other available technicians. Thus, by their own efforts, they could start community programs that will provide training and experience for other adult tribal members and benefit all the people. It was decided that each delegation would take back to its respective Council the ideas, experiences and programs of other tribes, and of non-Indian groups, discussed at the Institute, which centered mostly around how to improve law enforcement, and how to bring about more adult education opportunities and community programs for Indian people.

The tribal officials passed resolutions calling for financial and other help for work with families and adult education. The resolutions were directed to the Phoenix Area Office and the Washington offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the American Friends Service Committee, the University of Arizona, the Arizona Association for Indian Affairs, the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs, the Arizona and the National Adult Education Councils, the National Congress of American Indians, Arrow, Inc., and private philanthropic foundations.

Participants in the Institute: Nelson Jose, Gila River Pima-Maricopa; Logan Koopee, Lawrence N. Lomavaya, Hopi; Rupert Parker, Hualapai; Hoska Cronemeyer, Roger Davis, Howard McKinley, Navajo; Ramon Chavez, Papago; Dixon Andreas, Mrs. Myra Dodson, Salt River Pima-Maricopa; Jesse Stevens, Priscilla Smith, Clarence Wesley, San Carlos Apache; Dan Hanna, Supai; Clinton Keesay, Frank Walker, White River Apache.

Consultants for the Institute were: Frank C. Parker of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Ft. Hall, Idaho, in planning; John C. Rainer, Taos Pueblo, Taos, New Mexico, in education; Jim Haynes, American Friends Service Committee, in community projects; and Mrs. Helen L. Peterson, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians.

Speakers were: Royal Marks, Attorney, Indian Committee of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce; Col. James C. Wood, Ex. Dir. of the Arizona Association on American Indian Affairs; Glenn Lundeen, Supt. of the Phoenix Indian School; Mrs. Pauline Bates Brown, Tribal Relations Officer, Phoenix Area Office; Paul Bramlet, Phoenix Area Education Director; Leonard Woods, Budget Officer, Phoenix Area Office.

Visitors who attended were: Edmond Smith, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Mrs. Effie Graham, Phoenix Osage Group (Cooperative Party of the Osage Nation); Miss Sophie von S. Theis, former Child Welfare Director for the State of New York; Hampton Haozous, San Carlos Apache university student; Elmo Sunna, Hopi.

The Bill to restore the mineral rights of their reservation to the Papago Tribe quickly passed both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. It has been signed by President Eisenhower and become law. The historical pen has been sent to Mark Manuel, Chairman of the Tribal Council.

## THANK YOU, PAPAGOS!

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## **COLORADO RIVER—(continued from page one)**

ship was enacted. The Bureau promised to develop the land of the Southern Reserve and to turn back into its development the funds received from leasing.

Aside from the sympathetic support of the Senate Subcommittee, the delegation enlisted the support of former Governor Howard Pyle, now Deputy Assistant to President Eisenhower, with whom they met several times.

The hearings and the meetings brought out numerous facts pointing to the necessity of such a procedure for the Northern Reserve: that 158 young men were on the waiting list for farms by which to make their livelihood; that several leases which would mean considerable income for the tribe and increased value for the property were being held in abeyance (a motor court, a recreation project, an arrangement for development of Indian land along with leased land).

There was also considerable evidence that the Indians would be put in a position of great need if this income were denied them.

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It's been a pleasure in the NCAI office to welcome and work with the following tribal delegations to Washington this last month:

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Blackfeet        | Hualapai          |
| Cheyenne-Arapaho | Oglala Sioux      |
| Colorado River   | Omaha             |
| Crow             | San Carlos Apache |
| Hopi             | Sisseton-Wahpeton |

The meeting, arranged at the request of the NCAI office, was a follow-up, Ex. Dir. Helen Peterson explained to Dr. Scheele, of the organization's Convention resolution on the transfer and in response to numerous queries from Indian groups throughout the country about "what is going to happen, when, and how" when it happens.

Dr. Scheele, who spent more than 2 friendly hours with the delegation during what was probably the busiest week of his life (he was the central figure in the national controversy over release of the polio vaccine), gave reassurance that no hospitals would be closed during the first year "under new management" and that, after that, none would be closed except where more desirable alternatives could be found to provide improved care and, then, only *after full consultation with the tribes involved*. He said he felt confi-

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YAKIMA DAILY  
Yakima, Wash.