

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES
TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
TRIBAL CHAMBERS

Education Meeting
June 20, 1991

- PRESENT: Wilbur D. Wilkinson, Chairman; Roger Bird Bear, Treasurer; Theodore Lone Fight, III., Council-member and LaVerne Brady, Recording Secretary.
- ABSENT: Titus Hall, Vice Chairman; John J. Rabbithead, Jr., Secretary; Jim Mossett and Austin Gillette, Council members.
- OTHERS: Marliene Gillette, Acting Education Administrator
- ITEM 01: CALL TO ORDER:
Meeting called to order at 3:50 PM.
- ITEM 02: ROLL CALL:
Roll called by Treasurer Bird Bear in the absence of Secretary Rabbithead.
- ITEM 03: MEETING OF ELEMENT 10 FUNDING:
There will be a Education Meeting on July 8, 1991 at 7PM regarding element 10 funding and 638 education contract.
- ITEM 04: GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:
Tom Bird Bear presented his request and concerns of enrolled members who are post graduate students throughout the country. He stated the Tribes have a scholarship program for graduate students. The money is from tribal judgement funds interest. The process he explained was when a student goes to law or medical school, funding is applied from various places. The college, he/she attends has a predeternined budget for all of the students attending that institution and the budget for a single law student living on campus is around \$8,000.00, which includes tuition and everything that person needs to live on for nine months in school. Each student will apply to major agencies like the Federal Government.

Tom stated the problem I see with the Tribe is that because those monies are from the judgement funds. They shouldn't be a part of the college's financial package because of the nature of judgement funds. They were given to the Three tribes by the US Gov't for a wrong committed by the US and to have this as a part of financial aid assistance is in effect to

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GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (CON'T):

take something from the Tribe twice. The first time was for buffalo and loss of timber years ago. The US Gov't gave us money back for that. Now, we are attempting to go to school and apply for federal assistance. When higher institutions see the judgement money on their books, the financial aid officer says "they're getting money from the Three Affiliated Tribes. He doesn't know it's judgement funds. He just know it's money." The thing is, the judgement funds do not have to be reported to any financial aid office. They're non-taxable compensation to the tribe. To do so, penalizes tribal members twice.

In the past, there were tribal grants made by the tribes. It was a welcome assistance to any student. The tribe should move back and reinstate the old practice, simply making tribal awards of these fund and also when these judgement funds came down, the specific amount of the interest was allocated down for education. What we are doing is, we're telling the Federal Government, we are giving this money to our students. Whatever we give them, you don't have to give them and that's wrong.

Marliene Gillette, Acting Education Administrator explained prior to 1988, checks were issued out but no records were maintained as to the students progress in school: what the student was enrolled in, where the student attended, is the student still in school, Is the student actually going to school and so we established this system where we would have applications, budget forms and maintain student files.

Marliene further stated that the budget forms don't have to be sent back to the financial aid office. In the past, colleges used to fund under what they call a uniform methodology in which, if a private institution would release a scholarship to a University, they could easily get away with not reporting that to the financial aide office. The Federal Government changed the uniform to Congressional Methodology for financial aid packaging.

Marliene stated I think we can resolve this problem by issuing the grant. You would have to issue the check directly to the student in order to gear away from the financial aid office. We could still get

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (CON'T):
the budget form from the financial aid office.
Questions will arise if we don't report to them.
I'll have to check into that and see what kind of
a problem that's going to be. I'll have to check
with that congressional methodology because we
don't want to go against the law. I have to do
some homework first. John J. Rabbithead in/4:08.

Chairman Wilkinson explained the request of Mr.
Bird Bear that tribal grants awards not be repor-
ted to financial aids office of any higher insti-
tution.

Councilman Bird Bear stated any federal Indian
Law that pertains to Indian tribes has to go in
favor of the Indians so there's a dispute here
between a judgement issue and a federal law re-
quirement where a judgement would prevail.

Councilman Rabbithead questioned if this was a past
practice by the tribe.

Marliene stated I want to follow up on this request
because of the methodology changes, prior to making
a final decision.

Councilman Gillette stated that the first one who
got this was accepted into law school and the in-
tent was because it was hard to get money. it was
a supplement.

Councilman Gillette made a motion for the tribe to
go back to the old method of providing a tribal
grant but not reporting it to the school, seconded
by Councilman Bird Bear.

Discussion: Questioned by Councilman Lone Fight on
who has the authority-does the committee make this
change or the full council?

Councilman Gillette stated to have a resolution
drafted for the next meeting to reflect the new
procedure, to leave the part in where we got this
money because the government stole our land.

Motion and second to read as such and resolution
to be drafted by Tom.

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (CON'T):

Councilman Bird Bear stated Marliene has a good point that we should investigate the methodology or at least, ask Aberdeen about it.

Vote: 5 for, 0 opposed.

ITEM 05: LINE OFFICE:

Marliene stated I received a call from the Oglala Sioux Tribe today in regard to a Line Officer's meeting in Bismarck on the 8th and 9th but I'm not ready to report on the material that I received in regard to the BIA reorganization. The Oglala Sioux Tribe told us the reason they are having the meeting in Bismarck is because at the request of the BIA or the Bureau of Self Governance-OMB had been initiated a cost comparison study of BIA funded schools but they want the Office of Indian Education to get their Line Officer's to do this study. What they want to do is compare the cost per pupil cost of educating students from Bureau funded schools. They want to take that and compare the cost to educate the student at a public school. It worries me why OMB is requesting this information because they are trying to make a case that Bureau funded schools are overfunded. A question arises there because our schools are not overfunded and take into consideration the grant status, the position of facilities management-they contracted it and it is underfunded, so the Aberdeen Area want to set up a task force to get to the bottom of the cost comparison study and find out why OMB is initiating the cost of reorganization at the expense of Indian Students, then they want the tribe to strongly oppose the entire reorganization. I will follow up on this call I received from the Ogalala Sioux Tribe.

ITEM 06: ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM.

John J. Rabbithead, Jr.
Secretary, John J. Rabbithead, Jr.

Approved _____
Disapproved _____
Date 6/29/91

ATTEST:

Wilbur D. Wilkinson
Chairman, Wilbur D. Wilkinson

_____ Date 6/29/91