

# **Indian News Notes**

By VINCE LOVETT

**PLAN FOR ENDING WASHINGTON FISHING WAR HAILED AS EQUITABLE COMPROMISE:** The report and recommendations of a Federal regional task force for resolving the Washington State fishing war between Indians and non-Indians has been described by Northwest newspapers as reasonable, equitable, "a giant stride", "effort to bring equity", and above all, a compromise. The Oregonian, for example, noted that "neither Indian nor non-Indian commercial fishing organizations have given wholehearted endorsement to the plan, pending intense study of the document." According to the newspaper reports, the Indians would be asked to stop commercial fishing of steelhead and phase down their salmon catch to about one third of the total, compared to the one half allowed by the Boldt decision. The Indians would receive funds to enable them to build up their fishing fleets and the number of non-Indian commercial fishermen would be reduced by license restrictions and a federally funded buy-back program. It also provides for enhancement of the fisheries to increase the total number of fish. The report has been submitted to a cabinet-level team that will consider it for submission to President Carter. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer praised the document as "a model of charity and conciseness for governmental reports. Its language is simple, its illustrations clear, its tone moderate--indeed, appealing."

**USE OF JOM FUNDS FOR \$3,600 HOTEL PARTY BRINGS CRITICISM:** In Phoenix 57 senior Indian students, their dates, parents and friends--about 200 persons in all--had a dinner party and dance at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on May 27. The bill was \$3,600--to be paid with Federal funds provided for special programs to assist Indian students in public schools. Indian parental committees decide how the funds are to be used though the public school district is the fiscal agent for the disbursement of the funds. The Phoenix District Board members, when they learned how the money was used, threatened to discontinue involvement in the program. The Arizona papers gave it publicity with headlines like this one from the Yuma Daily Sun, "Taxpayers foot bill for \$3,600 Indian party." An editorial in the Phoenix Gazette, entitled "The Uninvited Hosts," concluded that \$3,600 worth of partying is not fair to the Indian youngsters, their classmates or to the uninvited hosts--the taxpayers." Our vote for the boo of the month goes to the Arizona State Department of Education which reviewed the dance proposal and approved it after changing the word "dance" to "student assembly."

**UPI LISTS EASTERN INDIAN LAND CLAIMS BY STATE:** United Press International issued on June 20 the following listing of eastern Indian land claims. The list shows the states, tribes and approximate acreage claimed: Maine, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot, 5-10 million acres; Massachusetts, Wampanoags of Mashpee, 11,000 acres, Wampanoags of Gay Head, 240 acres, Wampanoags of Chappaquiddick Island, individual sites; Rhode Island, Narragansetts, 3,500 acres; New York, Cayugas, 62,000 acres, Oneidas, 300,000 acres; St. Regis Mohawks, 12,000 acres, Connecticut, Western Pequots, 800 acres, Mohegans, 1,700 acres, Schaghticokes 1,200 acres; South Carolina, Catawbas, 144,000 acres; Louisiana, Chitimacha, 800 acres.

**DELORIA, STEVENS URGE DEVELOPMENT OF RESERVATION ECONOMY:** Vine Deloria, Jr. and Ernie Stevens, former director of the American Indian Policy Review Commission, were scheduled May 31 to debate the merits of the AIPRC final report completed last year. They never did get into any debating at the United Tribes Educational Technical Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, but they did discuss where Indians should be headed. Deloria said Indians should buy back reservation land through some sort of grant-loan program, and the reservations should be made the focal points of Indian economic activity and self-sufficiency. He said Indians must "generate income not dependent on the Federal government." Stevens also deplored the dependence on "payments from the United States" and said the current situation is neither promoting the economic stability of reservations nor helping Indians in their desire for self-determination.

**JOINT HOUSE-SENATE HEARING ON NARRAGANSETT LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT:** Congress heard testimony June 20 on a bill to implement a negotiated settlement of a Narragansett Indian land claim in Rhode Island. The bill would provide \$3.5 million to fund the purchase of 900 acres of privately held land to be turned over to the tribe. Another 900 acres of state-owned land would also be given to the tribe. A state-chartered corporation would hold title to the 1,800 acres, and the use of the land would be restricted according to the terms of the settlement. Senator James Abourezk, in opening the joint hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, said: "The significance of this bill...is that this is the first opportunity of the Congress to consider legislation which would implement a negotiated settlement of an eastern land claim." The tribe had claimed 3,500 undeveloped acres in the vicinity of Charlestown, Rhode Island.

**CROWS ASK \$19 MILLION IN FEDERAL DISASTER AID:** According to a report in the Billings Gazette, the Crow Indians want no part of proffered Federal low interest loans for disaster assistance in flood stricken areas of the reservation. Instead the tribe is asking for a \$19.3 million grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribal Chairman Forest Horn said the Crow people could not borrow money to repair the damage caused by the late May floods and still meet other demands. Horn said that the \$19.3 million "is only our initial request, based on the damages that are emergency in nature. We are sure there will be other costs that would be listed and considered at a later date."