

NCAI Sentinel

A Report on Indian Issues

Summer Edition 2003

1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202.466-7767 Fax: 202.466.7797

From the

P r e s i d e n t

Tex G. Hall



Protecting Our Homeland Security

Dosha!

The fight for tribal sovereignty protection is one that needs to be continually addressed and one of the most important battles the National Congress of American Indians fights for on a daily basis.

One of the most critical fronts in tribal sovereignty protection this year involves a vital amendment to the Homeland Protection Act of 2002. The NCAI strongly supports the Tribal Government Amendments to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (S. 578). This measure seeks to provide tribes with access to programs, information and funds from the Department of Homeland Security, change the Homeland Security Act's incorrect definition of tribes as local governments, and close a vulnerable gap in the nation's homeland security network.

This seeks to give tribes much needed authority to defend people, *all* people

continued on page 4

U.S. Civil Rights Commission Issues Report On Lack of Federal Funding For Indian Programs

The United States Government has failed to provide funding for adequate health care, law enforcement, and education to American Indians, according to a report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The report, entitled "A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country," may provide the most comprehensive analysis of unmet needs in Indian Country in a decade, and offers a strong vindication of the deep concerns that have been raised by NCAI and tribal leadership in years of testimony calling for increased federal appropriations.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency established by Congress in 1957. The Commission's report provides a strong indictment of federal funding shortfalls, indicating that the lack of federal funding has been a key factor in perpetuating the high poverty and unemployment rates, low high school and college graduation rates, shorter life expectancy, and higher rates of disease and illness that continue to plague Indian Country.

The Quiet Crisis report analyzed six federal departments responsible for the majority of American Indian programs in the country: Department of the Interior, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Education and Department of Agriculture.

Treaties and federal legislation have given the federal government a financial obligation to provide vital health and social services and protect Indian people and lands. However, the study, which documents each department's failure to live up to the needs the federal government has a trust responsibility to fulfill, said "the federal government must take immediate steps to resolve the disparate living conditions that plague Indian country." When inflation is factored in, overall funding for programs benefiting Native American is decreasing at an alarming rate.

"Native Americans have suffered too long from inattention and halfhearted efforts, and the crisis in Indian country must be addressed with the urgency it demands," the report said. "The conditions in Indian Country could be greatly relieved if the federal government honored its commitment to funding, paid greater attention to building basic infrastructure in Indian Country, and promoted self-determination among tribes."

An 11-step program to resolve these problems was recommended in the report. Among the steps is the creation of a task force to study the problems and recommend solutions

"The conditions in Indian Country could be greatly relieved if the federal government honored its commitment to funding, paid greater attention to building basic infrastructure in Indian Country, and promoted self-determination among tribes."

-- "A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country," a report by the United States Commission on Civil Rights

continued on page 5



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Jacqueline L. Johnson, Executive Director
John Dossett, General Counsel
Robert Holden, Director, Emergency Management &
Radioactive Waste Programs
R. Aura Kanegis, Director of Operations and Programs
Lillian Sparks, Legislative Associate
Irene Folstrom, Legislative Associate
Adam Bailey, Legislative Associate
Sarah Hicks, Director, Welfare Reform Program
Nketia Agyeman, Office Manager
Jamie Gomez, Convention Coordinator
Jason McCarty, Communications Specialist
Sharon Ivy, Accountant
Janice Caldwell, Accountant
Jaime Loretto, Receptionist
Bernida Humetewa, Development Director
Cherie Ike, NCAI Fellow
Okwaho (James) Washinawatok, NCAI Fellow
Christina Morrow, NCAI Fellow
Sequoyah Simermeyer, NCAI Fellow
Gyasi Ross, NCAI Fellow
Amber Ebarb, NCAI Fellow

NCAI Headquarters

1301 Connecticut
Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC
20036

Office:
202-466-7767
Fax:
202-466-7797
website:
www.ncai.org

Tribal Leader

GUEST EDITORIAL

Edward K. Thomas

Tribal Programs Lose In Federal Budgeting

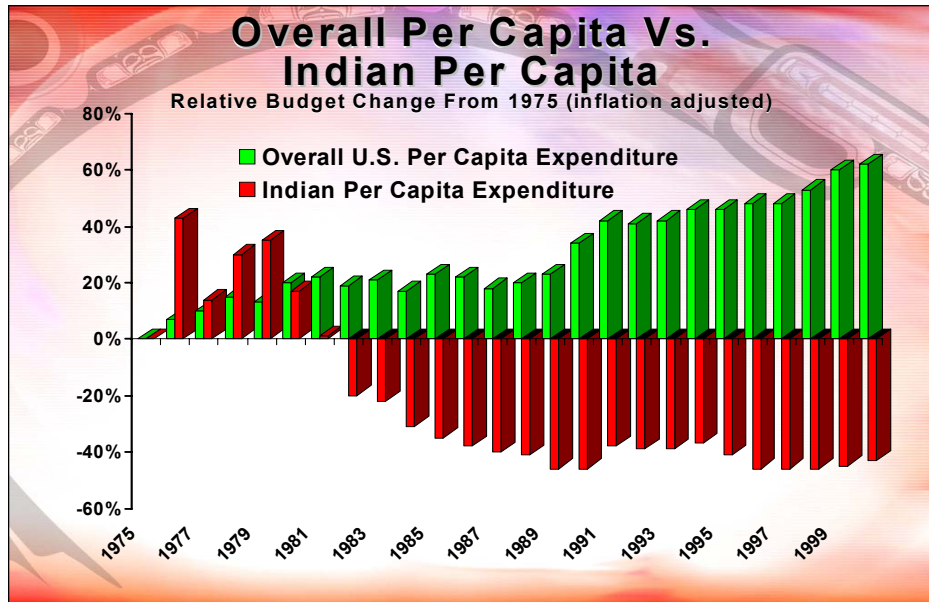
Federal funding for tribal programs has been losing ground for more than a decade. While there have been increases in most programs, they have been less than the inflation rate and notably less than increases within the federal departments that they are in.

A General Accounting Office (GAO) budget analysis for the years 1975 to 1999 of all Native American federal programs shows that once you add in the effects of inflation, the rate of growth to non-Native programs is greater than to Native American programs. This is happening notwithstanding the fact that the human problems in Indian Country are more challenging and more severe than those of the non-Native community. Not only are our populations growing, doing business in most of our remote communities is much more expensive than in urban centers.

Flat or reduced budgets can be attributed to several things and collectively they result in severe budget problems for Native Americans:

1. It is clear that Congress has lost faith in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to manage money. While members of Congress are of the opinion that they are penalizing the BIA for the absence of accountability, they, in reality, are penalizing needy Native American citizens.
2. Bureaucratic delays in allocating appropriated funding have led to unspent balances in the BIA budgets and these unspent balances give the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress the impression that we have more money than we can spend.
3. The BIA has a cumbersome and ineffective way of filling vacancies that also leads to unspent balances.
4. Over the past 5 to 7 years the majority of modest BIA budget increases have gone to fixing the problems that the BIA created for themselves in the mismanagement of tribal and individual Indian Trust Assets.
5. Tribal leaders, upset at the mismanagement of trust assets and the absence of meaningful consultation, have had to dedicate a significant amount of time and have expended some very valuable political cards in advocating for the preservation of the federal government's trust responsibility and have not had time to properly advocate reasonable budget increases.
6. BIA officials are bound by policy to advocate the President's budget and do not forcefully advocate for

continued on page 3



Appropriations to Indian programs have done equally poor under federal budget surpluses as during federal budget deficits.

- budget increases to meet the needs of our needy Tribal citizens.
7. Tribal leader requests for budget increases never get by OMB because OMB officials are convinced that Indian programs, overall, are fairing better than other federal budgets; there is insufficient data to support increases; and there are too many unspent balances.
 8. Indian program budget increases, if any, are almost always made in comparison with previous year's budgets and other federal program increases rather than basing requests on unmet needs as done in other federal human services budgets.
 9. There is a growing perception in this country that Indians are rich because of gaming. A year ago approximately 80% of all gaming revenue was made by fewer than 20 tribes out of the 550+ federally recognized tribes.

Note: Edward K. Thomas is President of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

INSIDE THIS SENTINEL

NCAI 60th Annual Session Preview
Page 6

NCAI Mid-Year Recap
Page 8

Financial Literacy Coalition
Page 10

Native Vote 2004
Page 11

Issues Update
Page 12

Health Update
Page 13

PACT Act Update
Page 14



From The **Executive Director**
Jacqueline L. Johnson

Seeking Proactive Improvements To Tribal/State Relations

On July 14, 2003, Rhode Island state troopers forcibly entered the Narragansett Indian Tribe's reservation, arresting seven tribal members, including Narragansett Chief Matthew Thomas, in a political feud over the tribe's newly opened tobacco shop. Viewers nationwide saw troubling footage of Rhode Island State Police aggressively raiding the smoke shop, and many were stunned to see such a raw example of state tribal relations gone awry. A legal battle, not a physical confrontation, was expected over the opening of the Tribe's tobacco shop.

The courts will decide how to judge the legality of the raid and the actions of those involved, but a more important challenge lies in healing the rift that has been ripped wider in the already disjointed relations between these two governmental entities. In recent weeks I have joined Brown University President Ruth Simmons and four other Rhode Island community leaders in a panel convened by the Governor in an effort to advance that healing process.

But in the longer term, I believe we have an important role to play as an organization in facilitating changes to the very

continued on page 3

continued from page 1

on and around Indian land. S.578 is the right bill at the right time for Indian country. It ensures our ability to fully protect our lands and our people from any potential attacks.

Our tribal governments, like state governments, need the necessary resources to develop procedures and plans to respond to threats of terrorism. Tribes have very serious responsibilities for protecting our nation's borders and infrastructure. Tribes have limited resources to address these responsibilities, and S. 578 is imperative to ensuring our ability to fully protect our lands and our people from any potential attacks.

The NCAI has recommended three important changes to S. 578: correcting the bill's exclusion of Alaska Native tribal governments; strengthening language regarding jurisdictional provisions; and developing a mechanism to address the budgetary strain created by homeland security related issues.

Section 13 of S.578 has drawn criticism from some groups because it reaffirms tribal sovereignty, giving tribes the right to arrest individuals suspected of engaging in or planning terrorist activities on tribal lands. The Department of Justice is

See Related Homeland Security Story on Page 14

currently working on the the bill's wording and the NCAI hopes it will increase the capacity tribes have to protect and defend tribal homelands.

The Quiet Crisis report of the United States Civil Rights Commission, outlined on page 1, underscores the fact that Indian Country receives substandard funding in all three components of law enforcement – policing, justice and corrections. This report highlights that spending on law enforcement in Native American communities is 60 percent of the national average. The report says, "A downward trend in funding has begun that, if continued, will severely compromise public safety in Native communities."

I believe that this erosion of public safety is already putting our communities at risk. For our tribal sovereignty and self-determination to be protected, we must be able to defend our people from attacks. Having the authority and the funds to protect our own lands and the people who reside within our boundaries is the only way to exercise true self-determination and tribal sovereignty.

continued from page 3

nature of state/tribal relations in our nation. We have a responsibility to future generations to ensure that differences between state and tribal governments never again rise to the level of discord that sent the course of state-tribal relations so far astray in Rhode Island.

In a joint project with the National Conference of State Legislators, NCAI has been working for several years to facilitate improved communication and dialogue between state and tribal governments, and seeking to better educate state leaders about the nature of self-determining tribal governments. This work has come a long way, and I am deeply heartened by the good will of state leaders, such as the initiative's co-chair Lana Oleen, Majority Leader for the state of Kansas, who have determined respectful state-tribal relationships to be worth the tremendous time and effort needed to counteract the deep misunderstandings that have so long prevailed.

States and tribes have a great many shared priorities. They share concern for the well being of their citizenry, who cross their shared borders regularly. They share the challenge of developing infrastructure and delivering services. They share a need for adequate federal appropriations to address the true cost of services they deliver on behalf of the federal government. And most importantly, they share a desire for peaceful, constructive relationships with their neighboring governments.

By focusing on our shared goals and ensuring a better understanding of the role that tribal governments play in providing law enforcement, service delivery, economic stimulus, and a range of other governmental functions, perhaps it will become clear that efforts to diminish tribal jurisdiction are misguided and harmful not only to the tribes themselves but to all who visit or neighbor tribal communities.

Tribal Leaders Sound Off On Tribal Homeland Security Amendment

"Terrorism, like wildfires and earthquakes, doesn't recognize federal, state or local government jurisdiction. But terrorists might use the gaps in security on Indian lands against all of us. Tribes do not want to be the weak link in the chain, we stand ready to serve our country and homeland, and ask only that Congress give us the means."

**- Anthony Pico,
Chairman, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

"We Indians have always fought to protect our homeland. We always will. We ask the United States government to open its eyes to the contributions the tribes have made, and will continue to make, if we have the means to do so. Tribes share borders with other nations, with major infrastructure and with the open seas. Military reserves are our neighbors and we have jurisdiction over many natural treasures. Give us the tools and we, too, will help keep America safe for the generations to come."

**- Billy Frank, Jr.
Nisqually Indian
Chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
USMC Veteran, Korean War**

continued from page 1

in time for next year's budget process. The report also suggests federal agencies, which provide services to American Indians, do annual assessments of unmet needs for their respective programs.

A brief sampling of the report's findings follows. A full copy of report can be downloaded at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/na0703/na0731.pdf>.

Department of the Interior – “The Congressional Research Service found that between 1975 and 2000, funding for BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee declined by \$6 million yearly when adjusted for inflation. BIA's mismanagement of Individual Indian Money trust accounts has denied Native Americans financial resources that could be applied toward basic needs that BIA programs fail to provide. Insufficient program funding resulted in \$7.4 billion in unmet needs among Native Americans in 2000. Of this amount, a shortfall in Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA), which provides such basic services as child welfare and adult vocational training, alone totaled \$2.8 billion that year. BIA and its programs play a pivotal role in the lives of Native Americans, but mismanagement and lack of funding have undercut the agency's ability to improve living conditions in Native communities.”

Department of Health and Human Services – “Native Americans have a lower life expectancy than any other racial/ethnic group and higher rates of many diseases, including diabetes, tuberculosis, and alcoholism. Most Native Americans do not have private health insurance and thus rely exclusively on the Indian Health Service (IHS) for health care. The federal government spends less per capita on Native American health care than on any other group. Annually, IHS spends 60 percent less on its beneficiaries than the average per person health care expenditure nationwide. The IHS, although the largest source of federal spending for Native Americans, constitutes only 0.5 percent of the entire HHS budget. Moreover, it makes up a smaller proportion of HHS' discretionary budget today than five years ago. The agency currently operates with an esti-

mated 59 percent of the amount necessary to stem the crisis. If funded sufficiently, IHS could provide more money to needs such as contract care, urban health programs, health facility construction and renovation, and sanitation services.”

Department of Housing and Urban Development – “The availability of safe, sanitary housing in Indian Country is significantly less than the need. Existing housing structures are substandard: approximately 40 percent of on-reservation housing is considered inadequate, and one in five reservation homes lack complete plumbing. Native Americans also have less access to homeownership resources, due to limited access to credit, land ownership restrictions, geographic isolation, and harsh environmental conditions that make construction difficult and expensive. While HUD has made efforts to improve housing, lack of funding has hindered progress. Funding for Native American programs at HUD increased only slightly over the years (8.8 percent), significantly less than the agency as a whole (62 percent). After controlling for inflation, HUD's Native American programs actually lost spending power.”

Department of Justice — “All three components of law enforcement—policing, justice, and corrections—are substandard in Indian Country compared with the rest of the nation. Native Americans are twice as likely as any other racial group to be the victims of crime. Yet, per capita spending on law enforcement in Native American communities is roughly 60 percent of the national average. Native American law enforcement funding increased almost 85 percent between 1998 and 2003, but the amount allocated was so small to begin with that its proportion to the department's total budget hardly changed. Native American programs make up roughly 1 percent of the agency's total budget. A downward trend in funding has begun that, if continued, will severely compromise public safety in Native communities.”

Department of Education — “Native American students are not afforded educational opportunities equal to other American students. They routinely face deteriorating school facilities, underpaid teachers, weak curricula, discriminatory

treatment, outdated learning tools, and cultural isolation. As a result, achievement gaps persist with Native American students scoring lower than any other racial group in basic levels of reading, math, and history. Native American students are also more likely to drop out. Funding for DOE's Office of Indian Education (OIE) has remained a relatively small portion of the department's total discretionary budget (ranging from 0.2 to 0.3 percent) between 1998 and 2003. OIE funding has undergone several reductions over the last few decades and, in many years, its budget has failed to account for inflation.”

Department of Agriculture – “The USDA is largely responsible for rural development and farm and business supplements in rural communities. Native Americans rely on such programs to foster conditions that encourage and sustain economic investments. Poor economic conditions have resulted in food shortages and hunger. Native Americans are more than twice as likely as the general population to face hunger and food insecurity at any given time. By its failure to make programs accessible to Native Americans, the federal government has denied them the opportunity to receive benefits routinely available to other citizens. USDA's set-aside for the Rural Community Advancement Program fluctuated between 2000 and 2003. The 2004 budget proposes to reduce funding by more than 18.2 percent from 2003. The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) lost funding when accounting for inflation (2.8 percent) between 1999 and 2003, reducing available food resources.”

The NCAI encourages you to make your Congressional representatives aware of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission Report.

Visit Our Website at
<http://www.ncai.org>

NCAI 60th Annual Session in Albuquerque, NM November 16-21, 2001

“Sovereign Nations, One Enduring Voice”

Visit NCAI’s website,
www.ncai.org, for registration
forms and further
information
regarding the 60th Annual
Session

NCAI will be hosting its 60th Annual Session and tradeshow in Albuquerque from November 16-21. Entitled “Sovereign Nations, One Enduring Voice,” the annual session will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Tex G. Hall, NCAI President, said the theme of the meeting was selected to promote unity and awareness in Indian Country.

“Sovereign Nations, One Enduring Voice was selected in recognition that each and every tribe is its own sovereign entity, but collectively those sovereign voices can and will unify to send one clear message,” said Hall.

He said American Indian tribes must unify as one cohesive force to build stronger government-to-government relations with federal and state agencies in order to shape the future of Indian Country.

“The development of a strategy responsive to ongoing attacks on tribal sovereignty must have a unified front in order to establish an agenda for creating open dialogues with federal and state government agencies, especially in the wake of critical issues facing Indian tribes, Hall said.

The NCAI Annual Session in 2003 is also unique on a variety of fronts, Hall said. The meeting marks a special anniversary for the NCAI, as it is the 60th annual meeting of the nation’s oldest and largest Indian organization in the country.

“For 60 years, the NCAI has been coming together, actively monitoring legislative issues that have faced tribal governments, from trust reform to taxation to tribal sovereignty protection,” Hall said.

This year’s session will also be an election year for NCAI officers. Only members in good standing on election day may cast a vote. Be a part of this political process by paying annual membership dues. These forms are available on the NCAI website at www.ncai.org.

With a U.S. Presidential election pending, all U.S. Presidential candidates have been invited to participate and present their respective platforms for American Indian issues. This will offer a unique opportunity for tribes to see where candidates stand on issues facing Indian Country.

The afternoon of the 18th will be focused

on “Sound Economic Policy and Promoting Economic Development in Indian Country.” Among the breakout sessions planned are: financial literacy, tourism, taxation, economic policy development, telecommunications, banking opportunities in Indian Country, and small business development in Indian Country.

The morning of November 19th will be dedicated to the first annual Native American Health Day celebration, which will include a series of updates from national health leaders. The morning also features an awareness walk aimed at drawing special attention to American Indian health concerns and preventative measures.

Workshop sessions scheduled for the afternoon of the 19th include: homeland security and emergency preparedness, state/tribal relations, land to trust, Native Vote 2004, trust reorganization – recommendations for our future, education, energy, contract support cost, violence against women, and, international indigenous rights.

The local planning committee, which is helping NCAI organize the Albuquerque annual meeting, have scheduled a cultural celebration night for the evening of the 19th. Another tradition as part of every NCAI annual meeting is the Miss NCAI Scholarship Pageant, and there will be a new Miss NCAI crowned on November 17th.



Albuquerque will be the host city for the 60th Annual NCAI Session.

National Congress of American Indians

- CALL TO CONVENTION -

60th Annual Session

“Sovereign Nations, One Enduring Voice”

Albuquerque, New Mexico

November 16-21, 2003

Albuquerque Convention Center

401 2nd St. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Host Hotels:

Hyatt Albuquerque

330 Tijeras, NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

800.233.1234 or

505.842.1234

Single: \$119/Double: \$129

La Posada de Albuquerque

125 2nd Street, NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

800.777.5732

Single: \$89/Double: \$99

Triple: \$109/Quad: \$119

Wyndham Albuquerque

2910 Yale Blvd, SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106

800.227.1117

Single: \$72/Double: \$92

Shuttle Service will be provided

Group Code for all is: National Congress of American Indians

Reservations must be made by October 17th to receive reduced rates!



REMINDERS:

Tribal and Individual Membership Dues are renewed at the Annual Sessions.

Remember to bring your resolution for Tribal membership.

This is an **Election Year** for NCAI, you must be a member in good standing to vote.

Registration begins on Sunday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

First General Assembly begins on Monday, November 17 at 8:30 a.m.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NCAI.ORG

Tribal Sovereignty Protection Highlights NCAI Mid-Year Session

The proactive protection of tribal sovereignty, through judicial and legislative policy, topped the agenda at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Session held in June at the Gila River Indian Community's Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa. The session, "Exercising Sovereignty: Providing Leadership", sparked debate on how to explore "good governance practices to aid tribes as they truly seek to exercise tribal sovereignty."

More than 40 resolutions were passed at the NCAI Mid-year session and can be viewed at www.NCAI.org. (Previous years' resolutions are also available at the site.)

NCAI President Tex Hall said the best way to protect sovereignty is to exercise it effectively. He said defending self-determination is a battle that must be fought and must be won. He called upon tribal leaders for increased unity in fighting to defend tribal sovereignty, which has come under attack in recent Supreme Court decisions and in the United States Congress.

"In the current climate where our very existence as sovereign governments is being challenged, it is more important than ever for tribal councils to exercise their sovereignty for the good of the people and the protection of our rights of self-



During her address at the NCAI Mid-year Session, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) encouraged active voting to make changes in and for Indian country, especially when so many sovereignty-related issues ride in the balance of Supreme Court and Federal Court decisions.

determination," Hall said. "Tribes all around the country are facing the same frustrations: the budget and appropriations process is leaving us with fewer and fewer resources with which to provide for our citizens. Many members of Congress do not have the understanding of Indian Affairs to make informed decisions regarding Indian policy, and the government to government process is not working as it should."

During the session's opening general assembly, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano said she hopes a new model for tribal-state relations will develop in her state.

"Meaningful dialogue between tribal governments and the state of Arizona is a crucial component to our state's tribal policy," Napolitano said. "I have initiated a number of efforts to ensure tribal issues are addressed promptly and comprehensively and to ensure tribal leaders recognize that they have access to my office, as well as state agencies."

She said improving government-to-government relations should be a priority for Indian country in the upcoming 2004 elections, where the Native American vote has the possibility to swing a close election. She called for the support of state legislative and judicial candidates who understand tribal sovereignty.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) encouraged active voting to make changes in and for Indian country, especially when so many sovereignty-related issues ride in the balance of Supreme Court and Federal Court decisions. Cantwell, a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said placing lawmakers and judges in office that are open to tribal sovereignty and understand tribal self-determination is critical in advancing federal and tribal relationships.

"On the larger issues of tribal sovereignty, we are trying to make progress in the U.S. Senate, but recent federal cases have eroded tribal sovereignty," Cantwell said.

She highlighted Nevada v. Hicks, a case where the Supreme Court held that tribes did not have jurisdiction over an incident between a tribal member and state law enforcement officials who came onto a reservation. In Atkinson Trading Co., the Court held that the tribe did not have authority to tax non-tribal members who stay at a hotel within the boundary of a reservation.

"As you know, recent rulings have dramatically scaled back many of the bedrock tribal sovereignty and self-

Thanks to the NCAI Mid-Year Session Sponsors

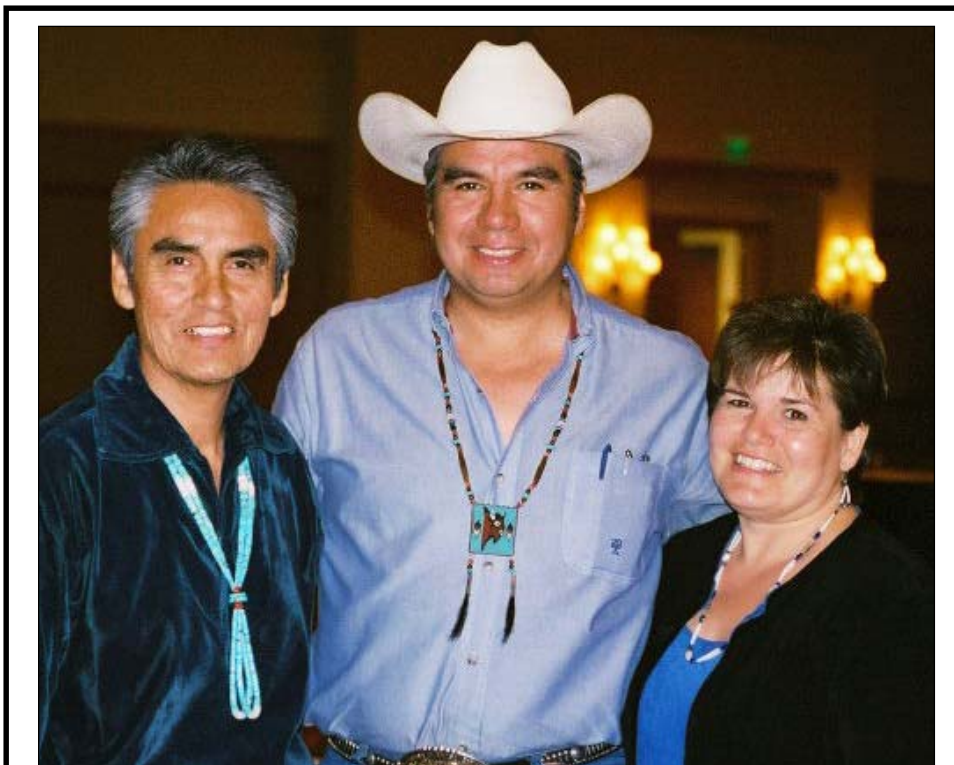
Gila River Indian Community	\$35,000
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community	\$15,000
Ak-Chin Indian Community	\$ 5,000
Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation	\$ 5,000 and Fund Raising Golf Tournament
Yavapai Apache	\$ 5,000
San Carlos Apache	\$ 5,000
Akin - Gump Law Firm	\$ 5,000
Yavapai Prescott	\$ 5,000
Tohono O'odham Nation	\$ 5,000
Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation	\$ 5,000
Hon-dah Resort & Casino/ White Mountain Apache Casino at Salt River	\$2,500
	\$ 2,500

governance rights,” Cantwell said. “If we continue to see these sorts of attacks on tribal sovereignty, I believe Congress will need to act.”

Serving as hosts were Richard Narcia, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community and Nora Helton-McDowell, Chair of the Ft. Mohave Tribe and President of the Inter-tribal Council of Arizona. A special recognition was given to Attorneys General from the states several states where Indian issues and Indian law are substantive. Among those recognized were Terry Goddard, Attorney General of Arizona, Christine Gregoire, Attorney General of Washington, Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana and Patricia Madrid, Attorney General of New Mexico.

Addressing the first general assembly were Aurene Martin, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Jim Kelly, Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

Jack Jackson Sr., Arizona State Senator; Jack Jackson Jr. Arizona State Representative and John McCoy, Washington State Representative, three American Indians serving in state office, presented perspectives on their experience in building



NCAI Teams With Navajo Nation For Summit

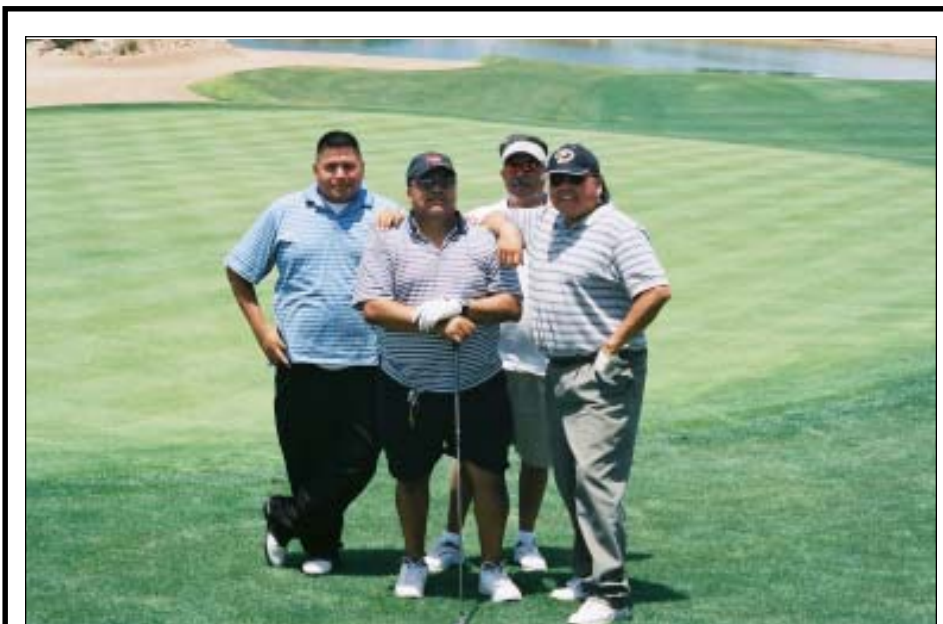
NCAI President Tex Hall (center) and NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson (right) joined Navajo President Joe Shirley (left) at the “One Voice for Change” Tribal Summit preceding the NCAI Mid-Year Session. Shirley said, “We are here because as Native Americans, we are forgotten by the federal government and its lack of acknowledgement of our sovereign treaty rights.”

bridges in state/tribal relations.

The session’s final general assembly heard an overview and updates on Tribal

Sovereignty Protection Initiative from Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr., Veijas Band of Kumeyaay Chairman Anthony Pico, Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman and NCAI Aberdeen Area Vice President Harold Frazier, and Native American Rights Fund Executive Director John Echohawk.

NCAI coordinated workshops on Tribal Courts; Tribal Community and Public Safety; Economic Security and Good Governance; Effective Leadership; Human Service Data Sharing and Delivery; Acquiring Excess and Surplus Military Lands; Creating Your Emergency Preparedness Plan; Constitutional Reform; Trust Land Acquisitions; Governmental Communication; Exercising and Preserving Sovereignty; and Managing and Advancing Cultural Resources.



NCAI Mid-Year Fundraiser

Members of the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation Veterans Association were among the teams playing in an NCAI fundraising golf tournament as part of the NCAI Mid-Year Meeting.

Inadequate Financial Education Hinders Access to Financial Services in Native Communities

National Coalition Outlines Strategies for Increasing Financial Skills in Native Communities

Adult and youth financial education are critical in improving access to affordable capital and financial services in Native communities, according to a report sponsored in part by the National Congress of American Indians.

The Native American Financial Literacy Coalition's *Financial Education in Native Communities: A Briefing Paper* reflects strategies for increasing financial education and improving the overall economic health of Native communities.

The report is the first comprehensive analysis of financial education on Native land. The paper discusses financial education as one strategy to increase access to affordable financial services in Native communities; examines current efforts underway to help close existing gaps; and identifies five areas for further work to promote financial education in Native communities.

"While efforts to promote financial skills in Native communities are growing, only recently have Native communities begun to benefit from the increased national attention to and investments in financial education enjoyed by other communities."

*-- Joe Garcia,
NCAI First Vice President and
Member of the Native American
Financial Literacy Coalition*

"Financial literacy education will give our communities the knowledge we can use to build the foundation of strong, healthy Native economies," says Joe Garcia, NCAI First Vice President.

The preliminary strategies outlined in the paper are part of a national action plan that will be developed and implemented by the Native American Financial Literacy Coalition to increase the availability of financial education resources in Native communities. The strategies were agreed upon at a recent national policy development forum co-hosted by NCAI, First Nations Development Institute (FNDI), the Federal Reserve System and the Center for Enterprise Development (CFED). The strategies focus on the following five areas:

- Youth Financial Education: Increase the number of Native youth who are able to demonstrate strong financial management skills.
- Adult Basic Financial Education: Increase the number of adults who are able to demonstrate strong financial management skills.
- Consumer Protection: Develop more knowledgeable and informed borrowers throughout Native communities.
- Housing Counseling: Increase the number of Native people able to obtain affordable housing.
- Entrepreneurship Development: Build the number of Native entrepreneurs who are able to develop and sustain successful individual enterprises.

For more information, contact NCAI legislative associate Adam Bailey at 202.466.7767 or Joanna Donohoe at 561.626.9700.

Finding Legislative

Information on the Web

NCAI.....www.ncai.org
Information on legislation affecting Indian Country.

THOMAS.....www.thomas.loc.gov
A comprehensive legislative information site maintained by the Library of Congress.

House of Reps.....www.house.gov
Schedule information and links to Member, Committee, and Leadership Offices.

Senate.....www.senate.gov
Schedule information and links to Member, Committee, and Leadership Offices.

White House.....www.whitehouse.gov
Links to Executive Branch agencies, press releases, and document database.

Other Sources of Legislative, Governmental, and Political Information:

C-SPAN
www.c-span.org

Washington Post Political Section
www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/politics

Federal Consumer Information Center
www.info.gov

Political Information
www.politicalinformation.com

Senate Committee On Indian Affairs
www.indian.senate.gov

CNN/Time Political News and Info
www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS

CQ's Campaigns and Elections site
www.campaignline.com

Speak Out Political Activism Center
www.speakout.com

NCAI Spearheads Native Vote 2004

To maximize the Native voice in the democratic process and ensure national leadership that is responsive to our concerns, it is critically important that American Indian and Alaska Native populations participate in the 2004 elections in large numbers. The Native Vote 2004 campaign will drive this undertaking.

It is also important that we turn out to candidate forums and events to raise issues of concern to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and individuals, and encourage candidates to take positions on our priority concerns. To this end, the National Congress of American Indians plans to mount an extensive national non-partisan effort to mobilize the Native vote in collaboration with regional organizations, local tribal governments, centers serving the Indian populations of urban centers, and non-governmental organizations whose focus is on democracy initiatives.

On July, 22, 2003, NCAI held the first of several important meetings regarding Native Vote 2004 in Portland, Oregon. Tribal Leaders, students and experienced Campaign staffers and pollsters participated in this meeting, shaping the agenda for this initiative. Several workgroups were formed and since the Portland meeting have been actively planning and developing materials for tribal communities to use at the local level:

The National Platform, Candidate Survey, and Educational Materials Workgroup is in the process of developing a candidate questionnaire to be sent to the presidential candidates. NCAI will publicize the response to the questionnaire on www.nativevote.org. It is extremely important for tribal leaders to review the responses from the questionnaire and the other tools available, such as the congressional scorecard, when deciding which campaigns to support. Tribal governments must be consistent in our message that we will not support candidates that do not support our sovereignty. The workgroup also is drafting an American Indian and Alaska Native platform statement for tribal leaders to



take to their state delegates for inclusion in the state platforms and ultimately the national party platforms.

The Tracking National Goals and Voting Registration Workgroup plans to conduct national voter registration drives in Indian Country, engage tribes and urban Indian groups to participate in voter registration and coordinate registration drives for tribes on the local level. Additionally this workgroup will develop a database to track the Native success factor in key campaigns through tracking Native voter registration and voter turnout. Candidate campaign promises to Indian Country also will be tracked through this workgroup so that we may follow up on the commitments made.

The Tribal Models and Success Stories Workgroup is in the process of identifying tribes and organizations that have successful Get Out the Vote campaigns. Summaries of the tribal models are being solicited to post on www.nativevote.org. The workgroup is also working on identifying incentives and gatherings where information can be distributed and developing a fact sheet for tribal members who may have questions about Get Out the Vote.

The PR Outreach Group is developing press kits for tribes to use, including a voter handbook. This handbook, with information on key candidates, details the importance of voting. The PR Outreach group is developing an ad campaign for Native Vote 2004. The group is actively seeking slogans and messages from Indian Country so please contact NCAI if you have any ideas.

The Voting Rights and Voting Intimidation Workgroup is developing a voters rights fact sheet to be placed on the website so each Native voter can be equipped with the correct information to counter misinformation. The workgroup is also soliciting information about past and current voter intimidation practices tribes encounter.

The Youth and Young Adults Workgroup plans to engage native youth in the political process by involving the NCAI Youth Commission and UNITY.

NCAI also plans to develop a Native Vote tool kit that will include: contact information for the parties at the national and state level; contact information for secretary of state offices; state voter registration requirements; congressional scorecards on Indian issues; biographies and statements of the presidential candidates representing the major parties; summary of voting rights laws, campaign finance information, resources on the world wide web, and campaign media materials, including a template that tribes can use to reproduce and customize to fit their local campaigns.

A Steering Committee has been formed to facilitate and coordinate the Native Vote efforts on national level. The NCAI-affiliated Unity PAC is also being reactivated to make its voice heard in this election cycle. The Steering Committee membership is open and we are still seeking input and participation from anyone interested. To become involved in the Steering Committee or any of the workgroups listed contact the NCAI at 202.466.7767.

Federal Court Holds U.S. Liable for Underpaying Cherokee Compact

On July 3, 2003 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held the United States liable in damages for the Indian Health Service's failure to fully pay the Cherokee Nation "contract support costs," including indirect costs, due under the Indian Self-Determination Act. The decision represents a powerful reaffirmation of the Nation's policy of Indian self-determination. A copy of the decision is available on the court's website at www.fedcir.gov/dailylog.html. NCAI filed an amicus brief in the appeal highlighting Congress' core purposes in enacting and amending the Indian Self-Determination Act. In several instances the opinion discusses the same legislative history addressed in NCAI's brief.

The Federal Circuit case grew out of IHS's decision in the early and mid-1990's to not pay tribal self-determination contractors

Issues UPDATE

contract support costs beyond the amounts recommended in congressional committee reports, even though the actual appropriations acts at the time did not limit the amounts IHS could pay. IHS defended its actions by arguing that it possessed "discretion" to not reprogram other funds to pay tribal contractors. IHS also argued that to have paid more would have adversely impacted programs serving other tribes.

The Federal Circuit ruled in the Cherokee Nation's favor on all counts. It concluded that IHS was required to reprogram other funds to meet its contract obligations to the Cherokee Nation, and that nothing in the appropriations acts at the time affected IHS's duty to reprogram. It also held that reprogramming additional funds would not have required IHS to dip into programs serving other tribes, for two reasons. First, IHS could have dipped into the millions of dollars it set aside each year to fund its own "inherent federal functions," and second, IHS could have used part of

the several million dollars left unspent at the end of each year. **Finally, the Court found that Congress' later enactment of Section 314 was not sufficiently clear to constitute a retroactive change in the law as it existed in the earlier years.** Instead, the Court read section 314 as only limiting what IHS could do with the leftover funds still remaining from the earlier years at the time Section 314 was enacted. In all these respects the Federal Circuit expressly disagreed with the contrary rulings issued last year by the Ninth Circuit (*Shoshone-Bannock Tribes v. Secretary*) and by the Tenth Circuit (*Cherokee Nation and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes v. Thompson*).

The new Federal Circuit decision is also critically important because it comes at the precise time when a Supreme Court petition to review the Tenth Circuit's contrary decision against Indian tribes in *Cherokee Nation and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes* is still pending. The development of a new and direct inter-circuit conflict concerning the government's liability for failing to fully pay self-determination contracts in the mid-1990s substantially increases the possibility the Supreme Court will decide to review the Tenth Circuit decision.

Fellows Join NCAI Staff

The NCAI is extremely pleased to welcome five new fellows for the 2003-04 year, as well as a fall intern to help support the organization's critical work. The year-long fellowships allow recent college graduates an opportunity to work on issues and legislation affecting tribes throughout the country.

"We are very honored to have this group of talented individuals join us to help NCAI accomplish its goals," Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson said.

Gyasi J.W. Ross, of Browning, Montana, is a member of the Blackfeet Nation. He was raised on both the Blackfeet and Suquamish Reservations. He is a recent graduate of Columbia Law School in New York City and has a strong interest in Native education and taxation issues.

E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, (fall intern) Coharie and Navajo, is in his third year of law school at Cornell University. Sequoyah completed his undergraduate work at Dartmouth College and received a Masters of Study in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. Sequoyah is president of the National Native American Law Student Association.

Cherie Ike is a member of the Te-Moak tribe of the Western Shoshone. She is from Elko, Nevada. Cherie graduated with a BA in psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Prior to joining the NCAI,



Joining the NCAI as Fellows are (front row L to R) Cheri Ike, Christina Morrow and Amber Ebarb. Back Row: James Washinawatok, Sequoyah Simermeyer and Gyasi Ross.

she worked as an intern for Senator Harry Reid (D-NV).

James "Okwaho" Washinawatok is Mohawk and Menominee. He grew up on the Menominee Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin. He earned a B.A. in Behavioral Science and Law with a minor in American Indian Studies from the University of Wisconsin. He

Health UPDATE

Dr. Charles Grim confirmed as Director of Indian Health Service

On July 16, 2003, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Dr. Charles W. Grim, D.D.S to serve as Director of the Indian Health Service. Dr. Grim has been serving as the Interim Director of IHS since August of 2002. Dr. Grim is a native of Oklahoma and a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

S. 558 passes Senate

On July 16, 2003, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 558, a bill to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health. The elevation of the IHS Director position would provide direct reporting of all policy and budget matters affecting Indian health to the Secretary of DHHS.

House and Senate Committees approve FY 2004 IHS Budget

On July 10, 2003, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2004 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill which includes funding for the Indian Health Service. The House of Representatives approved its version of the appropriations bill on July 17, 2003.

Many key actions were taken by the House and Senate Committees that differ from the Administration's proposal. Both Committees rejected the proposal to eliminate 195 FTEs among IHS programs and rejected the increases for Contract Health Services and Construction of Sanitation Facilities. The House bill provides a \$3 million increase over FY03 funding levels for Contract Health Services while the Senate version provides for a \$15 million increase. The Administration proposed a \$18 million increase for Contract Health Services. Although funding for Indian Health Facilities increased in both the House and Senate bills over the Administration's proposal, both bills rejected the \$20 million increase for Sanitation Facilities Construction proposed by the Administration and instead increased the Health Care Facilities Construction by \$22 million over the proposed amount.

Funding levels remained essentially parallel to the Administration's proposal for IHS programs including Dental Services, Mental Health and Social Service Programs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs, Community Health Representatives, Urban Health, Self Governance, and Contract Support Costs.

With only a 2% increase provided for pay raises and no increase for an estimated 15% medical inflation, IHS will have to absorb these and other costs associated with inflation.

Indian Health Care Improvement Act Hearings

On July 16, 2003, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Resources Committee held a joint hearing on S. 556 and H.R. 2440, bills to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). Witnesses included Dr. Grim, Director of IHS, Steven Nesmith, Assistant Secretary of HUD, and Rachel Joseph, Chairperson of the Lone Pine Paulte-Shoshone Tribe. The hearing focused on health disparities, facilities, and urban Indian health concerns.

Dr. Grim testified to the health disparities faced by American Indians and Alaska Natives, stating that a renewed emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention will be a primary area of focus for IHS. With regards to health care facilities, Dr. Grim expressed concern with the proposed annual reporting requirements on the need for facilities construction, language prohibiting the use of sanitation facilities funds for HUD homes, and the threshold criteria for small ambulatory programs. Additionally, Dr. Grim discussed the administrative burdens that would be placed on the IHS if negotiated rulemaking was mandated to develop all regulations to implement IHCIA and if the existing tribal consultation requirement is broadened to require tribal consultation prior to adoption of policies and regulations by Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services and for urban Indian organizations on all HHS policies affecting urban Indians.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a subsequent hearing on July 23, 2003 on IHCIA, hearing testimony from Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Buford Rolin, Vice-Chairman of the Poarch Creek Band of Indians, Myra Munson, Attorney with Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson L.L.P. and Mim Dixon, Dixon and Associates. Key issues related to Medicare and Medicaid under Title V of the IHCIA including access to third party revenues, the Qualified Indian Health Program, and Federal Medical Assistance Percentage were discussed.

For copies of the testimony provided at that hearing, please visit the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs website at www.senate.gov/~scia/.

THANK YOU.....

The NCAI would like to say thank you to the following member Tribes who donated to NCAI to address our critical needs: **Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians** [\$50,000]; **San Manuel Band of Mission Indians** [\$25,000]; **Oneida Nation of Wisconsin** [\$10,000] and the **Red Cliff Band of Chippewa Indians** [\$2,500].

continued from page 12

recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Law.

Amber Ebarb, named Gin du klaa in Tlingit, is a member of the Raven-Dog salmon clan, Thleneidi, of southeast Alaska. She grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. She earned a Bachelors Degree in psychology from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

Christina Morrow is Meherrin/Occaneechi from North Carolina. She attended Duke Law School where she chartered a Duke chapter of the Native American Law Student Association. She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina.

Issues UPDATE

Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act or PACT Act Update

One of the most pressing issues in the current legislative session is a proposal that is intended to stop the sale of tax-free cigarettes on the Internet—but which could have significant impacts on tribal sovereignty.

On July 31, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved S. 1177, the “Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act” or “PACT Act.” The measure would amend several federal statutes that require compliance with state laws regarding tobacco sales and excise taxes. The companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2824, differs significantly in some provisions.

S. 1177 would make amendments to the Jenkins Act and to the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act. The Jenkins Act is a 1949 statute that requires cigarette sellers who are selling cigarettes across state lines to report the transaction to the state where the customer lives. The reporting enables the State to make sure that the tax is collected. Jenkins Act compliance and internet cigarette sales have been targeted by Congress and the State Attorneys General because of concerns about lost tax income from the internet sale of cigarettes, concerns over internet sales of cigarettes to minors, and because of news reports linking tax-free cigarette sales to terrorist groups.

The proposed amendments to the Jenkins Act are intended to target internet sellers of cigarettes and specifically include Indian reservations and Indian tribes within the scope of the act. The proposed amendments would give authority to the states Attorneys General and to cigarette manufacturers to enforce the Jenkins Act against Indian tribes in federal court. Currently, this statute can only be enforced by the Federal Government.

Another significant concern with the bill is the requirement that all retailers comply with state law. While it does not appear to be intentional, this provision could arguably overturn Supreme Court decisions which have ruled that tribal members

making purchases on an Indian reservation are not required to pay state sales tax.

The discussion has been focused on the Jenkins Act, but there are larger concerns with the proposed amendments to the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act found in Section 4 of the Senate bill. This act makes it a federal crime to possess a large number of cigarettes that do not have the state tax stamp on them. The proposed amendments would lower the number of cigarettes from 60,000 to 10,000, which is only 50 cartons of cigarettes.

The NCAI’s concern is that the bill would give state Attorneys General and cigarette manufacturers the ability to enforce the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act in federal court. The state Attorneys General could use this as a tool against all tribal smokeshops, not just internet sellers, unless there was a compact or a state statute in place that exempted the tribe from the state cigarette tax.

Another issue is that once this enforcement mechanism is in place, states may begin to simply repeal tribal exemption statutes or withdraw from state/tribal compacts. Particularly in times like these when states are in a big budget crunch, they may look at tribal cigarette sales as a source of revenue.

NCAI encourages tribes to oppose S. 1177, as it would dramatically tip the balance of power on cigarette taxes toward the states.

The House version of the bill is not as harmful as the Senate version because it only amends the Jenkins Act and not the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act. However, the House version still has significant problems in that it allows for state enforcement against Indian tribes — an unprecedented encroachment on tribal sovereignty.

Tribes Need Voice in National Homeland Security Development

Following the domestic terrorist incidents of 9-11-01, Congress and the Bush Administration developed a strategic defense plan that including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). There is no doubt that tribal governments and tribal communities are at equal risk, and in some instances more vulnerable, to terrorism threats than states, counties and municipalities across the country.

Unfortunately, tribes have been denied equal access in all phases of homeland security funding and program implementation. The primary source of non-parity in homeland security programs is the definition of tribes as local governments in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

The NCAI sought unsuccessfully to amend the Homeland Security Act before it passed. However, a fix in the form of Senate Bill S.578 has been introduced in the 108th Congress by Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-CO), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Daniel Akaka (D-HI). Companion legislation, H.R. 2242, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Dave Camp (D-MI).

The NCAI supports the two Homeland Security Act bills and encourages that crucial amendments be added: the inclusion of Alaska Native tribal governments as eligible governments; reinforcement of Section 13 which reaffirms tribal sovereignty, giving tribes the right to arrest individuals suspected of engaging in or planning terrorist activities on tribal lands; and develop a mechanism to address the budgetary strain created by homeland security related tasks done by tribes.

Homeland Security in Indian Country by the Numbers

- ◆ 25 tribal governments have primary jurisdiction over lands that border Canada, Mexico, or over waters that provide direct access by boat to the United States.
- ◆ These borderlands comprise more than 260 miles of the U.S. border, an area 100 miles longer than California's border with Mexico.
- ◆ 171 tribal law enforcement agencies, in addition to their border duties, also protect dams, power plants, sanitation systems, and other vital infrastructure and natural resources which provide the American public with a better quality of life.
- ◆ The 20 largest tribally-operated law enforcement agencies are responsible for almost 500,000 square miles.
- ◆ Indian lands comprise about 5% of the total land area of the U.S., but they contain an estimated 10% of all the country's energy reserves.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which sponsored a July 29-30 tribal leaders forum and hearing on Capital Hill dedicated to homeland security, heard tribal perspectives on the protection of critical infrastructure in Indian country, border security, and tribal emergency and medical response capacity. The presenters spoke on the need for resources to enhance and develop tribal emergency management systems that would be responsive and reliable if a terrorist threat were realized.

The DHS must change its policy to work with tribes and provide funding and technical assistance. Tribal representation is vitally needed on the task forces and workgroups the DHS is forming with states and local governments to develop national homeland security strategies. The NCAI encourages all tribal leaders and members to contact their members of congress and encourage them to sign on in support of S.578 and H.R.2242, critical amendments to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. For further information, contact the NCAI at 202.466.7767.

Anderson To Be Nominated Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

The Bush Administration plans to nominate David W. Anderson to be the Department of Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate. As Assistant Secretary for Indian affairs, Anderson would oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs and manage the Department of Interior's relationships with the 562 federally recognized tribes.

"Mr. Anderson has a great deal of experience as a businessman and entrepreneur, and tribes are looking forward to hearing his insights on opportunities for economic development in Indian country," said Tex G. Hall, NCAI President.

Anderson is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Superior Band of Ojibwa. From 1982 to 1985 he served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band. He received a Bush Leadership Fellowship in 1985 and a year later earned a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He served as Executive Vice President of Grand Casinos Inc. from 1990 to 1996, the former casino management company for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. In 1994, he opened Famous Dave's Barbeque in Hayward, Wis., and has led its growth into a publicly traded chain of 87 restaurants in 23 states. The company earned more than \$90 million last year.

NCAI

Future Conference Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

60th Annual Session November 16 - 21

Hyatt Regency Albuquerque
330 Tijeras, NW
Albuquerque, NM
800.233.1234

2004

Executive Council Winter Session

February 23-25, 2004

Wyndham Washington D.C.
1400 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.429.1700

Mid-Year Session

June 20 - 23, 2004

Greater Ft. Lauderdale
Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

61st Annual Session

Mohegan Sun
1 Mohegan Sun Blvd
Uncasville, CT
877.204.7100

2005

Executive Council Winter Session

February 28 - March 2, 2005

Wyndham Washington D.C.
1400 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.429.1700

www.ncai.org

Membership and Contribution Form

I would like to support the continuing work and purpose of the National Congress of American Indians.

I am willing to make a tax deductible contribution of:
_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other

I want to become a member of the National Congress of American Indians:
_____ \$40 Indian Individual Member _____ \$500 Associate Organization
_____ \$40 Associate Member (non-Indian) _____ \$1,000 Lifetime Member

Name _____

Tribe or Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone - Home _____ **Office** _____

E-Mail Address _____

- Make Contribution Checks Payable to: **NCAI Fund, Inc.** Make Membership Checks Payable to: **NCAI Congress**
- Mailing Address: **NCAI**, 1301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20036
- For more information, please call our office at 202.466-7767 or fax to 202.466-7797



**National Congress
of American Indians**
1301 Connecticut
Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC
20036