

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

October 30, 2001

Iowa Tribe Reservation, White Cloud, Kansas

Members Present

Senator Lana Oleen, Committee Chair
Senator David Haley
Senator Nancey Harrington
Senator John Vratil
Representative Becky Hutchins
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Melany Barnes
Representative Bonnie Sharp
Julene Miller, Attorney General's Office

Staff Present

Russell Mills, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office

Others Present

Senator Chris Steineger
Representative Dennis Pyle
Trista Beadles, Governor's Office
Tracy Diel, State Gaming Agency
Brad Hamilton, Office of Native American Affairs
Kerri Spielman, Senate Majority Leader's Office
Louis DeRoin, Iowa Tribal Council Chairman
Harvey Frederick, Iowa Tribal Council Vice Chairman
Georgia Rhodd, Iowa Tribal Council
Coreena Adkins, Iowa Tribal Council
Joann Comer, Iowa Tribal Council
Ron Hein, Hein and Weir

The Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations assembled at the State Capitol Building at 8:15 A.M. on October 30, 2001, for the purpose of touring the Iowa Tribe of

Kansas and Nebraska Reservation. The Joint Committee traveled by vans to the Reservation.

Upon arrival at the Iowa Tribe Museum/Cultural Center, members were greeted and welcomed by Tribal Council Chairman, Louis DeRoin. Chairman DeRoin introduced the other Tribal Council members who were present.

Harvey Frederick, Tribal Council Vice Chairman, presented an overview of the various types of services now offered by the Iowa Tribe, which include police and fire safety, a senior citizens center, medical services, road maintenance, burial assistance, and education scholarships for students. Mr. Frederick noted that gaming on the Iowa Reservation began in 1980 with the establishment of a bingo parlor. Currently, the Iowa Tribe operates the White Cloud Casino which includes both Class III gaming, as well as bingo games. Mr. Frederick stated that 65 percent of the clients come from Missouri.

Chairman DeRoin and Vice Chairman Frederick expressed their frustration with the current method of the state assessments to fund the operation of the State Gaming Agency. They noted that each of the four tribes are assessed equally, even though the Iowa casino is the smallest in the state and does not generate the regulatory workload of the larger casinos. Tracy Diel, State Gaming Agency, discussed the history of this method of assessments. He stated his willingness to work with the tribes to modify the assessment procedure, provided the four tribes can agree on an equitable method. The Committee discussed the issue of background checks for casino employees and the current practice of using the State Gaming Agency to conduct the checks.

Committee members were conducted on a tour of the new Museum/Cultural Center and the new Administrative Office Building. Lunch was served at the White Cloud Casino, followed by a short tour of the casino.

The Committee held a short business meeting. The minutes of the July 13 and August 22 meetings were approved by the Committee. Staff distributed two documents for review by the members: a current listing of the Tribal Council membership of the four Kansas resident tribes (Attachment 1), and a listing of Oklahoma tribes which are authorized to issue tribal license plates in Oklahoma (Attachment 2).

The Committee then went on a driving tour of the Iowa Reservation, including the tribal housing located on the reservation. It was stated that the Iowa Reservation encompasses about 12,000 acres, with about half in Kansas and half in Nebraska.

Chairman Oleen stated that the next Committee meeting will be held in Topeka and will be announced by mail.

Prepared by Russell Mills

Approved by Committee on:

December 19, 2001

(date)