

Offensive Names Bill.(Donald and I are being called two or three times a week now by the media about this bill.)The interview lasted about five minutes. I think the guy didn't know what questions to ask. It was kind of awkward. Anyway maybe someone over there heard it and understands what's really happening over here.

This afternoon Donald and I were interviewed by FOX National News again on the Offensive Names Bill. FOX is a TV station that shows national news out of Boston. I hope they treat the story with the respect it deserves. We'll see.

April 8, 2000

Saturday

Today was the day from hell it turned into a party issue all right, but our party didn't support us. We lost the Passamaquoddy bill in the Senate. The Bangor Daily weekend edition came out with at least two stories that hurt the Passamaquoddy's. One was the story about fisherman being angered because they had to pay to fish on the Passamaquoddy side of certain lakes and rivers. The tribe was claiming it's jurisdiction. The locals were not pleased with this. The second article was about Indian Township governor Richard Doyle being suspended from the payroll for sexual harassment. These stories certainly did not help our cause.

It was the hardest thing I have ever done to have to sit there helpless and listen to these self righteous pompus Senators talk so degradingly about Indians and gambling in the same breath. Senator Benoit was the first one to speak and he went into process and how Albany Township had been denied due process and that was just plain unacceptable and shouldn't happen in this country! He went on and on. Senator Bennette with great emotion and close to tears begged other senators not to make his home into a casino. He was so convincing I would have changed my vote. " Please don't take away my family's home" he pleaded of course this was after he told all the other senators he loved them and said they were all honest and good people implyng that native

people were not honest and good as opposed to those Indians who all they want to do is gamble and ruin his home. Senator Peter Mills took the high holier than thou road. He talked about how gambling was so terrible and we shouldn't allow it into this State and said how the tribes were being used by people out of New York for their own gain. He went on and on about how horrible gambling was especially when Indians were involved.

I was so mad I couldn't think or see straight!!! None of these pompous self righteous expletive deletatives ever put a bill in to remove gambling from the State!!

Yet they had the audacity to stand and speak so outrageously against Native people.

Albany Township people, most of which were retired and well off, just sat there grinning from ear to ear and eating the whole process up. They knew they had the vote. We knew they had the vote and it all had to do with gambling. I'm sick and tired of gambling being an issue with Indian bills!!! The senators that spoke against us knew they had the vote but kept on rubbing salt into the wounds. When the smoke had settled it was yet another Indian massacre. White men win and Indians lose yet again with no regard whatsoever for a Government to Government relationship and no effort at all to honor their legislative treaty from 1992. What a surprise! I say that sarcastically of course. Some day they are going to know that they are dealing with Governments and not regular towns. The obligation they have to a Government to Government relationship is far greater than to Albany township. Since when did a disorganized town or any town have the power to turn a treaty agreement between governments around? The only question I heard reference the Settlement Act was from a Senator during caucus prior to the Senate debate, asking what would happen if they ignored the treaty obligations?(He was referring to the Land Claims Settlement Act) The answer the Senator received was "probably nothing." We are not getting the respect and honor due us as a people. A people that has been slandered, used, cheated, abused and murdered for our resources and our lands. What about

our lands that were stolen from us? What about our way of life and the very resources we depended on to survive? What about when we cried and begged and pleaded in those very halls and in those chambers!!!? Our pleas fell on deaf ears. No one would listen. Yet when Senator Bennette cries in the Senate it's worth more than all our generations of grief and mourning combined. They heard him, they honored him and we are left with nothing yet again. Senators Longely, and Cathcart did the best they could but gave up when Senator Bennette stood up and gave his emotional teary eyed speech. I am truly disgusted and discouraged. It's not that I'm for gambling. It is mostly that I am not for making native people look like criminals just because we are desperate to find something that economically works for us. Has Maine helped us to find other ways to survive economically? NOT!!! As a matter of fact when the Penobscot Nation approached the taxation committee last year for a tax break on Bingo to help us finance emergency services for our tribal government, the very same Senators including Senators Mills, Bennette, Benoit and Fuergerson refused to give us a tax break. Senator Mills chaired the taxation committee. When we as Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Representatives put in a bill that would allow us to be part of the Homestead Exemption Act, we were voted down. We were voted down because we did not pay property taxes.

We may not pay property taxes but we pay plenty to the state in lieu of taxes. Every attempt we have made to be economically self sufficient has been shot down with excuses and bogus reasons. It is easy to sit in judgement of "those Indians" when your doing well yourself. Who cares about what generations before you did to us, who cares about what we have to do to survive as long as it doesn't bother you or yours or as long as you don't have to share the wealth!! That's it isn't it...share the wealth. Sorry if I sound like I'm ranting but pompous self-rightious Senators have that effect on me.

My last word on the subject is this; I heard a lot of mean spirited negative words during that Senate debate and they were calculated

— explain the tax situation more

to hurt and to criminalize native people. I left the Senate chamber feeling personally attacked and wondering, "Where is the integrity of this process?" Will the people of Maine ever get it? Will they ever open their ears and hearts and decide to allow us in on some of the wealth?" Don't criticize us; don't criminalize us for just trying to survive.

On the 14th the Bangor Daily came out with yet another article on the Passamaquoddy fishing dispute. The title was "Passamaquoddy fishing rules plan angers anglers"

The first sentence reads: "Fisherman are stocking up on ammunition rather than fishing gear, Baileyville resident Danny McPhee warned the Town Council on Monday night."

Next to that huge article was another article about 2 Perry Men indicted in firebombing.

This was also a negative Passamaquoddy article. I was very concerned with the message the fishing article was sending. I felt the article was inflammatory and could ignite a very volatile situation. I brought this to the attention of other legislators and the governor's office. I called Mark Woodward, the papers manager and complained. (I also put a plug in for my article. Since there was so many negative articles they had all ready printed.) Mark did say he would check into it. I think he must have because the next article was about the AG's opinion but was low key.

April 19, 2000

Wednesday

I stewed about this all the following Sunday and felt that at least I wasn't in the House Chamber when the bill went back and got the final deathblow. I thought it would easily be killed under the hammer with one simple motion to recede and concur. I was totally prepared for that outcome. I walked into the House Chamber on Monday morning. I saw the female attorney for Albany Township sitting there. I knew it must be coming up on the calendar and still was prepared to just let it go and die a speedy death. The first item

on the calendar was the Passamaquoddy bill, I'll be damned if Representative Paul Waterhouse didn't stand up and start debating the issue. He said some of the same things that were said in the Senate. I just could not let it pass, this was a place I did have a voice and I had to stand up!!

I did and read a part of my Legislative diary, the part about the Senate and got to Senator Bennette and his cring in the Senate. The speaker stopped me as I was out of order. I was out of order because we were not by house rule allowed to speak of what happens in the senate. I knew I was going to be stopped but it's one of those ploys every attorney makes when she/he wants the jury to know something. I did this for the record. I finished by using my last paragraph in my diary. (Donald was not there, he had no idea it was going to hit the floor.) When I sat down all of a sudden all I could think of was my ancestors and how pained they must have been to have had to beg for their lands and their lives in these very halls and in this very chamber. All the stress of the media attention interviews etc came to a head and I lost it... I cried.

The Assistant clerk of the house, Millie MacFarland sent me a small manilla envelope with a bunch of tissues in it. This of course only made me cry more. I thanked her the next day. After I spoke, two or three more R's got up and spoke against the bill. I could not let this be the last word. I stood one more time and said "I remind you that the issue here is a government-to - government relationship not gambling please vote against this motion. The vote was taken and we lost by about thirty votes. If I had any doubts about sending my article to the papers they were gone. I immediately left the chamber and started to call the newspapers to see if they would print my article. I have yet to see it appear. I've been told that Portland Sunday Telegram is planning to print it this Sunday. Good timing as this coming Sunday is Easter Sunday.

I've been relaxing this week and getting ready to go back next Monday. Oh yes on Friday April 14, 2000 the Senate and the

House passed a resolution declaring 2000 the year of the Native American Woman!!!

It was sponsored and signed by all the leadership in the House and the Senate. This was something that was initiated by MITSC after the radio commentator made his remarks over the airwaves about the "Squaw Buck". No one spoke on this resolution except me.

I felt I was forcing this down their throats but it was an acknowledgement of the strength and the worth of Native women and I felt proud that we had been recognized. After all how could they have refused?

The resolution read as follows:

JOINT RESOLUTION

(4-5) On motion by President LAWRENCE of York (Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, BENNETT of Oxford, PINGREE of Knox, RAND of Cumberland, Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, MURPHY Of Kennebunk, SAXL of Portland, SHIAR of Bowdoinham, the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 1086

JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING 2000 THE YEAR OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN

WHEREAS, Maine's Wabanaki peoples have proclaimed 2000 years as the Year of the Native American Woman; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the strength of the Native American Woman and we acknowledge that the Native American woman is