

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Study Assignment

The State-Tribal Relations Committee selected its study topics for the 2003 Interim at its first meeting. The committee decided to address the issues of education and workforce preparation, economic development and job creation, health care, and child placement and visitation, and receive updates on corrections issues.

Summary of Interim

The State-Tribal Relations Committee is an ongoing committee that was created in statute (SDCL 2-6-20) in 1993 as a part of the state's reconciliation efforts. The committee, which generally does not propose legislation, provides a forum within state government for discussion by Indians and non-Indians of issues affecting the Native American community. The committee also serves as a way of familiarizing legislators with such issues.

The first meeting was held in the Capitol on July 28, 2003, with the primary task of selecting study topics for the 2003 Interim and selecting a committee chair and vice chair. Unlike other interim committees, which are temporary and are established to study particular issues, the State-Tribal Relations Committee is ongoing and selects its own study topics at the beginning of the interim. Committee members, who are appointed for two-year terms, also select their own chair and vice chair, and the committee selected Representative Stanford Adelstein as Chair and Senator Michael LaPointe as Vice Chair for the 2003 and 2004 Interims. As noted above, the committee chose to study education, economic development, health care, and child placement for the 2003 Interim. The committee also heard informational presentations by Mr. Roger Campbell, the new Director of the South Dakota Office of Tribal Government Relations, and by Secretary of Revenue Gary Viken on efforts to establish tax collection agreements with the tribes and the recent court decision regarding fuel taxes in reservation areas.

At the second meeting, which was held in Pierre on September 29-30, 2003, the committee heard presentations and public testimony about education and economic development issues. Dr. Cherie Farlee, Dr. Willard Walters, and Mr. Dan Shroyer, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Education Line Officers at Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, and Crow Creek/Lower Brule, respectively, discussed education programs and policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the organization of BIA schools. Dr. Richard Bordeaux, Todd County Superintendent of Schools, discussed the strengths and weaknesses of his school district, which is a public school district located in the Rosebud Reservation. Dr. Wayne Evans, Professor of Education at the University of South Dakota and former president of the South Dakota Indian Education Association, gave his perspectives on Native American Education issues, particularly the need to recognize and resist racism in our society and the need for dialogue. Major Michael Iwen discussed the Junior ROTC program at Pine Ridge. On the second day, Mr. Clint Waara, Community Development Representative for Wells Fargo Bank in Sioux Falls, discussed Wells Fargo programs to stimulate economic growth on Indian reservations, as well as general economic development and housing opportunities for Native Americans. Tribal Chair Michael Jandreau and Economic Development Manager Brian Drapeaux of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe discussed Lower Brule's economic development efforts. Mr. David Plume, Executive Director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Empowerment Zone, discussed the empowerment zone concept and the operation of the program at Pine Ridge.

The committee's third meeting was held on November 19-20, 2003, in Lower Brule on the first day and in Pierre on the second day. The November 19 session was devoted to economic development issues and was held in the Tribal Council Chambers of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Mr. Roger Campbell, Director of the Office of Tribal Government Relations, discussed his office's programs and activities and he updated the committee on his work with tribes on tax and education agreements. Mr. Toby Morris of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) discussed GOED programs that affect tribes and Native American communities. Representatives of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the Yankton Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe described economic development efforts and the economic situation for their tribes. Mr. Paul Jurkowski, Director of the Office of Loan Guarantee, Office of Native American Programs of the Denver Regional Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, discussed HUD programs dealing with economic development for Native American communities. He described the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program and the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program and some of the strengths and weaknesses of those programs as well as his insights into economic development issues affecting Native Americans. Ms. Nancy Gilbertson, South Dakota State Director for the Small Business Administration, discussed her agency's programs that affect Native Americans.

The November 20 session was held in the Capitol in Pierre and included presentations and testimony on Native American child placement, health care issues, and corrections. Secretary James Ellenbecker and Ms. Virgena Wieseler, Administrator of Child Protection Services of the Department of Social Services, explained department policy and procedures related to child placement and adoption as it relates to Native American children and to placement of children with relatives. Two Indian Health Service hospital administrators, Mr. Vernon Donnell, Pine Ridge, and Mr. Dale Young, Rosebud, discussed the organization of the Indian Health Service and the functioning of IHS facilities, as well as the situation at their respective facilities. Dr. Jeffrey Henderson, Rapid City, President of the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health, described a number of research efforts that his organization has undertaken, and he provided his perspectives on Native American health issues. The Department of Corrections updated the committee on changes that have been made in corrections practices in the past year related to Native Americans, some in response to issues raised by the State-Tribal Relations Committee and the Interim Corrections Review Committee. Secretary Tim Reisch and Wardens Bob Dooley and Duane Russell represented the department. The committee also heard a short presentation by Ms. Dar Baum of the South Dakota Housing Development Authority in response to questions that had arisen the previous day at the Lower Brule session on economic development.

Listing of Legislation Adopted

None.

Summary of Meeting Dates & Places and Listing of Committee Members

The committee met in the State Capitol in Pierre on July 28, September 29-30, and November 19-20, 2003.

Members of the committee include Representative Stanford Adelstein (Chair) and Senator Michael LaPointe (Vice Chair); Senators Patricia de Hueck, Brock Greenfield, Gil Koetzle,

and Sam Nachtigal; and Representatives Jim Bradford, Kent Juhnke, J.E. "Jim" Putnam, and Thomas Van Norman.

Committee staff members were Tom Magedanz, Principal Research Analyst; and Teri Retrum, Senior Legislative Secretary.