

The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chivers, President
Native American Scholarship Fund
Albuquerque, NM



Appoint More Indians, Mr. Clinton

When I got the good news a few weeks ago that my good friend Ada Deer had finally been confirmed and sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (ASIA), my vision was clouded for a few days. It is elation to have an excellent person in that position, finally.

However, there are over a dozen important Indian positions in DC. None of the others has been filled. Look at the list: Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Director, Indian Health Service (Trujillo just nominated), Assistant Secretary, Public and Indian Housing, HUD, Director, Office of Indian Education Programs, BIA, Director, Office of Indian Education, ED (Called Title V), Director, Office of Construction Management, Commissioner, BIA, National Indian Gaming Commission, three positions, National Advisory Council on Indian Education, 12 positions, Director, Indian Programs, DOL.

All these do not call for new people. For instance, the persons in the positions now could be re-appointed. In the case of Josephus Jacobs on NACIE, that would be an

excellent choice.

The reason for my concern is simple. In the face of lack of leadership at the agencies, the GS-15 career bureaucrats are having a field day. At the Department of Labor (DOL), for instance, they are trying to have all DOL Indian programs transferred to the BIA, which would be a disaster for Lumbees. If the DOL programs, mainly JTPA and ISY, went to BIA, Lumbees would no longer be eligible to receive services.

Also, the DOL careerists are contriving ways to have a career Indian woman who is notorious for being a "yes man" as Director. That would also be a disaster. She has been heard to say, many times, that Indians don't work, that we have no pride, that we don't raise our children right, and so on.

Why the delay in appointing Indians? Apparently the President has approved personally of all, or almost all, the under secretaries and agency heads. At this point, fewer than 100 out of over 400 such positions are filled. At the rate he is going, it will be the end of 1994 before the Indian positions re all filled.

A second issue: Has the White House taken Peterson Zah's request for an Indian staffer at the White House seriously? Pete met with the Clinton Transition Team three times in Little Rock last Fall. Were the meetings just window dressing?

Many of the punitive regulations put into place by Reagan and Bush need to be reviewed and revised. Republican holdovers need to be brought into line. We need agency heads in place.

A third issue: Why are Indians appointed only into "Indian" positions? It will be great when we have the first Indian attorney general. How about the first Indian Secretary of State? Or the first Indian Chief of Staff at the White House?

Every Indian person in the U.S. ought to write to President Bill Clinton, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania, N.E., Washington, DC 2005, and tell him these things. Then we would see some action. The White House tells me they have had hardly any letters from Indians since taking office. It is time we made some noise. Let Mr. Clinton hear from you.

Oxendine and Locklear to Wed



Mr. and Mrs. Hallman Oxendine of Rowland, NC announce the engagement of their daughter, Halona H. Oxendine, to Dwight David Locklear.

Miss Oxendine graduated from South Robeson High School in 1987 and from Pembroke State University in 1991. She is employed by Scotland Container of Laurinburg, NC.

Her fiance is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Locklear of Pembroke, NC. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1982, and from Richmond Community College in 1984. He is employed by International Jensen of Lumberton, NC.

The wedding is planned for October 2, 1993 at Rowland, NC in Beulah Baptist Church. Invitations will be mailed.

Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

As parents, we all realize the importance of milk in a child's diet. From the breast fed or bottle fed newborn to the growing teenager, the protein, calcium and vitamin D of milk plays an important role in body development. We must realize, however, that milk is not the perfect beverage for everyone, especially those with lactose intolerance.

Lactose is the common carbohydrate sugar found in cow's milk, breast milk and regular milk based formulas. This sugar is digested in our intestines by an enzyme called lactase. Some individuals are deficient in this enzyme and are termed "lactose intolerant" because they cannot digest the sugar well. Genetic deficiency of lactase in childhood is unusual, but it can be seen, even in infants. It becomes much more common in adulthood. It is estimated that 80% of adult Native Americans have at least some degree of lactose deficiency. This is compared to 75% of Blacks, 50% Hispanics and 20% of Caucasians. The most common cause of lactose intolerance in children is due to intestinal infections which can wipe out the lactase enzyme for several days.

The common symptoms of lactose intolerance include abdominal pain, gas, bloating and diarrhea. These symptoms usually show very shortly after the ingestion of milk products. The severity of the symptoms depends on the amount of lactase ingested and the amount of lactase enzymes in the person's intestines.

Exclusion of lactose from the diet has been the traditional way of treating lactose intolerance. This may be difficult because lactose is the principle sugar in all dairy products. A practical suggestion would be to ingest dairy products with a reduced lactose content, such as yogurt, cheddar, Swiss and cottage cheese, which are well tolerated.

Patients can also take over the counter lactase enzyme (such as Lactaid) to help digest the lactose they ingest. For children who develop a short term lactose intolerance from an intestinal infection, decreasing or eliminating milk products for a few days is usually sufficient. For an infant with lactose intolerance, a lactose free formula, such as the soy formula, should work well.

Well, that's lactose intolerance in a nutshell. See you next week!



UI sees increase in Native American enrollment

Iowa City, Iowa—Accompanying a new American Indian and Native Studies program at the University of Iowa this fall is an increase in Native American freshman enrollment for the 1993-94 school year. This year's addition of 15 Native Americans is almost double that of last fall when enrollment was eight. Total enrollment of Native Americans at the UI stands at 72.

Dr. Joe Dan Coulter, professor of anatomy at the UI College of Medicine and member of the American Indian and Native Studies Program faculty, attributed the jump to the on-going active recruitment by Opportunity at Iowa, UI Office of Admissions, as well as by the graduate and professional colleges.

"With the approval also of the American Indian and Native Studies Program by the Iowa Board of Regents, the visibility of Native Americans at the University of Iowa is surely increasing," Coulter, a member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe of Oklahoma and faculty advisor for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Summer Math and Science Program.

Kathy Bassett, associate director of admissions at UI, added that Native American students who took part in the Summer Math and Science Program two and three years ago have chosen Iowa because of the program.

With the establishment of its American Indian and Native Studies program, the UI became the third university in the Big 10 to offer such a program. It is an undergraduate program with the intention of helping students gain an understanding of historical and contemporary issues in human relations or indigenous people of the Americas and acquire expertise for jobs involving cross-cultural work and understanding of ethnic, social and political diversity.

UI anthropology professor June Helm is program director.

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