

September 5, 2008

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

There have been some pretty ugly remarks made in the past few weeks about the "mixed-bloods" of the Ute Indian Tribe by some very unhappy people with strong opinions. They have every right to their opinions as do we all. (we prefer to be known as Affiliated Uintahs which is the official federal designation).

In fact, each individual also has the right to change their mind about what they believe to be the truth on which they base their opinions. What the Affiliated Uintah Band of the Ute Indian Tribe has always badly needed was the official facts regarding Public Law 671 and how it statutorily effected the Affiliated group. Due to circumstances beyond our control these facts were not readily available to the people and many of us were tired of being brutally beaten over the head with a "termination" that was not supported by the federal statutes of P.L. 671.

So, over the past few years the Board of Directors of Affiliated Ute Citizens and many of its members have reconstructed its history as it pertains to the statutes of Public Law 671 from official BIA records and other documents in order to answer the questions we had about the contradictions in what the Act provides for and what we were falsely led to believe to be the law. We found those answers and the documented verification of its truth. We also very quickly came to realize who it was beating us over the head and more importantly...why.

It is understandable why some of the Affiliated group believes themselves to be "terminated Utes", The ones who most strongly believe this lie were minor children during the 50's and 60's and probably passed this idea on to their descendants...so the lie is kept alive and only benefits the perpetrators of this falsehood. Such belief in the idea of termination inflicts injury and damage upon the Affiliated Group as a whole. There is only one federally approved governing body to represent the Affiliated Uintahs...this fact has not changed at any time over the past 50-years and cannot be changed except by Act of Congress.

On this note, the Affiliated Ute Citizens, gives notice to all its members that we are now ready to reclaim our place within the Ute Indian Tribe for the best good of our people against all subversive groups who are attempting to overthrow and destroy the government of the Affiliated Ute Citizens for "self enrichment". The way to effect change in government is to know the facts, keep informed, direct your focus, and get politically involved. Part of this process is generally known as elections.

All the Affiliated Uintah Band members of the Ute Indian Tribe are being called RIGHT NOW to rally and support their Tribal Leaders (Affiliated Ute Citizens) in this movement. You are all invited to visit our website at www.affiliatedutecitizens.org for the history of the Affiliated Ute Citizens and Public Law 671 including an e-mail address. Once you have read the History you will understand why our Vice-President, Arlene Gardner, told Oranna Felter she was misrepresenting herself and misrepresenting what P.L. 671 was all about. We hope you will all read it and know of its truth.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP IN MORE PLACES THAN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND WE WANT TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT OUR MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE !

Sincerely,
Dora Van, President and
the Board of Directors of
Affiliated Ute Citizens of the
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah &
Ouray Reservation.