

OHIO TIME

A VOICE FROM THE EAST

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MAY 96
AKWESASNE LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER
ST. REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION
ROUTE 37 - RR1, BOX 14C
HOGANSBURG NY

13655

Mohawk Parents Protest Proposed Tuition

Akwasasne -- With the State Education Commissioner visiting the north country, Mohawk parents seized the opportunity to make their concern for proposed tuition known.

Several Mohawk parents gathered in the rain outside the St. Regis Mohawk School in Hogansburg for a peaceful demonstration against New York's proposed tuition for Canadian students from Akwasasne attending schools in the Salmon River Central School district.

New York State wants to impose a tuition fee for Mohawk children residing on the Canadian portion of the Akwasasne Mohawk reserve.

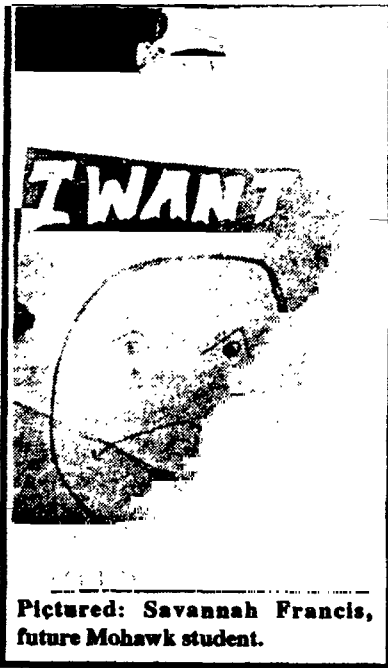
A second point of concern for the parents is the negotiations taking place between the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the state

which doesn't include the parents.

Jean Herne, grandmother to several children in the Salmon River School district asked, "Why are students who reside in Dundee, Quebec, who attend Salmon River, not being charged tuition? Why are the Indian children being the only target?"

Karen Loran stated "we want the right to send our children to school where ever we choose."

The Mohawk parents gathered outside the school said they represent all the parents of Akwasasne in saying there are no borders in Akwasasne. "We are one Mohawk community." Mohawk students from Akwasasne, residing on both the American and Canadian portions of Akwasasne have been attending school in the Salmon River



Pictured: Savannah Francis, future Mohawk student.

Area Businessmen Investigated



by Doug Buchanan

Akwasasne -- A recent Watertown Times article reported that several Akwasasne businessmen and businesses, among them Hart's Enterprise, Buck White, and Loran Thompson, were named on search warrants signed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Gustave J. DiBianca of Syracuse. The warrants were used April 5, 1996 by federal agents and New York State Troopers to raid businesses in Hogansburg and Malone owned by John "Chic" Fountain.

According to inventory lists obtained by Watertown Times reporter Malinda Brent, Federal agents seized records, computers, bank statements, and telephone

files from Northern Currency Exchange, on Route 37 in Hogansburg, and Fountain Securities, in Malone.

Brent's article further reported that the search warrants "authorized investigators to take documents identifying 'large cash' customers... (and) audiotapes 'containing discussions between John Fountain and other individuals evidencing his knowledge of their unlawful activities.'"

According to Gary Durham, an owner of Durham Currency Exchange, any cash transactions over ten thousand dollars must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. Durham sold Northern Currency Exchange to Fountain

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Tribes Gather To Form Anti-Tax Strategies

Akwasasne -- On Monday, April 15, 1996 members of the First Nations Business League met at Cedar View Golf Course to discuss strategies to prevent New York State tax collection coming to reservations.

Several First Nations represent-

ing the Iroquois Confederacy and other First Nation representatives gathered to discuss the current tax situation whereby New York State has set a 120-day deadline for the First Nations to come to the negotiating table.

Phil Tarbell, St. Regis Mohawk

Tribal Council member stated that New York State claims they are losing millions of dollars by not imposing a tax on goods sold to non-Natives on Indian reservations.

Lance Gumbs of Shinnecock continued on page 18 see TAX



Pictured: (l to r) Ross John, Seneca; Phil Tarbell, Akwasasne, Lance Gumbs, Shinnecock, Harry Wallace, Unkechaug,

George Arrested For Discharging Firearm

Akwasasne -- The Akwasasne Mohawk Police arrested David George, Jr. 48 of Snye, Quebec. He was arraigned at Valleyfield Provincial Court. He was charged with four counts of Discharging A Firearm with Intent to Endanger Life.

Two counts of Aggravated Assault by Wounding. Careless Use of a Firearm and Unsafe Storage of Ammunition. Eight charges have been laid. The incidence took place near the residence of David George, Jr. The weapon believed used was a 12 gauge shotgun which was seized.

Mark Smoke, 25 and Robert Smoke, 29 were treated and released for shotgun pellets injuries.