

Regional

A National Study on Gambling

On March 5, the House passed HR 497, the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission Act. Sponsored by Representative Frank Wolf VA, the bill would create a nine-member commission to study 1.) gambling activities in the United States, including casinos, lotteries, sports betting and Indian gaming, 2.) the social impact of gambling activities, including the relationship between gambling and crime, 3.) the economic impact of gambling on an area's businesses and state and tribal governments, and 4.) review whether Indian gaming should be regulated by states as well as by the federal government. The commission would have two years to complete its study, when it would report back to Congress with recommendations for legislation or administrative action.

The House Resources Committee held a hearing in late February to receive testimony on the legislation. At the time, much opposition was expressed about the potential impact of the commis-

sion on Indian-run gaming. George Miller CA said "I am concerned that this legislation not be used to beat up on Indian gambling. We are here because the Supreme Court recognized Indian tribes as sovereign nations. Clearly Indian gambling cannot be considered a stepchild of this process."

However, Richard G. Hill, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, testified that he didn't support or object to the study, "as long as an Indian is on the commission and all legalized gambling is studied."

The Senate companion bill, S. 704, is pending in the Governmental Affairs Committee. No hearing or committee action is scheduled at this time. To request a copy of HR 497, write to the House Document Room, B-18, House Annex No. 2, Washington, DC 20515 or call (202) 225-3456.

If you are interested in receiving the Indian Report on a regular basis, please let us know. Contribution of \$10 are encouraged.

Sound Of America Records (SOAR) Releases New CD By The Six Nations Women Singers

A Native American record label from Albuquerque NM has just produced and released a new CD from the Six Nations Women Singers. SOAR is run by Tom Bee, well known from his days with XIT (Crossing of Indian Tribes) the premier Indian band of the 1970's. He now produces several Native performing acts (including his son, electric rapper ROBBY BEE & THE BOYZ FROM THE REZ) and his label has 100 individual CD's/tapes and distributes many more Native acts from other hard-to-find Native labels.

"WE WILL ALL SING/EDWARDENODO:NYO" is a 1996 CD collection of traditional social songs from the Seneca, Onondaga & Cayuga. Sadie Buck leads this group with Charlene Bomberry, Betsy Buck, Pat Hess, Janice G. Martin and Jaynane Burning. They dedicated the CD to Herbert Buck, Jr, the "Old Mush Singers" and to assistance from the Woodland Cultural Center.

Sadie Buck said that there will "sings" coming up in April and May that the group will be attending. There are Womens Shuffle songs, Rabbit Dance songs, Stomp dance songs and special songs made up by themselves, linguist Amos Keye and others. Wherever they travel, no doubt they will carry copies of this CD to sell, or call CKRZ at Six Nations, Ontario (519) 445-4140. Otherwise, in the States, you can call

SOAR in Albuquerque N.M. at their order line 1-800-890-7627. WE WILL ALL SING is listed as SOAR-175-CD. They also have other labels dedicated to specific types of music: WARRIOR - rock/urban/rap; NATURAL VISIONS-native artists Papa John, Doug Spotted Eagle & others; DAKOTA - storytelling with music accompaniment.

JULIAN B - "Once Upon A Genocide" (WARRIOR 605), Indian rap, one of the best rap bands I've heard.

GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS - (SOAR-171-CD) Winning Drum groups who have competed at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow from 1992-1994. Whitefish Bay, Whitefish Jr, Assiniboine, and Assiniboine Jr sing ladies dances, traditionals, grass, fancy, trick, and inter-tribals.

SOARING HEARTS - TRIBAL PEOPLES Volume One (SOAR-172-CD) Some of SOAR's best traditional & contemporary artists: Bryan Akipa (Dakota); Earl Bullhead (Lakota); James Bilagody (Dineh); P.M. Begay (Dineh); Davis Mitchell (Dineh);Tsa'neDo'se (Tuscarora/Suponi);Cornel Pewewardy (Comanche); Vince Two Eagles (Dakota); and the Arawak Mountain Singers. Write or call for their catalog of hard-to-find Native music on CD or tape: SOAR, POB 8606, Albuquerque NM 87198, (505) 268-6110.

Inuit Won't Sit By Idly if Quebec Separates

INUKJUAK, Quebec (CP) — Quebec's Inuit have long complained of being treated like human flag poles asserting Canadian sovereignty in the High Arctic.

Now, with Quebec sovereignty looming closer than ever on their frigid horizon, the province's 8,000 Inuit may choose to fly the Maple Leaf.

More than 120 Quebec Inuit leaders gather for their annual meeting today to plan political strategy, and their place within Canada ranks high on the agenda.

From the Inuit point of view, Ottawa's national unity strategy - including the granting of regional vetos - goes no distance towards meeting aboriginal concerns.

"We see them trying to appease those who have threatened to go, while ignoring those of us who have threatened to stay," says Zebedee Nungak, president of Makivik Corporation, the governing body for Quebec Inuit.

"We're going to have to take issue with the government of

Canada, because we are very determined Canadians, besides being Inuit."

Just days before Quebec's October 30 referendum, the Inuit voted massively - 95 per cent - against Quebec Sovereignty.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, an Inuit leader from Kuujjuak, says the sovereignty debate left many Inuit feeling helpless - a position they won't let themselves languish in.

"Separation threatened to take away the voice we've just been gaining," she said in a telephone interview. "We won't be left out of the next round of the process."

The Inuit are seen as more accommodating towards Quebec than their activist and media-savvy Cree neighbors - partners in the landmark 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which settled aboriginal claims and allowed for the province's

hydroelectric development.

But the soft-spoken Inuit have drawn a line in the snow regarding Quebec independence.

Nungak says that any change in Quebec's status within Confederation would lead the northern aboriginals to re-examine the 1975 treaty.

"I am quite determined to have face-to-face meetings with (Premier Lucien) Bouchard," Nungak says, "even with these clouds hanging over our heads."

A Quebec government delegation, led by Native Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette, travels this week to Inukjuak, the largest of 14 Inuit villages clinging to Hudson's Bay and Ungava Bay, about 1,500 kilometers north of Montreal.

Among the issues to be discussed at the five day meeting are ways of sharing Inuit land claim benefits in Quebec - especially hunting and fishing rights - with Inuit in Labrador and the Northwest Territories.

Against the backdrop of the Quebec sovereignty movement, Inuit leaders here view such arrangements as a way of formally linking themselves with fellow Inuit from whom they've been artificially separated by provincial boundaries.

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin may also attend the meeting to finalize a deal to compensate the Inuit who were relocated to the High Arctic in the 1950's. The Inuit have argued that they were used to flag poles asserting Canadian sovereignty over the High Arctic islands, about 2,000 kilometres north of Inukjuak.

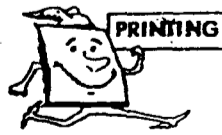
Ottawa recently offered the High Arctic exiles, most of whom have returned to the Inukjuak area, \$10 million to compensate them for the move, but has thus far refused to apologize.

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