

## Sioux tribe will defy DEA authority OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE TO PLANT INDUSTRIAL HEMP CROPS

WHEN: April 29, 2000

WHERE: Pine Ridge Reservation

WHO: Slim Butte Land Use Association/Kiza Tiospaye

WHAT: Tribal Members are implementing a Tribal Ordinance passed in 1998 that allows cultivation of industrial hemp on the Reservation.

On Saturday April 29, 2000, the 132nd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1868, members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe will plant industrial hemp at various locations on the Reservation. In July 1998, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council passed an ordinance defining industrial hemp as distinct from marijuana (which is a controlled substance under tribal law). The ordinance provides for the cultivation and harvesting of industrial hemp on the Reservation.

The Slim Butte Land Use Association, which spearheaded the effort to initiate industrial hemp production on the Reservation, looks forward to the sustainable aspects of the crop. "It is very important to us that we be able to grow a crop that allows us to live in balance with Mother Earth," says Loretta Afraid-of-Bear Cook, Chair of the Slim Butte LUA, "Hemp does not require any chemicals and it allows us to start taking care of our people ourselves." The landowner association is in the latter stages of building a house with materials primarily of industrial hemp. While lack of adequate housing is a problem on most reservations, it is particularly challenging on Pine Ridge where tornadoes and heavy winds frequently destroy homes. President Bill Clinton acknowledged the severity of the housing shortage during his visit to Pine Ridge last summer, saying "There is no more crucial building block for a strong community and a promising future than a solid home."

"Industrial hemp is the key component to sustainable housing," said Tom Cook, LUA Project Director for the house building project. "We make hemp-based concrete that is lighter, stronger and easier to work with than masonry concrete," he said, "Not only that, but we are putting people to work here on the reservation with good jobs." The house building project has employed eight people, and the Slim Butte LUA intends to market its 'Hempcrete' blocks to the building industry. In addition, the LUA seeks to set up a handmade paper making operation that will use parts of the hemp that do not go into the block making.

"The people used to have the buffalo for our food, clothing and shelter," said Joe American Horse, Program Manager for Slim Butte LUA and former President of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, "now hemp can do that for us." American Horse, whose grandfather was one of the signers of the Treaty of 1868, explains, "What we are talking about is industrial hemp; it is not a drug. In addition to providing Lakota people an economic base, the cultivation of industrial hemp will reduce our reliance on diminishing natural resources and contribute to global ecological health. This is a way we can help our people and our environment." Currently, American Horse serves as the Public Relations Officer for the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

When asked about the potential legal ramifications of the planting, Slim Butte LUA attorney Thomas J. Ballanco said, "The right to cultivate industrial hemp on the reservation is a secured treaty right. Hemp was grown all around here in the 1800s." Ballanco, a West Point graduate who authored the tribal ordinance expects no interference from the federal government. "This issue does not concern the U.S. government. Here we have a tribe exercising a sovereign treaty right to provide jobs, homes and sustainability on the reservation." Commenting on fellow West Pointer, and federal Drug Czar, Gen. (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey's expected response, Ballanco said, "If they teach cavalry officers anything at West Point, it is to listen to your scouts, especially in Sioux country," said Ballanco, himself a former Army scout. Making reference to West Pointer George Custer who was wiped out along with his entire command in the battle of Little Bighorn after he failed to listen to the scouts who warned him not to attack. "I advised the tribe and the individual members that this a legally protected treaty right," said Ballanco. "If the General has a problem with this activity, then he can take that up with me and not the tribe or its members."

American Horse said he is following up on the last words Clinton told the Pine Ridge people: "We are doing everything we can to make your empowerment zone work. But remember, there is nothing that we can do except to help you to realize your own dreams. So I say to every tribal leader here, we must share the vision and it must be fundamentally yours - for your children and their future. If you will give us that vision and work with us, we will achieve it."

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## Pataki continued

dent tell the Justice Department to ignore the law and turn its back on the Oneida Nation by refusing to proceed with the land claims. He fails to understand that because of the federal fiduciary responsibility to protect Indian nations against the corrupt actions of the states, the Justice Department is obligated to side with the Oneidas in this matter.

Pataki is dead wrong. He writes that the so-called treaties were entered into with the full knowledge of the U.S. federal government. They were aware of these frauds, and objected to them directly to the state. In the 18th century, it was the federal government that was desperately trying to stop the state of New York from cheating the Indians. New York knew that in signing the fraudulent land transactions, they were violating the federal law.

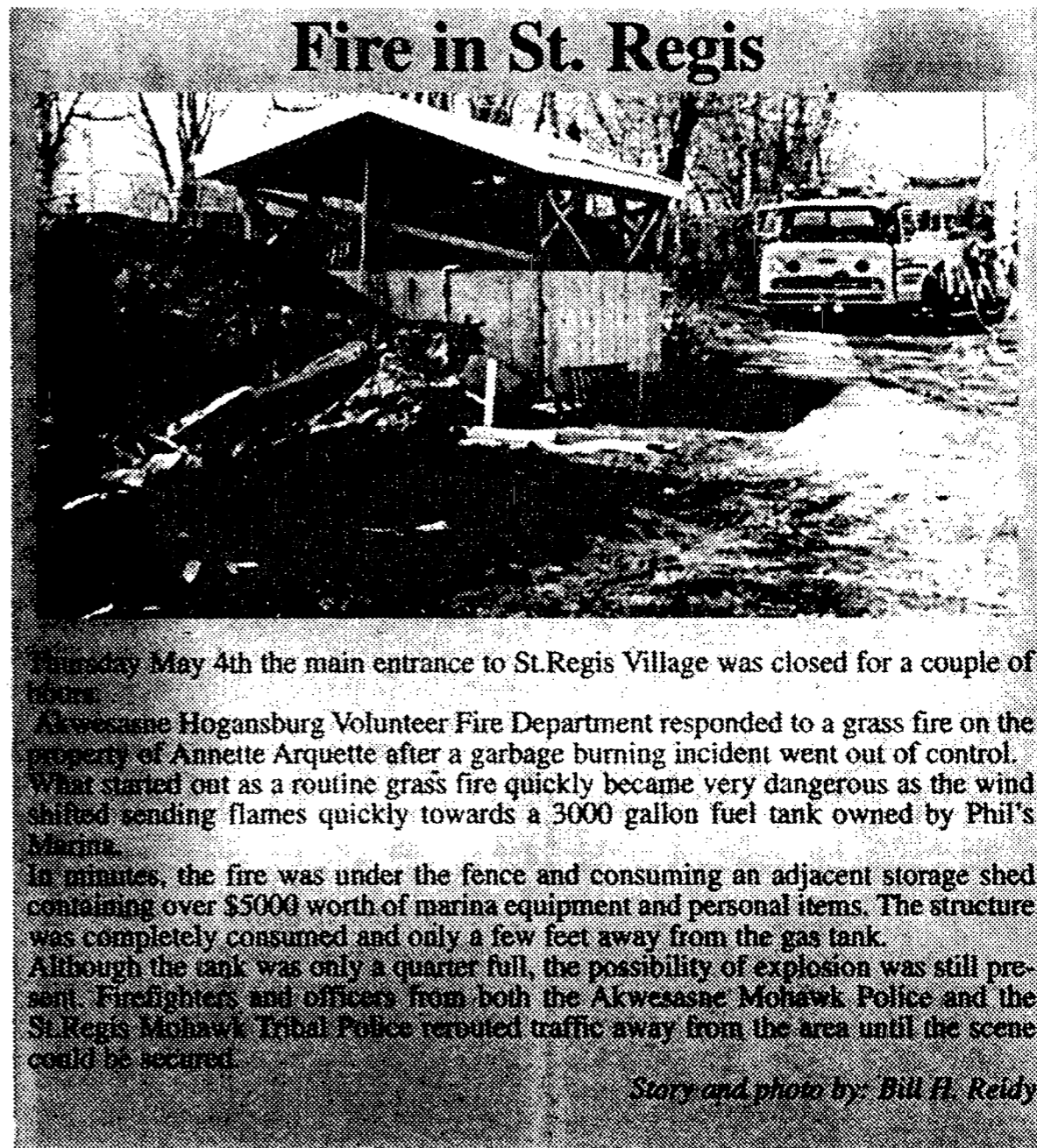
The courts have ruled that New York is the guilty party. Only New York can resolve the matter. It is because of the state's refusal to deal honestly with the issues that its citizens are under duress. For nearly 20 years, the state has had ample opportunity to resolve the matter without going to court. New York refused to deal in utmost good faith and forced the Haudenosaunee to take more drastic action. The governor also blames the Oneida for their "unreasonableness" in not accepting the state demands in order to settle the claim out of court. In doing so, Pataki charges that the Indians now hold the citizens "hostage" and that the Oneida "wages a war" against the white businesses. This sounds more like a James Fenimore Cooper anti-Indian novel. It is meant to set the stage for a mass invasion of our territory, as some state officials are suggesting that hundreds of state troopers be hired to attack the reservations to impose taxation upon the Haudenosaunee. On Jun. 6, Pataki said, "We are going too

make sure no one loses their home, no one loses their property." That is not true. Pataki is determined to make sure that the Haudenosaunee lose their land, despite the U.S. Constitution, federal law and the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court. In the Pataki view, Indians still have to be conquered and subdued.

While Pataki is opposed to our land claims, he is bending over backward to make sure that his Mohawk friends get land that never belonged to them so they can build a casino in the Catskills. The reason for this double standard is simple. Charles Gargano, who is Pataki's right-hand man for economic development, also is a former principal in Alpha Hospitality. Guess who now has the contract to develop that Catskill casino for the Mohawks? Alpha! Sen. Charles Schumer and senatorial candidates Rudy Guiliani and Hillary Clinton also have supported this casino-land deal, while opposing a fair settlement of the land claims.

The real reason the Oneida land claim settlement talks broke down was that Pataki's bagmen were trying to hold up the Oneida without a gun. They demanded the same percentage of revenue/sharing from the Oneida casino in order to make an agreement on the land claims. In Pataki's letter to Clinton, he says that it is the Oneidas who would not "delink unrelated gaming issues" from the settlement talks. Yet, when Judge Neal McCurn asked the state to separate the two issues in the settlement talks, the state refused and walked away from the table. Now, in what can only be called creative writing, Pataki is trying to rewrite his own history and blame everyone else for his oven duplicity. And if Pataki has his way, he will get 25 percent of the revenue from that casino on newly acquired Indian land.

*Rick Hill is a resident of Tuscarora.*



Thursday May 4th the main entrance to St. Regis Village was closed for a couple of hours.

Akwesasne Hogansburg Volunteer Fire Department responded to a grass fire on the property of Annette Arquette after a garbage burning incident went out of control. What started out as a routine grass fire quickly became very dangerous as the wind shifted sending flames quickly towards a 3000 gallon fuel tank owned by Phil's Marina.

In minutes, the fire was under the fence and consuming an adjacent storage shed containing over \$5000 worth of marina equipment and personal items. The structure was completely consumed and only a few feet away from the gas tank.

Although the tank was only a quarter full, the possibility of explosion was still present. Firefighters and officers from both the Akwesasne Mohawk Police and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police rerouted traffic away from the area until the scene could be secured.

*Story and photo by: Bill H. Reidy*