

From the onset of Oneida Tobacco Enterprise the tribe accounting office has done nothing to help Oneida Tribal Development in the operation or enlargement of the enterprise.

In the beginning the tribe had the rights to sell cigarettes but they did not have the management expertise to do anything with it. So at the start when they realized that Ernie Stevens had the ability to actually get the whole thing organized and set up, a management agreement was made with Oneida Tribal Development written up by Ernie.

In six months time we had been given a total of \$6500 capital for a start. In 8 months time we borrowed \$10,000 and paid this back with \$800.00 interest added to the original loan to the tribe.

Then there came a change of administrators on the Business Committee except for three persons, Wendall McLester, Mark Powless, and Norbert Hill.

The campaign promises as all you voters will recall, was that with a change of leadership the people would be more involved, no more hanky panky, everyone would know what was happening and greater employment for Tribal members would be created.

Instead what we got shoved at us is central accounting for all entities. Even though the central accounting has never been audited, certified or been able to prove they can even do half as well ~~as~~ Oneida Tribal Development.

What central accounting has done is create a few people with high salaries to dictate to their people. These are elected officials. They want no interruptions of their big salaries so they constantly use indirect costs to justify their own gains.

If there must be cuts, then they must be made by laying off of lesser paid individuals with no thought that maybe if they weren't

getting such outrageous salaries for jobs poorly done more tribal members would be employed. This leads us to the fact that central accounting has now decided to become central administration which means total administrative DICTATORSHIP by 9 Business Committee members and two administrators hired by this committee.

There are not many of us that want to or are willing to speak up for what is right or what is being done to us because we need our jobs.

Much as I have learned to like to eat regular and pay my bills on time just like anyone else I will not tolerate anyone dictating to me in this manner.

I have run an enterprise from the start to present and been audited and certified every year. I might add even audited and certified by a firm recommended this past year by the Business Committee themselves. We have added millions into the tribes accounts. They have total control of all the monies both up front and in the back door as well. We have had thank yous with tongue in cheek but now we are being told to get out by these people with little or no knowledge of how to run a big multi-million dollar business. They really believe they have a right to dictate anything they want to everyone as they choose.

I think it is time to stand and fight! There are too many of us to let ourselves be dictated to by such a few. We have elected these dictators and now it is time for their removal.

General Manager OTE/OTDC

Barbara Skenandore
Barbara A. Skenandore

Draft Resol
against BC
from OTC
1982

WHEREAS, the ONEIDA GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL that the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE is operating to the philosophies and wishes of the people; the OBC's conduct is not minimally acceptable in fiscal management, accountability, fair treatment of employees, exercise of restraint and due process, and

WHEREAS, the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE has created a public embarrassment of the ONEIDA TRIBE and its members; their intemperate and hasty actions jeopardizing the Tribe's public credibility and creating hostility in the community, and

WHEREAS, as a result of their collective and individual actions, the Business Committee, and its individual members, may be subject to public censure, dismissal, as well as criminal and civil actions by Oneida Tribal Members, and

WHEREAS, the GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL notes that the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE has not submitted an annual financial report, certified public accounting, or a proposed tribal operating budget within memory, and

WHEREAS, the GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL has frequently made it known in the past that the membership does not want the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE to operate or directly supervise any tribal business directly, particularly any enterprise or authority including the Housing Authority, Nursing Home, Health Center, Tribal School, Oneida Tribal Development Corporation, Oneida Tobacco Enterprise, the tribal service station, or any other enterprise or semi-autonomous entity except through the provisions of a charter, contract, or agreement, and

WHEREAS, the GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL recognizes that the ONEIDA TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION was operating under a valid contract and agreement with the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE at the time of the action taken against them; subsequent OBC action was taken without due process, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ONEIDA GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL declares a lack of confidence in the management integrity and public conduct of the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE and its members, particularly in the handling of tribal funds; interference with day to day management; seeming lack of judgement in the handling of relationships with semi-autonomous organizations, and finally the assumption of powers inconsistent with the civil rights guaranteed to our tribal members, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL publicly recognizes that the ONEIDA TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION has competently managed the ONEIDA TOBACCO ENTERPRISE and has maintained the highest standards of management and accounting service; such accounting records having been consistently certified by a public audit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the management of the ONEIDA TOBACCO ENTERPRISE is hereby returned to the ONEIDA TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION subject to the provisions of the management agreement entered into with the OBC on March 24, 1980 except that the O.T.D.C. Board of Directors shall be the managing board and Francis Skenandore is directed to redraft a new agreement and an appropriate ordinance amendment for the next GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, in cooperation with the Development Corporation to reflect a delegation of complete management authority to them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all profits, less cost and 5% fees, shall be deposited in the name of the Tribe for use under a tribal budget resolution, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE is restrained from attempting any further interference with the direct management of the ONEIDA TOBACCO ENTERPRISE.