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## 1076-AF18 (25 CFR 83 or "Part 83")

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In an interview with ICTMN, Secretary Kevin Washburn said, "Here's the problem: Petitioning groups didn't like that because during times in our nation's history we were either seeking to exterminate or terminate o(r) assimilate Indians so often (that tribes) went underground during those periods and the problem is if we demand that they show evidence from those time periods they could very justifiably say, 'We (tribes) don't have any evidence because we (tribes) were trying not to be noticed..... There was a period in the 1950s when tribes were terminated, but 1934 was the first time..'"

This is supposed to address "fairness" toward TRIBES that were exterminated, terminated or assimilated. What about fairness toward INDIVIDUALS who were terminated, assimilated by the colonial government? What about fairness toward INDIVIDUALS who went underground and who were trying not to be noticed? What about fairness toward INDIVIDUALS who don't have the evidence, like tribes that don't have the evidence? What about fairness toward INDIVIDUALS who were disenrolled by their own freakin' tribes? What about fairness toward individual Indians who were shipped overseas as slaves? What about fairness toward individual Indians who fell through cracks in the system? What about fairness toward individual Tohono O'odhams who were messed up by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo? What about fairness toward individual Kickapoos who were trapped in Mexico after an arbitrary US border was drawn up? What about fairness toward individual Indians who were shattered by the huge shatterzone created by European colonization? What about fairness toward tribes like the Winnemem Wintu who were recognized but left out of later rolls? What about fairness toward small bands that broke up from their mother tribes and moved elsewhere to live like traditional Indians? What about fairness toward individual Indians who lack the blood quantum to belong to any one tribe because their ancestors were part of different tribes?

What right does an illegal colonial government that is only about 200 years old have to determine the "recognition" of cultures that are tens of thousands of years old? It seems to me that all these "New Proposed Federal Recognition Rules" are merely excuses to let a few more all-white tribes open up casinos and further deepen the pocket of the capitalists.

And incredibly, Secretary Washburn said, "(W)e're going to require the consent of any third part(ies that have spent tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars and numerous man-hours) that participated in that (federal recognition) process...the petitioning group would have to go to the third party and get their consent before re-petitioning (for federal recognition)." What rights do private

parties have to determine the "recognition" of cultures that are hundred of thousands of years old, if not older? All this is just money talk, complete bullshit and bureaucratic nonsense that serves only to line the pockets of rich capitalists.

If you really want to do something right, focus on honoring treaties and undoing the damage done to individual Indians. Is that so hard?

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Thanks,  
~ Janelle