

Pow-Wow. Tribes seeking nominations to fulfill Carter promise

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — Congress of American Indians President Mel Tonasket is the overwhelming choice of tribes surveyed in an Interior Department poll for the position of assistant secretary of Indian affairs, Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., said Tuesday.

Abourezk, chairman of the Senate select subcommittee on Indian Affairs, said he favors the nomination of Tonasket because he can do a "better job of transferring power from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Indians themselves."

Tonasket is a Colville Indian from Washington state who successfully

fought termination of federal rights for his tribe of about 3,000 persons.

Also under White House consideration for the job is Forrest Gerard, a six-year staff member of the old Senate Interior Committee.

Gerard last winter began his own Washington lobbying which handles

legislation for five tribes including 19 New Mexico Pueblo groups, the Ak-Chin Indian community, Arizona and three Pacific Northwest tribes, the Quinault Indian Nation, Makah Reservation and Yakima Reservation.

Gerard, a Blackfeet Indian, also worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 15 months.

His involvement with the BIA has led to criticism that he would not be effective in making changes in the agency.

The BIA told Abourezk it has taken so long to choose a new assistant secretary of interior for Indian affairs because "President Carter made a commitment to the Indian community that the administration

would consult with Indian leaders on all matters affecting Indians."

The BIA listed the results of its questionnaire to 250 Indian tribes on their choice for BIA commissioner from six names. The survey showed Gerard had the support of 14 tribes while Tonasket had the backing of 37 tribes.

The Interior Department under the Carter Administration has upgraded the post of Bureau of Indian Affairs commissioner to a full assistant secretary for Interior. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus has said he wants an Indian adviser close to his office because the department can benefit from the Indian perspective.

A White House source said the nomination will be announced within the next three weeks.

Haldeman and Mitchell ordered to serve sentences

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — John Mitchell and H. R. Haldeman Monday were ordered to prison June 22 for their part in the Watergate cover-up.

U.S. District Judge John Sirica told the two top aides of former President Richard Nixon they had two weeks to clean up their personal affairs before beginning their sentences of 30 months to eight years for obstructing justice, conspiracy and perjury in America's worst political scandal.

In a brief four-minute hearing in the latest legal chapter of the Watergate episode that drove Nixon from office, Sirica told Mitchell, the former attorney general, and Haldeman, once the White House chief of staff, that they must report to the court on that date each of you will report to the U.S. marshal in the District of Columbia at 10 a.m. or if a specific institution has been designated you will report there by noon on June 22.

John Ehrlichman, Nixon's chief domestic affairs adviser, also was sentenced in the cover-up, but last summer voluntarily began serving his sentence while awaiting his Supreme Court appeal.

Haldeman has arranged with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to serve his term at the minimum security federal prison camp at Lumpoc, Calif., 100 miles north of his Los Angeles home. No decision has been made for Mitchell, who probably will go to the Allenwood camp in Pennsylvania.

The Supreme Court has turned down appeals by Mitchell and Haldeman to review their convictions. The two have until June 17 — the fifth anniversary of the Watergate break-in — to make a final appeal to the high court.

Walters interviews Fidel Castro: He is a total devotee of Soviet-Union

United Press International
 NEW YORK — Barbara Walters and her crew rode across the Bay of Pigs with Fidel Castro and listened to the Cuban president explain why he blamed Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon — not John F. Kennedy — for the invasion of his country.

Miss Walters' interview with Castro — in his Havana office, at the Bay of Pigs, at his hideaway in the Sierra Maestra mountains where he fought for years as a guerrilla — will be seen on ABC June 9, 10-11 p.m. Eastern time.

"We were the first Americans to cross the Bay of Pigs since the invasion in 1961," Miss Walters said in an interview. "And we were crossing with Fidel Castro."

The story of how Miss Walters came to do the first full-length, in-depth interview with Castro began two years ago when she was in Cuba with the press entourage following Sen. George McGovern. At the time she asked for an interview and Castro promised her she would have the first when he decided to grant such interviews.

When she asked Castro why he had promised her the first interview, he answered simply, "Because you asked me."

Castro has granted other interviews — including the one on the CIA that Bill Moyers will report on CBS June 10, 9-11 p.m., Eastern time, as part of a CBS Reports on "The CIA's Secret Army."

But that was a one-topic story, not an interview that included everything from normalization of relations with the United States "he said in the Carter second term — between 1980 and 1984" to Castro's marital status "you'll have to tune in to find out."

"There were no questions submitted in advance, no areas closed to us," Miss Walters said. "That doesn't mean he answers every question. And he is obsessed with the CIA — it almost got to be a joke with us, the way everything came back to the CIA. Then he tells you the number of assassination attempts against his life and when the last one was."

Some of the interviewing was done at the Bay of Pigs and in the Sierra Maestra — through which Castro himself drove the Russian-made jeep with a cigar in his mouth and a gun on the dashboard but accompanied by only one security jeep. Most of the talk was in Castro's office.

"That's where we dealt with matters of substance," Miss Walters said, "with the Bay of Pigs, and Nixon, and the assassination of Kennedy."

"He has a whole theory of the Kennedy assassination, which he says is still a great deal of a mystery to him. He does not have a solution to it. He tells what he thinks about Lee Harvey Oswald and what he knows of — how shall I put it? — Oswald's lack of connection to Cuba. He says in a sense, to a degree, somebody or some organization is trying to frame Cuba and Castro."

Miss Walters, who found Castro one of the most interesting subjects among the many heads of state she has interviewed over the years, believes he is generally well-informed, although with occasional blank spots about the United States and with considerable naivety about the Soviet Union.

Post columnist to speak at graduation

Houston Post columnist Lynn Ashby will be Texas A&M University's summer commencement speaker, announced President Jack K. Williams.

Graduation ceremonies are set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

Ashby is both a University of Texas graduate and an honorary Aggie. The latter designation with bestowed on him by Texas A&M's

Post columnist to speak at graduation

Association of Former Students. Dr. Williams formally presented the award when Ashby spoke here earlier this year at the Student Conference on National Affairs.

His column has been a regular feature of The Houston Post since 1971.

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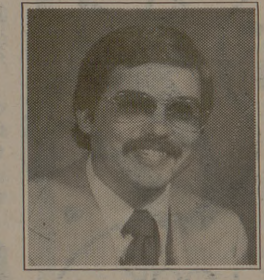
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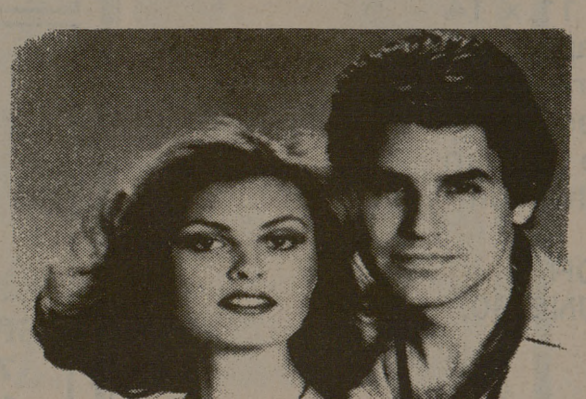
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