

March 3, 2014

Dead Babies: Redefining the Problem for Political Convenience

I could easily write 200 pages a week on the problems at Spirit Lake Nation, and how the government at all levels is complicit in creating the abuses, protecting the abusers and leading to the rapes and murders of babies, children, women and sometimes even the men.

I try to keep this blog going in one direction at a time, but so many things are happening in so many directions, sometimes I just have to link to other blogs, other stories, and try to bring this all into a focus so that my readers can grasp the shape, size, scope, depth and dynamics of what is wrong and what needs to be changed to fix it.

As we all know by now, Robert O'Keefe has quite his position as Director of Tribal Social Services, and his wife has quite as one of the only qualified/licensed Social Workers... O'Keefe being still wet behind the ears (old ears that they were) when he took the position fresh off graduating from the required courses, with no previous work in Social Services anywhere at any level, that I could find. I could be wrong, but he was clearly unfit for the position, incapable of identifying the problem, as you will see if you read his whine in the Jamestown Sun, last Friday.

He did not file a single Mandated Report the entire time he had the position. That despite the epidemic of child rapes, rapes, domestic assaults, assaults upon children that are commonly known to happen on the rez, every single day.

It was not until he was walking out the door that he decided to finally act and remove several children from the homes they had been placed in, which were illegal placements because of the registered sex offenders that were in those homes. Level Three Sex Offenders, mind you.

Removed some of those children, but not all, and filed not a single charge against any of the offenders, leading to absolutely zero arrests for those offenders.

His take on what is 'wrong' in Spirit Lake Nation is not that the children are being raped, assaulted, placed in extremely dangerous homes, being murdered, nor the corruption that has encouraged these abusive placements, nor the lack of oversight or review by the BIA, which continues to be headed by an abusive man, using his position to harass, settle scores with people who have dared to speak up against rape, child rape, and corruption.

Nor does he see the problem as the lack of justice, nor the horrendous libel, slander, threats and harassment that those who work in Social Services have endured because they dared to file Mandated Reports, or speak out against the abusive placements, and the threats to the children's safety. Even though some of those children have been killed because of the lack of response.

No, his take is that it is hard to recruit people to work on the rez because of 'dead babies', essentially.

"I came out here to kind of catch up the social services, clean up some of the areas that hadn't been taken care of so well, and found out that staff is kind of the No. 1 problem," he said Friday. (quoting article in the Jamestown Sun, also run by the same consortium that runs the Fargo Forum, Grand Forks Herald, and some of the TV stations out there.)

I wonder what 'areas' those were? The safety of the children was never an urgent point of consideration for him, so what was? His next statement took my breath away:

Public scrutiny the tribe has faced after the death of several children is a big reason why social workers aren't showing interest, O'Keefe said. "You don't want some little mistake to be caught, and when that happens then the council also gets a little bit concerned."

"Public Scrutiny" is the problem, not the children being illegally placed with Sex Offenders and violent persons. I wish I knew what qualified as "some little mistake..." in his book. The "little mistakes" that lead to children being raped and murdered? How are those 'little mistakes'?

So, the problem is not the corruption, not the abuse, not the rapes... but people 'knowing' about the corruption, the abuse, the rapes, and oh yes, those darn dead babies!

The problem is not qualified people in the field being aware of the extreme abuse and harassment, smear tactics, threats, harassments used against those who actually DO their job and file the reports, and speak out.... It's those darn dead babies and other 'little mistakes' that just get all blown out of proportion. ???

How far up his ass does O'Keefe have his head that he can even make a statement of that level of ignorance?

His inability to perceive the obvious core problem that leads to the rapes, abuse, assaults and murders of these children, is mind numbing.

But, it is right in line with how Tim Purdon, the entire USAG Administration, the BIA, HHS, HIS, and the ACF and others want to see the issue presented to the public: As a problem of 'technicalities, bad publicity, and too much scrutiny'.

They want to pour more money directly into the hands and pockets of those same corrupt and inept people. They don't want to hold the corrupt criminally responsible, nor even accountable on any level. They don't want to fix the problem or make it safer for the children. They just want you to stop looking, stop asking, stop demanding changes for the safety of the children.

If they fix the corruption, bring Justice to the Rez for these crimes committed against these children and right the wrongs being done to the good families that are being harassed and retaliated against for speaking up on behalf of the children, the problems will start to diminish.

When they treat the corruption and abuse as 'crimes' rather than as 'technical issues', it will make a world of difference on the rez. AND, it will cost taxpayers millions less to do it.

For those in government, including the Senators who are doing this really stupid dance that goes as far away from the problem, not even looking at the crimes being committed against the children and the taxpayers, the idea of actually fixing this problem, stopping these crimes, is somehow abhorrent to them.

They want to continue to pour even millions more into those same pockets with absolutely no corrections being made, except to stop the reporting of crimes against children.

The fact that Thomas Sullivan has had to fight everyone in his agency, right up to the very top, because they refuse to act according to law, to the Mandated Reports, is a signal to all of us that the problems in Spirit Lake Nation, go all the way to the very top of at least one branch of government, possibly all three.

This corruption, these abuses, these rapes of women and children would not be possible at this magnitude if not for several agencies and departments, conspiring to protect the abusers at the cost of the children, at the cost of taxpayers, at the cost to all of us on our safety and security.

Billions of Tax Dollars, BILLIONS, goes into the toilet that is the system that governs Indian Country. The children are living in a snake pit, and the government and officials and administrators from agencies and foundations, are wallowing in piles of money generated both from the crimes committed against these children and the faux programs created to pretend to do something about it.

It keeps getting worse. And it will. For all of us: Those living on the rez, those living nearby, those living far away--- until the obvious, festering, reeking, open sore of Injustice is addressed head-on, with consequences to the criminals, who have been, up until now, protected by every level of government from Tribal to Federal, at our expense.

It should be noted that the Tribe has replaced the incompetent, oblivious O'Keefe with Melissa (Merrick) Brady, who has no business running any agency or department. Not the Victims' Assistant Program, which I am told she raids the credit cards intended to assist victims of abuse to survive, as her personal cash reserve "I was a victim too, so I qualify to use these cards", and her inability to control staff in that department, allowing Monique, who had an affair with Bentley GreyBear (and a child by him) to retaliate against his wife when she sought assistance after a

particularly brutal beating and rape by him upon her. I guess Melissa needed the financial assistance for herself instead. You know, "shopping therapy" or whatever she does with those cards.

Yes, that is the woman they have now put in charge of Tribal Social Services, where she can access even more funds, with no fear that anything she steals will ever cost her a day in court, much less jail. And, no matter how many children are raped and beaten, she will never have to file a single Mandated Report, nor will she be held accountable for ignoring the warnings.

Things can, as you can see, only get worse and worse for the children and the women on Spirit Lake Rez. The obvious cause is corruption, illegal placements, but let's just get on the news and say that it's those 'little mistakes' that make the agency look bad. Mistakes like leaving children in the hands of abusers, retaliating against those who try to protect the children, stealing the funds from those children, and... oh yeah, placing the children in homes where there is so much violence and sexual abuse that they end up murdered. "Little Mistakes", some as young as 6 months old, others barely starting school.

Until there is Justice and the corrupt and the abusers are held accountable, we all pay. We pay now, and we pay down the road, with more violence, more drugs, more addictions, draining our security and tax dollars, while only getting worse.

We need everyone to continue to 'scrutinize' what is happening on this rez and make it known that we are looking and that we want real action. Let those who make these ignorant, outrageous statements that 'scrutiny' is the problem, know that we KNOW what the source of the poison, the problem, the abuses are out there and that we demand those who are the poison be treated as criminals.

It will be easier to hire qualified people to work on the rez when they see that Justice exists, and that their integrity will not be the cause for their being harassed, threatened, intimidated, or ridiculed.

There is too much history, documented, of people who did do their jobs being abused by our government for it. There is too much documentation out there proving that the Abusers and the Pedophiles have been protected by the very same people that are threatening, harassing, intimidating, libeling and slandering the very people who are doing their job.

You want qualified people to work out there? Show them that you back up, support, those who have done their jobs. Show them that you will act on Mandated Reports. Show them that you will criminally investigate and prosecute those who are reported.

Don't blame it on "little mistakes" that lead to dead babies.

We all see the message that has been sent, loud and clear by the Tribal Council, Tribal Chair, State, Federal governments and the agencies and foundations that are

supposed to be the defenders of the helpless. It's time to change that message from supporting the corruption, minimizing the crimes, to proactively and directly pursuing JUSTICE.

While you're at it, there's a few murders that need to be looked into...

When there is Justice, there will be healing and there will be Peace and Prosperity.

Until then, we have a snake pit. We have seen only gross miscarriages of Justice, from the Murder of Eddie Peltier, to the murder of Children... and there will be more murdered children.

Getting away with murder makes it easy to get away with rape, child rape, embezzlement, corruption of every sort. Bringing Justice to the rez, proving to the Good People of Spirit Lake Nation that they are entitled to equal protection under the law as anyone else in the country, will do more to end the cycle of violence, corruption and rape than all the tax dollars you can throw into the abyss of a system run by the corrupt, the rapists, the Human Traffickers.

Where they can, they will label them as "SIDS" or "Natural Causes" or "Suicides", but they are all murders, and those responsible are being paid by our taxes, to cover it up, protect the rapists, protect the murderers.

Tim Purdon didn't dare charge Baby Laurynn's murder as a murder when he prosecuted the Tomahawk Woman. If he had, he would have had to hold himself accountable as an accessory for having ignored the reports that stated she was in a violent, dangerous home with a serial offender, and even ridiculed the man who issued the report, as well as he lied about having 'investigated all of those reports and found many of the cases to be untrue...'

And then the baby girl was murdered... and he was by definition an accessory before the fact... and should have been put on trial with the woman who committed the murder, so, he charged her on a lesser offense and patted himself on the back as a hero.

We need people who will treat crimes and injustice as offenses against We The People. Not as a joke. Not as 'some small mistake'.

Human Wreckage is only recognized when those so destroyed they look like 'others' and we can no longer identify them as one of our own, break the law. What we need to see is they are created by the laws broken against them, again, again, again, until they are too blistered, too welted, too bruised, too abandoned to cry. Crying is ridiculed. Speaking out is ridiculed. Filing Mandated Reports is seen as an 'attack on the system'.

It will serve us all well to recognize that the problem is not 'too much scrutiny', but rather TOO MUCH CORRUPTION. Once we face the real source of evil, we can begin to correct it.

It will serve those who are supposed to be serving the public, much better if they address the problem directly, rather than blaming those who do.

Laws are being broken, and those who break those laws are being protected by the very people who should be investigating and criminally charging them. That has to stop.

Additional Reading:

Anything on the <http://caicw.org> site. They are currently moving to a new web host, but when it is up and running with all the links again, you will find some valuable reading material.

<http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/content/forum-discusses-sexual-exploitation-sex-trafficking-bemidji-area> Article has some great points, but again, misses the boat entirely when they talk about the violence to women on the rez coming primarily from non-native offenders. The reason the stats all show that native women are attacked primarily by non-native attackers is because the BIA, DOJ, IHS, HHS and the FBI refuse to take reports of rapes/assaults committed against Indian Women by members of their own tribe, but commonly known on every reservation that most of the attacks are not only perpetrated by members of the tribe, but by members of the victims' own families. Other than that, the article is very well done.

Note: By failing to take reports of abuse, those cases are never investigated, perpetrators allowed to repeat offend, and the statistics remain invisible and government loves statistics that tell the story the way they want to tell it. They don't want it to be known how dangerous and destructive the violence, stranger, acquaintance, domestic/familial has become in Indian Country.

Many of the perpetrators are connected to politically powerful families that are well-connected to politicians on up the food chain, all the way to the White House. They remain protected because of their connections, reinforced by billions of unaudited dollars stolen from programs and then used to buy favors from politicians to get more funding, lobby against the best interests of the tribe as a whole, for the financial benefit of a few, who then reinforce those political ties with donations and fund raising among other wealthy, influential 'brokers'. The cycle must be broken if anything is going to change, and the politicians need to show where every dime comes from that goes into their campaigns, foundations and 'charities', etc.

From a Reader who sent me links and data:

Exactly. All about the programs and the adults. They never tell the stories about how the kids end up where they are. When they get close, they blame it

on the white man and historic trauma. I used to go along with this theory. Now I just say that is a load of crap. The continuing cycle of drinking, drugs and sexual abuse, all allowed because the "leaders" want control of the people to exploit the other natural resources. The kids were the key to all of this.

Did you see this article (attached)? It sums it up nicely. It really comes down to congress creating law(s) to absolve themselves from their real responsibility to protect U.S. citizens. That and the parents who are just products of the same continuing cycle of self-destruction.

The new cry is that you can't punish the adult no matter what they do. The hell with what happens to the kids. They salivate over the thought of another program, which is doublespeak for dollars to plunder and new jobs.

Leech Lake just signed an agreement to simulcast horse racing on the rez, "to fatten the purses for the racing corp." The tribal chairman was quoted as saying there is a big demand for this in northern MN. Really? A big demand for horse racing in a poverty stricken community that can't manage to provide decent food or clothing for its citizens. The money flows in from tax payers and then immediately flows back to the mafia. That's what all of this is really about.

I could not have said it better myself. That reader tracks events on SLN, Leech Lake, and a few other reservations. The story is the same, and worse in those places. So think about it: We can fix the problems on Spirit Lake by demanding Justice for the People and not accepting laws that leave the Good People of Spirit Lake with even less protection, even more at the mercy of the corrupt, the rapists, the abusers and the murderers.

Fix it in that one place, and it can be fixed everywhere else where the poison of corruption is present. Drain the poison from Spirit Lake Nation, and it will drain from every reservation, and we can begin to see real change in our nation in the years and decades to come.

We will see our tax dollars more wisely spent, and people who steal will find at long last, there are consequences. Those who protect those who abuse and who steal, who rape and who murder, will find that they too, must answer to someone... all of us who are watching.

We are that unbearable scrutiny that makes it hard for corrupt Spirit Lake Tribal politics to hire people into Tribal Social Services, only to abuse, harass, threaten and intimidate them if they try to do their job.

Bring Justice to the rez, and you will find some of the most dedicated, gifted, hard-working people in Social Services racing to get in and do the work of protecting the children, mending the broken spirits, broken lives and battered hearts.

Until there is Justice, and those who work there are protected when they do their work the right way, there is no protection for the children, and they remain at the mercy of the cruelty, greed and sexual perversions of a handful of powerful people connected to the rez by blood or money.

As long as the corrupt are protected, none of us are safe. Not now, not ever.

You know where to find me.

~Cat