

**March 17, 2014**  
**The High Cost of Corruption**

It's the one thing no candidate, no politician and no elected official will talk about fixing. Corruption.

Corruption means that every dollar that goes into every program is less efficient, less effective and those for whom the program is intended see little or no benefit from tax dollars dumped into a toilet.

Russ McDonald blithely tells a tribal member that he can't have heating assistance because all that money is going to make up for the \$3 Million+ that was stolen by Roger Yankton and Duane Jackson.

No one is talking about investigating grand theft, felony, embezzlement or corruption... they only talk about what programs they have to rob to make up the deficit caused by the corruption.

If someone steals \$40 from a store, the police are out in force, arrests are made, and there is a jail sentence handed down in court. But if they steal millions, from Federal Programs, nothing is done.

Can you see why it is so hard to teach young people to respect the law? Steal \$40, go to prison. Steal a few million, enjoy it! We'll rob some other program, say, the LIHEAP or Meals on Wheels, or any other program to make up for the 'shortfall'.

When elected officials in Washington, DC hear about the missing millions, they try to figure out how to get MORE money into the programs--- they never demand an accounting, nor do they consider any kind of law enforcement to retrieve the missing money, or to discourage further corruption.

Finding out about it gives a feeling of outrage. Reporting it or any other crime on the rez, one would think, would be the first step to fixing the problem. But it isn't. Reporting any crimes committed by those politically connected, (and by "Politically Connected" I mean those who have enough money or influence to reach the pockets of other elected or appointed officials at different levels of government) the person reporting the crimes ends up being threatened, harassed, ridiculed and smeared by the very officials and agents who are supposed to be enforcing the law.

Now what?

Millions of dollars go missing and nothing is done. Children are being raped by registered sex offenders and they are told that there will not even be the beginning of an investigation for another 30-40 days... and now, it's been 5 months, and still no investigation started.

There is no Justice. There is only corruption. We have seen the corrupt get away with everything from assault, rape, child rape, grand theft, larceny, and murder... we have

not seen anyone from the FBI, or USAG's office willing to begin to investigate any of it, if it happens on Spirit Lake Reservation.

That tells me that the FBI and the USAG are themselves, corrupt. And no one in congress is willing to even begin looking at that level of corruption, obvious as it is, for fear that it will touch them personally, or their campaigns, or their donors...

### **Silence is Gold**

Corruption is so obvious and what is even more obvious is that those who ignore it, are involved in it. And if we ignore that, or think it's not important, or that it can't be fixed, we become the reason it continues. Our silence is their gold.

Corruption, unabated, plus the harassment and abuse of victims of violent and sexual crimes, is why those growing up on the rez don't see life as having options beyond violence, addiction, alcoholism, suicide.

There is no help if no one is willing to rid the system of corruption, even in that one small place.

When Tim Purdon refused to investigate Mandated Reports of sexual abuse, child rapes, and dismissed it as 'there are two sides to every story'... when he did that and there was not a huge public outcry, he knew he would never have to do his job.

He can, in ways obvious and covert, protect the corrupt, the abusers, the child rapists, and his career is assured.

Channell Wilkins career was and continues to be assured. When he worked for the ACF, he also refused to investigate rampant drug abuse, child suicides and lax law enforcement for crimes against children on the rez.

You would think that his career would sink on his incompetence. His career soared.

After leaving ACF, he also ended up in Florida, same as George Sheldon. (What is it about Florida??? It's where the corrupt go to get their next job to fail at?)

According to the Sun Sentinel, April 22, 2013 (Read the story [HERE](#)), as the head of a Palm Beach County Department, he just handed a no bid contract to a friend of his. \$118K+. You know, what's a hundred grand or so of taxpayer money among friends, right?

It's clear that his past work in government was all about helping friends, or he never would have thought this would fly. No one really believes he had not done this before, do they? Or do they think that for some reason, after years in government work, for some unexplained reason, he abruptly decided to break all the rules and give \$118K to his pal?

No, this is a man who was accustomed to breaking the law, ignoring the law, and getting away with it. Wanna bet he learned that by working in the ACF? Why not? He clearly wasn't there to provide assistance or investigate crimes against children.

No. The ACF, with the exception of Thomas Sullivan, sees it's job as that of supporting the agencies that are corrupt, not investigating the corruption and not offering support to the victims of crimes against children.

That makes the ACF a completely redundant agency. Pouring money into the corrupt BIA, which refuses to investigate most crimes, especially rapes and child rapes, is bad enough. Pouring money into the ACF who then backs up and supports the abusers in the BIA, is, well, costly redundancy.

Add to that, the Children's Bureau, a sub-agency of the ACF, which itself has a budget of over \$8 Billion (taxpayer) dollars, which also refuses to investigate either the crimes against the children or the corruption in the bureaus and agencies that are in theory, supposed to be protecting those same children and investigating crimes against them.

How many billions of tax dollars are we pouring into multiple levels of failure to act? The Children's Bureau is \$8 Billion, how much is the ACF? The BIA?

If their only position, their only stand is to back up the corrupt, support and protect the rapists, why don't we safe ourselves about \$50 Billion and do away with these agencies that are, at best, redundant corruption?

If they are only here to help rob us, not to help the children, they should go. If all they are is a training ground for corrupt government workers who then move on to other states (well, Florida for sure), and hand over tax payer money to their pals, why not just eliminate those agencies that seem to do nothing more than protect and breed corruption?

Remember, if we are silent, they take our gold: All of it. And then tell us we need to give them more.

### **Sad Note**

The death of Zephron Jetty, 22 this weekend, is another tragedy. Eleven years old should not be considered "Middle Age", but on the rez, more and more, it is. This young man was struggling and there was no help available for him. None. I guess that's because Roger Yankton and Duane Jackson took \$3 Million from Tribal funds for themselves, so programs that would have helped... but why even think about the theft of millions from the tribe as part of the problem?

The problem, clearly, is that the corrupt are running everything, from top to bottom and Washington, DC cannot give them enough money fast enough to make any of it work.

Babies die. Babies are murdered. Children are raped. Millions are stolen. And yet another young person is tragically lost to the community that has already suffered from the worst ravages of corruption, addiction, violence, child rapes, suicides and murder.

If we want anything in our world to get better, we must start by standing with The Good People of Spirit Lake and demanding an end to corruption. If we can't end corruption in that one small place, that less-than-a-dot-on-the-map place, then we must just accept corruption everywhere and just give up even trying.

It will make it easier on the corrupt. We'll suffer, pay more, be less secure, but at least we won't have to pretend to care what happens to the kids; not now, and not when they grow up, and certainly not when they give up.

We can stop it in that one place. But it will take work. It will take effort and constant vigilance and not accepting the platitudes and worn out clichés of 'falling through the cracks', and so forth.

We have to demand more from our government at all levels. We will have to demand an end to agencies that see their only job as covering the behinds of corrupt officials and agencies engaging in criminal negligence at best, outright corruption most-likely.

This is the one place we can start. We can see if it is working or not. And when we get it working there, you know it will start working everywhere.

Maybe that is what the corrupt in all those agencies, and in all those elected officials fear the most: That we will change the way things are done. That we will force them to face the corruption and deal with it, or be replaced by someone who will.

We start by holding them accountable for their incompetence, their negligence, their complicity. It's our tax dollars paying them (overpaying most of them) and they should be accountable to us. If we don't demand accountability, then we are just too lazy for either Democracy or Justice and deserve neither.

Neither do we deserve a future. We'll see that as our own children are stolen from us, murdered, destroyed, lost and addicted. The Children ARE the Future. Save them now, or lose the Future.

You know where to find me.

~Cat