

To the Oneida General Tribal Council

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

From Madelyn (Cornelius) Genskow

I am very sorry to report the Interior Board of Indian Appeals denied my request to overturn the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 change in our Tribal Constitution. This is the same court that sided with Hobart and we have not put any land into trust in Hobart since 2006. There probably will not be land going into trust in Hobart as long as we continue to use the money the BIA gave us (self-governance money) to pay the BIA to put our land into trust. The IBIA court said for us to pay the BIA to put our land into trust showed "a potential for bias."

I'm sure it won't be to long before the other municipalities get the same idea. What I'm afraid of is could they even take our land out of trust on that basis?

We should take a lesson from little Japan. They were irritated that this guy in charge of oil for the U.S. Government went against an order from President Franklin Roosevelt and cut off their oil supply. They were going to show the U.S. A thing or two. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

As a result, the U.S.A. declared war against Japan. Within a short time, military commander Isoroku Yamamoto stated "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant."

Any student of history knows in the end, the Japanese people were incinerated with not one, but two atomic bombs.

That is what is going to happen to the Oneida Tribe if it continues to allow the B.C. Management and lawyers to try to throw their weight around with the other municipalities.

In regard to the change in our constitution, the big change so far is that our Oneida warriors, who go off to fight in some foreign country to protect civil rights for other people, will be denied the right to vote by absentee ballot because someone back home is changing membership rules that would eliminate them.

I do believe that day is a real possibility.

You need to be on guard, don't be asleep at the wheel. That has happened in other tribes. Since the big money came with the casinos, the U.S. Government has allowed tribes to set up tribal governments that eliminate freedom of speech and now it looks like in our tribe there will be a push to eliminate religious freedoms – see Kalihwisaks (February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 page 4A).

Google “tribes kick out members”. In one case it was all about freedom of speech.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I experienced what it means to lose freedom of speech. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin was at the B.C. Conference room in the Norbert Hill Center I attended. Several elites of the tribe spoke. Then several members of the Business Committee posed with the senator, proud as peacocks. It appeared that the speakers were done.

I stood and said that I was very concerned about losing our American Civil Rights. The senator agreed to let me speak after the children's smoke dance performance. I sat down. Suddenly, there were two big male and one small woman Oneida police officers by me and they said I had to leave the room. I said I would not, the senator said I could speak at the end.

They picked me up and carried me out into the hall and would not allow me to return until the end when the B.C. and the senator were left. Then the Oneida police allowed me to enter. The senator expressed how bad she felt by what she witnessed.

Tribal members Cathy Metoxin videoed and Leah Dodge reported on Oneidaeye.com. It is also on Youtube – <https://youtu.be/-ofeTi7ebCc>.

Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are vital. Don't let the B.C. Take them away.