



## No Parole Peltier Association Newsletter

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*"In the Spirit of Coler and Williams"*

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### Dear NPPA supporters:

**Oglala Commemoration Committee:** The OCC began ten years ago as an ad hoc group during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Incident at Oglala. Their motives appeared genuine in the beginning but the OCC has developed a pronounced militant personality over the years along with an overly broad vision of self-importance. Their website states that in 1973 "...AIM (was) asked...to lead the takeover at Wounded Knee to liberate the people into a different form of thinking and positive change." But if that's what they really think happened, or what caused the ransacking of the village, perhaps they should revisit the history of that watershed AIM event.

Their message also includes the stock Peltier folklore relating to the "...documented deaths of over 60 AIM supporters on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota." That bit of the fairy tale, no matter how many times it's repeated, may sound dramatic and relevant but only if it were true. It is a deliberate Peltier/LPDOC distortion. Please see the facts;  
<http://www.noparolepeltier.com/response.html#7>

In a recent email the OCC lamented that they were denied the use of a facility for the upcoming June 26<sup>th</sup> event because they were deemed to be "too political." We have to agree that politics has very little to do with the Peltier matter but they confused the issue by claiming that "It amazes (us) in a Tribe that supports Leonard, it's so hard to find a venue." But it shouldn't be that much of a surprise. If the "Tribe" they refer to is the Lakota Nation, they need to go back and reevaluate that thought. Fact is that the majority of native America, Lakota or not, witnessed the faults of AIM and Peltier and they do not want to revisit that destructive history. Peltier support has dwindled to next to nothing over the past several years which will be further witnessed by the lack of attendance or interest

in the OCC June 26<sup>th</sup> event. If previous years are any indication, should fifty people show up to support Peltier, it would be surprising.

**Stimulus Funds:** “Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that \$500 million in federal stimulus money will go to American Indian tribes across the U.S. for schools, housing, infrastructure improvements and job programs on reservations. The Interior Department oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to Salazar, the reservations face serious challenges and the President wants to help American Indians ““have a new beginning.””

“Tribes across the U.S.” hopefully means the Interior Department will be prudent and judicious with its allocation of funds and not just equally divide the money among the 562 federally recognized tribes. If that happens, the money will surely be watered down to the extent that it would have very little benefit to those most in need. As the NPPA has repeatedly pointed out, there are Tribes that have the benefit of being within popular tourist corridors and by generating casino revenues help provide a better quality of life for tribal members; some of which prove to be a little out of the ordinary. Stimulus funds should go first to the poorest Native Americans, starting with Pine Ridge, so their standard of living can be adequately addressed and improved.

Please see the [letter](#) to Secretary Salazar.

**Peltier fundraising; inconceivable claims:** In yet another unsigned blurb the LPDOC makes perhaps the most outrageous claims thus far for Peltier’s alleged charitable contributions and activities. With little shame, but a canyon-full of temerity, they state: “...it is widely known that Leonard Peltier has facilitated numerous significant donations to a wide variety of charities and human rights organizations.” “Peltier has also worked to establish assistance programs for many underprivileged groups, and he has helped in other ways to fund a multitude of efforts from scholarships for Native students to shelters for victims of domestic violence.” “...the families now receiving the benefits of this annual program (Christmas fundraising effort) number more than one thousand.” And, “...that a person (Peltier) so financially impoverished should help raise such extraordinary amounts of money for others...”

This may all sound incredibly beneficent to the uninformed but none of it holds up to scrutiny and it’s as if those at the LPDOC make this stuff up as they go along. If they weren’t trying to gain political and popular capital for Peltier by doing so we could brush this off as so much bravado. But since they are offering little more than fabrications to their supporters it would not be unfair to ask them one very simple question: Prove it. Or better still, prove any of it.

But on the other hand they do provide a perfect explanation to cover themselves and then add just one more morsel for Peltier supporters to swallow: “It is difficult to determine precisely the sum total of donations and contributions that Peltier

has helped facilitate, Peltier refuses to boast about his humanitarian work and many of his projects have not been made public. It is estimated, however, that the total contributions resulting from Peltier's work during his 33 year imprisonment extend into the millions of dollars."

Refuses to boast? Not made public? Millions of dollars? Estimated? And by Whom?

How can the LPDOC make these kinds of claims for Peltier and think for a moment that no one would ask some fairly straight-forward follow-up questions? Certainly Peltier supporters swallow it whole and are easily misled to believe how wonderful Peltier's charitable activities may be.

"Peltier refuses to boast?" Peltier's alleged charitable activities have been a consistent theme on every Peltier website and in nearly every LPDC/LPDOC and Peltier statement. Aside from his false claims of innocence his other claim to fame has been what he supposedly does for others.

But herein lies the truth of the beneficent charitable activities; the LPDOC tries to cover itself and Peltier by claiming that the sum total is "difficult" to determine and that because of Peltier's rampant modesty "many of his projects have not been made public."

Peltier and the LPDOC have pushed the charitable fundraising theme to a new level; actually they have pushed it right off a cliff and the only way to properly characterize these shameful claims is to call them what they are, blatant and transparent fabrications. In other words, and stating it as clearly as possible, about ninety percent of what they state here are lies. The NPPA has been examining Peltier's financial activities since 2004 and none of it holds up to the light of day. Please see <http://www.noparolepeltier.com/debate.html#fraud>

The fact remains that if Peltier could document even a small portion of these inane claims he would do so in a New York minute. And since he cannot, we'll just have to add this to the growing list of rampant folklore surrounding the [myth](#) of Leonard Peltier.

**Peltier Update:** In a 5/1/09 decision, the Eighth Circuit reviewed Peltier's appeal from the district court dismissing an action against the FBI's Minneapolis field office for documents not released under exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act. The district court reviewed 569 of 10,557 pages and concluded that the FBI had followed established exemptions for non-disclosure. Peltier argued, among other things, that he was entitled to these documents because of an alleged "public interest" and that the documents may disclose efforts that compromised Peltier's attorney-client privilege.

The court summarized its affirmation of the lower court by stating in part:

“...we are not persuaded that there is a strong inference that the agency (FBI) in this case is likely to withhold documents improperly to avoid embarrassment for actions taken in the 1970s.”

“But it should be recalled that one of the two actions declared improper by this court – the withholding of the FBI teletype that could have been used at trial to cross-examine the FBI’s ballistics expert – was itself disclosed in response to a previous FOIPA request by Peltier. **It would be odd to rely on an incident discovered only through the FBI’s response to a FOIA request as the basis for a presumption that the FBI is likely to respond in bad faith to this FOIA request, some twenty-five years later.**” (Emphasis added)

“So while this court has found certain improprieties on the part of the government, they are not so severe and extensive as to create a general public interest in disclosure regarding all matters related to Peltier’s case that overrides the privacy interests of third parties recognized by Exemption 7(C).”

“We are also not convinced that there is a substantial nexus between Peltier’s FOIA request and the **specific public interest** asserted by Peltier—namely, the potential for disclosure of records that would disclose deliberate interference with Peltier’s confidential attorney-client relationship. Peltier is in a position to know whether third parties attended meetings between him and his counsel relating to his criminal trial, **but he has presented no evidence of any such infiltration.** Any benefits to the public from disclosure on the grounds asserted by Peltier **are too uncertain and remote** to overcome the privacy interests of third parties, confidential sources, and law enforcement personnel.” (Emphasis added)

“We see no reason to believe that other documents withheld under Exemption 7(C) – i.e., those that would identify law enforcement personnel, persons of investigative interest, or third parties who were merely mentioned by the FBI during the investigation – would shed light on allegations of deliberate interference with attorney-client communications through the use of confidential informants.”

The entire decision can be seen [here](#).

This decision arguably forestalls Peltier’s shallow attempts to use the FOIA process as a further discovery mechanism for which the FOIA was never intended. That, coupled with the remote prospects of a clemency or pardon, leaves Peltier at the door of the U.S. Parole Commission. Peltier’s first *public* parole hearing in nearly two decades has yet to be scheduled. Peltier’s and the LPDOC’s efforts in this regard, their “Plan,” was reviewed in the NPPA April [Newsletter](#).

The NPPA will patiently await the public parole hearing and respond accordingly to ensure that the entire record of Peltier’s guilt is available to all concerned.

However, it is interesting to contemplate how Peltier will approach this seminal event in his storied career of folklore and mythmaking. Will he use it as his ultimate forum and continue to proclaim to the world his innocence in the murder of Special Agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams? Will he be able to successfully explain, defend or ignore the mountain of proof both from his own words and those of his co-conspirators? He will not, however, be able to create a scenario removing himself from the crime scene. Will he feign defiance once again and repeat the words he offered at his original sentencing and all but daring the court to sentence him to two consecutive life terms? Can he avoid the subject and hope that the board has forgotten—no matter what their decision—that he still owes a seven-year consecutive sentence for his armed escape from Lompoc? Or, will he finally search his conscience and his soul, bringing to mind the shattered faces of Jack Coler and Ron Williams, and throw himself on the mercy of the board and simply, and finally, tell the truth. Anyone who has spent even a short amount of time reviewing the history of his case can see that Peltier's guilt is unequivocal. He can clamor all he wants about FOIA documents, an unfair trial, a government hell-bent on punishing any Indian for the agent's deaths, but the record in its entirety speaks for itself, and volumes literally, pointing to his uncompromising and unquestioned guilt. Remorse? Perhaps, along with telling the board exactly what did happen that sultry June day. Peltier is at a crossroads and what he does at that juncture may determine his ultimate fate.

“In the Spirit of Coler and Williams”

*Ed W.*

Ed Woods  
NPPA - Founder

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