

Indians Seeking Opinions

NESPELEM — The Colville Confederated tribes are conducting an opinion poll on the question of termination.

Oliver L. Pooler, chairman of the tribal business council's legislative committee, said this week secret ballots were mailed Monday to all adult tribal members.

The ballots will be tabulated October 14 by a certified public accountant. They ask the question:

"Do you favor termination and liquidation of the tribal owned reservation assets at fair value with the proceeds distributed equally to the members of the tribes?"

Pooler said the legislative committee had decided to conduct the poll partly because of remarks by members of a House of Representatives subcommittee which conducted hearings on termination in Spokane and Nespelem last fall.

Following the hearings, Rep. Tom Foley reported:

"Rep. James Haley of Florida, chairman of the subcommittee, has indicated that despite many endorsements of termination legislation and despite tribal elections indicating termination sentiments, he still does not feel that he has a comprehensive view of tribal members' opinion."

The opinion poll, said Pooler, is expected to answer this objection. It was recommended by the legislative committee and approved by the tribal business council by an 8-4 vote.

Pooler said ballots which miss the October 14 deadline will be included in a final tabulation conducted October 31.