

June 12, 1979

(REMARKS by Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin on an editorial column in the June 11 Capital-Journal relating to comments by Prof. Charles Wilkinson on a proposed reservation for the Siletz Indians.)

" I have to look at the proposal that has been reported as only an idea. I'm not now in a position to read it as anything more than that because I have not been briefed on any details.

"I look forward to the courtesy of being briefed on the Siletz Reservation proposal.

"As the Member of Congress representing the First District, which includes Lincoln County, I will certainly give careful attention to any reservation proposal, when it is formally presented.

"A good many questions have yet to be asked and answered. How much and what kind of acreage -- public or private -- are we talking about? What is the economic impact? What's the impact on fisheries? These are just a few.

"The 1977 law that restored the Siletz to official tribal status -- a law I authored -- sets forth a series of steps that must be followed in the preparation of any reservation proposal. The procedures require consultation with local and state officials, with the Secretary of the Interior, and with all other interested parties on such matters as the size and location of the proposed reservation, its effect on state and local tax revenues, criminal and civil jurisdiction, and a number of other points.

"No reservation can be established without specific approval of Congress."