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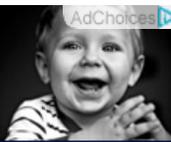
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Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (Herbert Pfarrhofer / European Pressphoto Agency / January 31, 2013)



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By Patrick McGreevy
February 11, 2013 | 8:00 a.m.

California's practice of pressuring Indian tribes to share casino profits in exchange for approval of slot machines has been hit with a setback.

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians has received approval of its gambling authorization from the federal government, reducing the amount it must pay the state, which has traditionally negotiated gaming compacts and demanded a large share of profits.

Rincon had sued then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state for "illegal taxation" and "bad faith" in renegotiations for a gaming compact in which the tribe was asked to share profits in exchange for the state approving 900 new slot machines for its Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort in San Diego County.

Rincon Chairman Bo Mazzetti said getting approval from the federal government protects tribal sovereignty and limits the power of the state to ask for revenue.

"The federal definition of the goal of Indian gaming is to generate revenues to fund tribal government responsibilities and obligations to provide jobs, healthcare, social and safety services for tribal members, not to pad or fix a state's budget," Mazzetti said.

Representatives of Gov. Jerry Brown's office did not return calls for comment.

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Advertisement for Duca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. The ad features a close-up of several faces covered in spaghetti. Text includes "OFFER EXPIRES SOON" and "GET YOUR 4 FOR \$40 COUPON".



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AIrishMan go back to Ireland you dirty LEPRECHAUN, You know nothing about tribal and federal laws, and state compacts are illegal according to the Constitution on, please read the Article I, Section 8, And Owens if you want these so called special priveleges, lets go off scalping your people for money, rob their homes ,and then force your people to be raped, killed, and send them off to boarding schools so they can be raped and abused some more, but were not done yet we have to make sure your people become the very minority in which they were once the majority of their country, and then demonize them as a people and put them off reservations. If those are the special priveleges you want then go and get it.

newuser2924 at 11:14 AM February 12, 2013

The comments by Owens and airishman unfortunately demonstrate total ignorance, both in knowledge of U.S. law, and the too common practice of stating opinions without any knowledge of the facts. The facts are that the U.S. Constitution (easy to research) states that ALL relations between the U.S. government and individual Indian tribes are SOLELY between those entites - not states or other governments. Unfortunately Ronald Reagan's Indian Gaming Rights Act, which started the casino's without feedback from the tribes, violated the U.S. Constitution, but like many other pieces of legislation, if the primarily political players (the heads of both major political parties) smelled economic benefits to themselves, they had no problem bending the law. So when these issues come up, blame the feds of both major political parties, not the tribes.

John Owens2 at 7:50 AM February 12, 2013

The current indian relations laws are unconstitutional, and they have been since they were written. All men are equal. Period. Anything else is a society where special people receive special benefits. To believe that indians have special priveledges is no different than allowing slavery or indentured servitude. It is wrong no matter how you look at it.

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