

Howard E. Tommie

USET President

1973 - 1975

As Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I had the honor and pleasure of serving on the Board of the United South and Eastern Tribe, U.S.E.T.

The issues of the United States Native Americans were many, and because of the complexity of these issues, the founding group saw a need to strengthen our voice, and efforts to address these issues in a united way. There were a lot of issues, and the input and opinions of U.S.E.T. was respected throughout Indian nations.

When U.S.E.T. organized there were only four Tribes, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Choctaws of Mississippi, the Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina, and the

Miccosukee Tribe of Florida. These four Tribes were involved at that time. The U.S.E.T. Board and its staff worked with other national boards such as the Indian Educational Board, the Economical Development Board, Tribal Chairman Board, and the National Indian Health Board. U.S.E.T. also worked with the National Congress of American Indians in promoting a better life for its people on their respective reservations. I believe that U.S.E.T. was successful in many ways.

In 1973 through 1975, I was the elected President of the U.S.E.T. Board. As President, I worked with other Chairmen and Board members in an effort to relocate the U.S.E.T. headquarters from Sarasota, Florida to Nashville, Tennessee. At that time the Board also added to the organization the Chitimacha Nation, and the Coushatta Nation of Louisiana.

U.S.E.T and Indian nations realized that we, as Indian nations have to take action, and voice our opinions to strive for self-determination. I would like to thank U.S.E.T. It was an honor and pleasure to have served on the Board.

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