

GREAT LAW OF PEACE KAIANEREKOWA

of the Haudenosaunee, Iroquois Con-
federacy
(Founded by the Great Peacemaker, 10th
— 15th Century)

Opening Oration (Wampums 1,2,3)

I am, [the Peacemaker]...with the statesmen of the League of Five Nations, plant the Tree of Peace...Roots have spread out... their nature is Peace and Strength. We place at the top of the Tree of Peace an eagle... If he sees in the distance any danger threatening, he will at once warn the people of the League. If any man or any nation outside the Five Nations shall obey the laws of the Great Peace...they may trace back the roots to the Tree...[and] be welcomed to take shelter. The smoke of the Council Fire of the league shall ever ascend and pierce the sky so that other nations who may be allies may see the Council Fire of the Great Peace [the eternal flame of liberty at the center of the United Nations].

Wampum 9. Grand Council 10-X, TLL

*Powers are Vested in the Elder
Brothers and Younger Brothers*

1. All the business of the Five Nations Confederate Council shall be conducted by the combined bodies of the Confederate [Chief Statesmen]. First the question shall be passed upon by the Mohawk and Seneca [Chief Statesmen - the Elder Brothers], then it shall be discussed and passed by the Oneida and Cayuga [Chief Statesmen, who later added the Tuscarora, thus the Confederacy became th Six Nations].

Wampum 17. Grand Council Selection of Chief Statesmen

1. The right of bestowing the title [of Chief Statesman] shall be hereditary in the family'...the females of the family have the proprietary right to the [Chief Statesmanship] title for all time to come...(thus the women nominate the chiefs who hold office as long as the women judge him to be fulfilling his responsibility.

Qualifications of Chief Statesmen

Wampum 27. All [Chief Statesmen] of the Five Nations Confederacy must be honest in all things...men possessing those honorable qualities that make true royaneh [chief statesmen, literally "noble leaders who walk in greatness"]. [There are no age limits, but statesmen with a family and are citizens of one of the Five, now Six Nations, with exception to the Pine Tree Chief. The clan mothers and women evaluate who is qualified to be a chief statesman.]

Wampum 53. When the Royaneh women, holders of a [chief statesman] title, select one of their sons as a candidate, they shall select one who is trustworthy, or good character, of honest disposition, one who manages his own affairs, supports his own family, if any, and who has proven a faithful man to his Nation.

Apportionment of Chief Statesmen

[The number of Chief Statesmen was set by the Peacemaker, not apportioned by population. No direct taxes existed. Slavery was illegal. The idea of some people being considered less than whole was foreign

U.S. Constitution

Constitution of the
United States
(In Convention,
September 17, 1787)

Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I. Legislative Department Section I. Congress

Powers are Vested in Senate and House

1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. House of Representatives Election of Representatives

1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the Legislature.

Qualifications of Representatives

2. No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state which he shall be chosen.

Apportionment of Representatives

3. Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to their whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.

The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five and Georgia three. (This clause has been superceded, so far as it relates to representation by Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.) Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to



and never accepted.

Note "Indians not taxed" were considered separate, a status still widely asserted and defended.]

"According to the great immutable law the Iroquois confederate council was to consist of fifty rodiyaner (civil chiefs) [or Chief Statesmen]" (Parker, p. 10): Elder Brothers:

Onondaga [Many Hill Nation] — 14

Mohawk/Ka-nin-ke-a-ka

[People of the Flint] — 9

Seneca — 8

Younger Brothers:

Oneida [People of the Standing Stone] — 9

Cayuga [People of the Pipe] — 10

Tuscarora added in 18th cen.

Number of Chief Statesmen: 50

[Tuscarora, Delaware, Saponi, Tutelo and Nanticoke speak through the Younger Brothers]

Vacancies

Wampum 19. When the [Chief Statesman] is deposed [or vacates position] the women shall notify the [Grand Council] through their [runner of their clan], and the [Grand Council] shall sanction the act. The women will then select another of their sons as a candidate and the [Chief Statesmen]

Chiefs of the Grand Council — Speaker of the Grand Council

Wampum 14. When the Council of the Five [Six] Nations [Chief Statesmen] convene, they shall appoint a speaker for the day. He shall be a [Chief Statesman] of either the Mohawk, Onondaga or Seneca Nation. The next day the Council shall appoint another speaker, but the first speaker may be reappointed if there is no objection, but a speaker's term shall not be regarded more than for the day.

Chiefs of the Grand Council — Impeachment

Wampum 19. If at any time it shall be manifest that a [Chief Statesman] has not in mind the welfare of the people or disobeys the rules of this Great Law, the men or the women of the Confederacy, or both jointly, shall come to the Council and upbraid [unseat] the erring [Chief Statesman] through [a man who has no pity].

Wampum 5. The Elder Brothers

Number of Chief Statesmen

The Council of the Mohawk shall be divided into three parties [each has 3 chiefs totalling 9 chiefs] [The Council of the Seneca shall be divided into 4 parties [each has 2 chiefs totalling 8 chiefs].

[Together, the Mohawk and Seneca parallel the Senate. The chiefs are chosen by the women and hold the position as long as they serve faithfully. Each has an equal voice, but decisions are formed by consensus.]

Clans and Consanguinity

Wampum 42. Among the Five Nations and their posterity there shall be the following original clans: Great Name Bearer, Ancient Name Bearer, Great Bear, Turtle, Painted Turtle, Standing Rock, Large Plover, Little Plover, Deer, Pigeon Hawk, Eel, Ball, Opposite-Side-of-the-Hand, and Wild Potatoes. These clans distributed through their respective Nations, shall be the sole owners and holders of the soil of the country and in them is it vested as a birthright. (94-XI, EUC).

any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Vacancies

4. When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

Officers of the House —

Speaker of the House

5. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers;

Officers of the House —

Impeachment

and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate

Number of Senators

1. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

(Superseded by Amendment XVII) Proposed May 13, 1912; ratified April 8, 1913; certified May 31, 1913.

Classification of Senators

2. Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

(modified by Amendment XVII)

Qualification of Senators

3. No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

President of Senate

4. The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

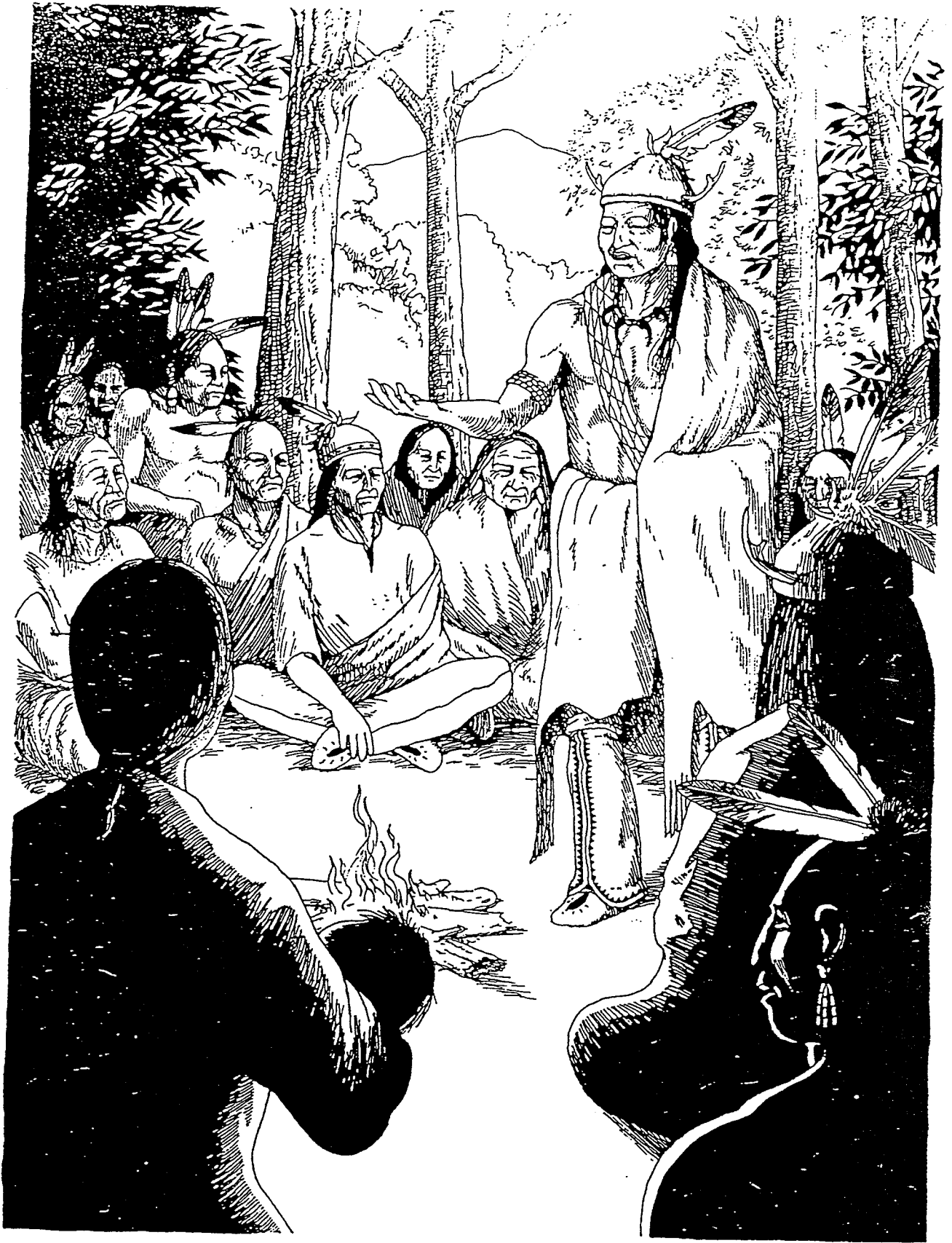
Officers of Senate

5. The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro Tempore, in the absence of the Vice President or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

Trial of Impeachment

6. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried the Chief Justice shall preside





Haudenosaunee delegates meet with American representatives to discuss the Great Law of Peace, circa 1776.



Wampum 44. The lineal descent of the people of the Five Nations shall run in the female line.

Women shall be considered the progenitors of the Nation. They shall own the land and the soil.

Men and women shall follow the status of the mother. (60-LX, TLL).

Wampum 45. The women heirs of the Confederate [Chief Statesman] titles shall be called Royaneh (Noble) for all time to come. (61-LXI, TLL).

Wampum 46. The women of the Forty Eight (now fifty) Royaneh families shall be the heirs of the Authorized Names for all time to come.

Wampum 35. Election of Pine Tree chiefs — Should any man of the Nation assist with special ability or show great interest in the affairs of the nations, if he proves himself wise, honest and worthy of confidence, the Confederate [Chief Statesmen] may elect him to a seat with them and he may sit in the Confederate Council. He shall be proclaimed a *Pine Tree sprung up for the Nation* and be installed as such at the next assembly for the installation of the [Chief Statesmen]. (LXVIII-68, TLL).

Qualifications of Chief Statesman

Wampum 24. The [Chief Statesmen] of the Confederacy of the Five Nations shall be mentors of the people for all time. The thickness of their skin shall be seven spans — which is to say that they shall be proof against anger, offensive actions and criticism.

Their hearts shall be full of peace and good will and their minds filled with a yearning for the welfare of the people of the Confederacy. With endless patience they shall carry out their duty and their firmness shall be tempered with a tenderness for their people. Neither anger nor fury shall find lodgement in their minds and all their words and actions shall be marked by calm deliberation. (33-XXXIII, TLL).

Wampum 27. All [Chief Statesmen] of the Five Nations must be honest in all things. They must not idle or gossip, but be men possessing those honorable qualities that make the true royaneh. It shall be a serious wrong for anyone to lead a [Chief Statesmen] into trivial affairs, for the people must ever hold their Lords high in estimation out of respect to the honorable positions. (45-XLV, TLL).

Speaker of the Grand Council

Wampum 14. When the Council of the Five [Six] Nation [Chief Statesmen] shall convene they shall appoint a speaker for the day. He shall be a [Chief Statesman] of either the Mohawk, Onondaga or Seneca Nation.

Chief Statesmen of the Elder Brothers

Wampum 3. To you Adódarhoh, the Onondaga cousin [Chief Statesmen], I have entrusted the caretaking and the watching of the Five Nations Council Fire.

Trial of Impeachment

Wampum 19. If at any time it shall be manifest that a [Chief Statesman] has not in mind the welfare of the people or disobeys the rules of this Great Law, the men or the women of the Confederacy, or both jointly, shall come to the Council and upbraid the erring [Chief Statesman] has not in mind the welfare of the people through the War Chief is not heeded the first time it shall be uttered again and then if no attention is given a third complaint and warning shall be given. If the [Chief Statesman] is still disobedient the matter shall go to the council of War Chiefs. (66 — LXVI, TLL).

And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present

Judgment on Conviction of Impeachment

7. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

Section 4. Election of Senators and Representatives — Meetings of Congress Election of Members of Congress

1. The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

(See Amendment XX)

Congress to Meet Annually

2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

(Changed to January 3d by Amendment XX)

Section 5. Powers and Duties of Each House of Congress Sole Judge of Qualifications of Members

1. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and undersuch penalties as each House may provide.

Rules of Proceedings — Punishment of Members

2. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Journals

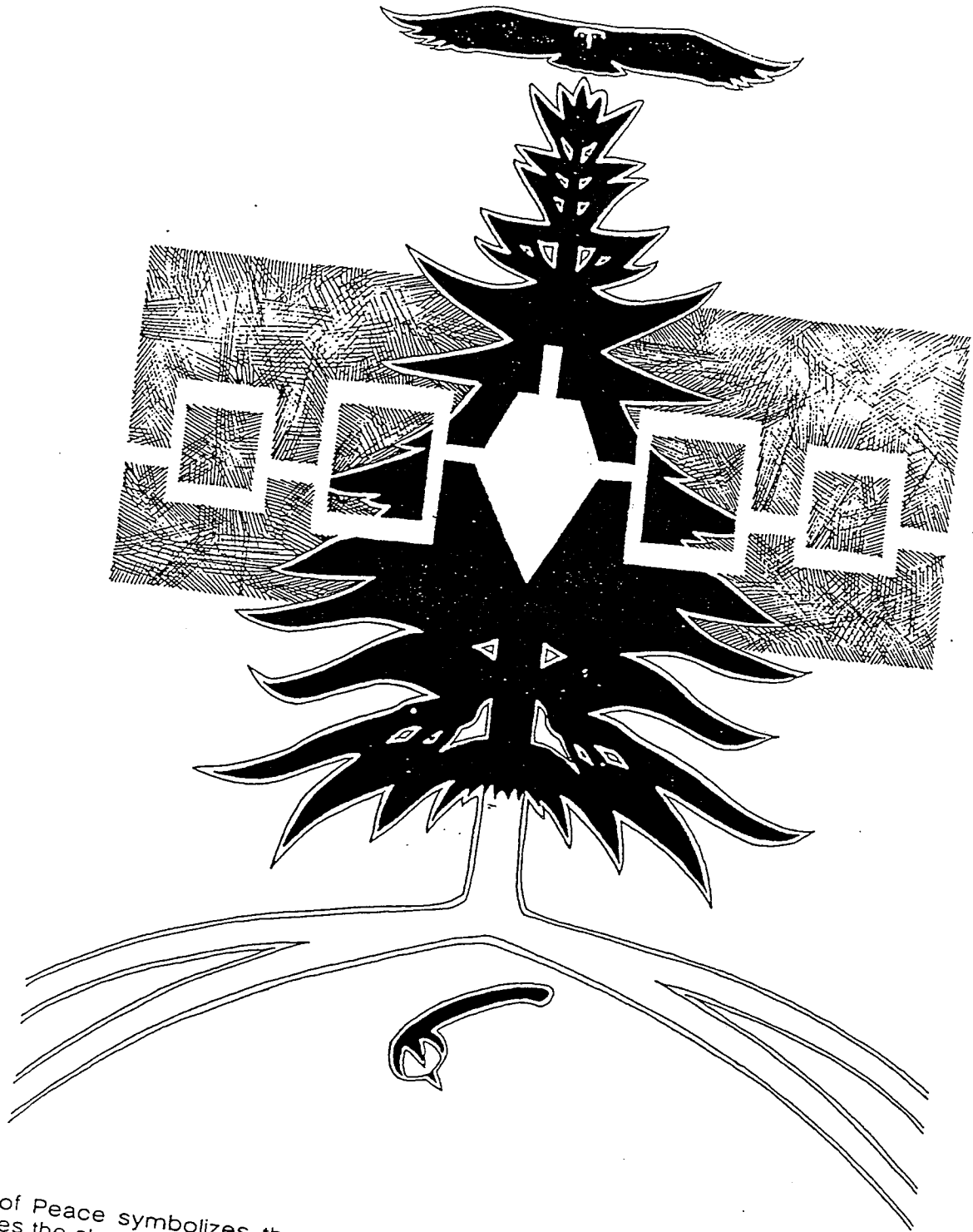
3. Each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgement require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of each House on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal.

Adjournment

4. Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. Compensation.





The Tree of Peace symbolizes the Great Law which "pierces the sky" for all nations to see. The four white roots extend to the furthest parts of the earth; beneath the tree are buried all weapons of

war while the eagle watches for approaching dangers. The Ailonwatha wampum belt signifies the binding together of the five original Haudenau-saunee nations.



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