ABSTRACT

Ensuring the rights of Native American has been an issue for so long in the history of U.S. politics. This is because the issue has been prolonged, even long before the United States stands, precisely since the colonial era. Native American's life changed dramatically when the explorers from Europe began to discover America in the late 15th century. They deal with the problems with many European immigrants who have coming and settling in America, which became known as the white community. Moreover, Native American also have to deal with government policies that seek to get rid of and assimilate them into the cultures of white community. The election of Barack Obama as president in 2009, then become a new hope in the effort of ensuring the rights of Native American. Obama's background as an Afro-American raises a question: whether his leadership would positively impacts the lives of Native American. One of Obama's efforts to achieve this goal is the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) of 2010. Through TLOA, Obama seeks to resolve the problems that occur in Indian Country, especially law enforcement.

In this research the author attempted to explain the actors who encourage the issuance of TLOA, as well as how the political dynamics that led the U.S. government issued this policy to ensure the rights of Native American. Through the pluralist model in public policy analysis, it was found that Barack Obama as the government elite (internal) and the National Congress of American Indians as interest groups (external) influence on the legalization of TLOA. Obama's background and his goal to realize the American Dream became the impetus for the American government in setting TLOA. The theory of interest groups in policy-making can also explain the role of NCAI as part of the American democratic political system in encouraging the issuance of this policy.

Keywords: Barack Obama, native Americans, NCAI, rights, TLOA