

Senate of the United States

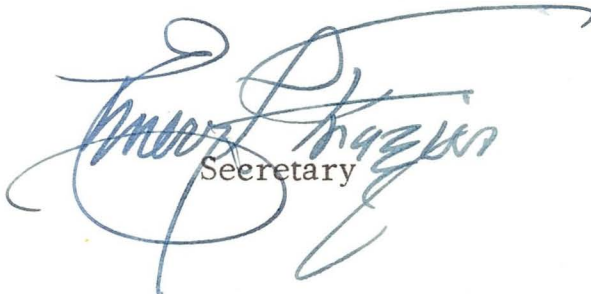
IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

April 13, 1966

Resolved, That the Senate advise and consent to the following nomination:

Robert LaFollette Bennett, of Alaska,
to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Attest:



Secretary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 89

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Recognizing the outstanding
6 service and ability of Mr.
7 Robert L. Bennett and endorsing
8 him for the position of United
9 States Commissioner of Indian
10 Affairs.

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

12 WHEREAS Mr. Phileo Nash has resigned as United States Com-
13 missioner of Indian Affairs; and

14 WHEREAS it is of paramount importance to the United States
15 and particularly to all Indians of the United States that the
16 person selected to replace the commissioner possess the greatest
17 possible ability and competence; and

18 WHEREAS the Legislature of the State of Alaska has had ample
19 opportunity to carefully assess the abilities and competence of
20 Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Alaska Area Director of the Bureau of
21 Indian Affairs for four years; and

22 WHEREAS Mr. Robert L. Bennett, in his handling of the complex
23 and profound problems involved in the administration of Indian
24 affairs and in his 32 years' experience with the Bureau of Indian
25 Affairs, has proven himself to possess ability and competence of
26 the highest level;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska
28 endorses the Honorable Robert L. Bennett for the position of
29 United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

1 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable
2 Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable
3 Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Wayne
4 N. Aspinall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular
5 Affairs; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Com-
6 mittee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and the Honorable E. L.
7 Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and
8 the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of
9 the Alaska delegation in Congress.

IN THE SENATE

BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Extending congratulations to
the Honorable Robert L. Bennett.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS the programs of the Department of the Interior executed through the Bureau of Indian Affairs are of vital interest to Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaskans have a continuing interest in appointments to the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS the President has nominated the Honorable Robert L. Bennett to the post of Commissioner; and

WHEREAS the Honorable Robert L. Bennett served with distinction as the Alaska Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs;

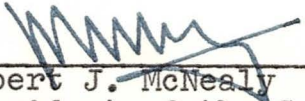
BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that congratulations and best wishes for a productive administration are extended to the Honorable Robert L. Bennett on his nomination for the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Authentication

The following officers of the Legislature certify that the attached enrolled resolution, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13
_____, was passed in conformity with the requirements of the constitution and laws of the State of Alaska and the Uniform Rules of the Legislature.

Passed by the Senate March 25, 1966



Robert J. McNealy
President of the Senate

ATTEST:



Evelyn K. Stevenson
Secretary of the Senate

APR 5 1966

Senator Jackson
April 1966

Mr. Bennett, according to a press account in the Washington Evening Star of March 22, 1966, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to be reorganized and enter a new period in its history. Can you tell us your plans in this regard.

Mr. Bennett, a number of Senators have expressed concern about the Indian situation and the direction it seems to have taken over the past several years. I have asked the staff to prepare for us the annual appropriation figures for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for the Indian Health Service, going back several years, together with some information about the number of employees in these two branches. I think it is plain to see that the two bureaus have grown very substantially in recent times and that the funds available to them have reached a new high with each passing year.

In Fiscal Year 1967, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is asking for \$238,500,000 and the Indian Health Division for almost \$88 million, which totaled together is a little over one third of a billion dollars. Moreover, it is estimated that about 1,200 additional employees will be hired so that we will have about 22,000 people looking after 380,000 Indians.

Within the past couple of weeks two Indian articles were published in the Washington Post and the New York Times, one of which is captioned "For the Indian: Squalor in the Great Society" and the other one, "Degredation behind the War Paint". I find it amazing that after all these years of supervision and the expenditure of \$1.5 billion since 1961 that conditions described in these articles could exist on the reservations. They raise the question whether we are pursuing, and have been pursuing, the correct policy.

According to a news release of July 10, 1964, the Secretary of the Interior instructed superintendents of Indian reservations to submit reports of 10-year plans "to raise the standard of living on Indian reservations..." Can you tell the Committee, is this a part of the reorganization planning and long-term thinking about Indian reservations, and can you give us some idea of what costs would be involved in it?

CONGRESSIONAL POLICY

In the 83rd Congress there was adopted H. Con. Res. 108, which among other things expressed it to be the policy of Congress:

"...as rapidly as possible, to make the Indians within the territorial limits of the United States subject to the same laws and entitled to the same privileges and responsibilities as are applicable to other citizens of the United States, to end their status as wards of the United States, and to grant them all of the rights and prerogatives pertaining to American citizenship... Indians within the territorial limits of the United States should assume their full responsibilities as American citizens...."

About six tribes of Indians were separated as a result of that resolution, but in recent years there has been virtually no legislation recommended by the Department of the Interior to provide for withdrawal of other tribes who are ready for such action. Let me refer you to House Report No. 2680 of the 83rd Congress, page 3, where there is set forth a list of tribes that were found by the Bureau itself qualified for full management of their own affairs. The House Committee stated that administrative steps should be taken to effect discontinuance of further operation of the Bureau on those reservations. That was 12 or 13 years ago and almost nothing has been done. Even where this Committee has specifically requested legislation that would bring about withdrawal, we have been unable to get it from the Bureau. I point to three acts in the 88th Congress

affecting the Pawnees, the Kalispels, and the Flandreau Santee Sioux. In each case, the Committee's report said "It is the sense of the Committee that the Tribe should be moved toward termination of Federal supervision. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is requested to recommend at the earliest time legislation to accomplish this purpose." Nothing has been received to date.

I would like to have your views about H. Con. Res. 108 and whether, as Indian Commissioner, it will be your policy to recommend to Congress terminal legislation where that action seems appropriate?

I also want to mention the Colville situation and the 10 years we have spent trying to get something done about them. If ever there was a situation where Indians have demonstrated their desire to get out from under the government, that is it. Yet we have had minimal cooperation from the Bureau in trying to do it. We got a substitute proposal for termination that would put the Bureau in there forever and saddle the tribe with a debt it couldn't pay off and didn't want. We have passed a bill the tribe supports and would like to have enacted, but we have had virtually no help in achieving that objective even though the Colvilles are pleading for it. What is your position in the Colville situation?

The Indian Claims Commission, according to a news release dated January 19, 1966, has awarded a total of \$65.8 million in judgments to Indian tribes during calendar year 1965. We have had a number of bills come to us that would authorize the distribution and use of these moneys. In all, almost \$200 million has been awarded by the Claims Commission since 1951, and I think we can expect that in the years to come more and more cases will be adjudicated, judgments awarded, and appropriations made. They will amount to a very sizable

sum of money for some tribes, less for others, but these funds afford a wonderful opportunity to plan and program on reservations for individual Indians and hopefully get them started on their own, independent of Bureau supervision.

Two years ago 150 members of the Kalispel Tribe received \$2.5 million and the Bureau had paid absolutely no attention to them until they got the money. Then the sociologists, the planners, and the spenders came out in droves. This Committee disagreed with some of the tribe's proposed program and adopted a resolution trying to set a new pattern of placing the excess judgment funds with a private trustee so that the Indians could have the experience of dealing with non-governmental advisors. A copy of this resolution was sent to the Department, and I am not sure what has happened -- whether any per capita's were ever made, or whether the remaining funds have in fact been placed with a private trustee. I would like to discuss this approach with you and have your ideas about it.

The pattern has been established that additional legislation will be required in order for these judgments to be used. This offers the Committee and the House Committee an opportunity to take a look at these tribes individually to see what kind of progress they have made as well as where they want to go in the future, but we cannot do that unless we have some information from the Bureau, and I must say past reports on distribution bills have been grossly deficient in telling us about the economic, social, and educational advancement of the Indians in recent years and what their needs are. Consequently, it has not been possible for us to plan for adjustments in their legal relationship with the Federal Government. I wonder if we could have an understanding that you would furnish up-to-date information about all these tribes, including those whose distribution bills are now before us, and also give us Bureau appraisals of the ability of these tribes and their individual members to manage their own affairs.

HEIRSHIP

Senator Church, the former Chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee, tried for a long time to get curative legislation on the fractionated land issue. We studied and held hearings on heirship bills for five years and finally the Senate passed corrective legislation in 1963, but the bill died. I think we all agree that the Indian land base must be reworked in such a way as to afford those who want to remain on it units of sufficient size to afford a decent living. Secondly, we need to reduce the bookkeeping operation on these infinitesimal inherited shares as well as the cost that the bookkeeping involves, and I suggest that the Bureau's use of computers to meet the problem is not the proper answer. Now how can we begin? What can the Bureau do in furnishing us legislation? Personally, I would think that Senator Church's proposal of the 88th Congress would be the logical point from which to begin. What are your suggestions?

EDUCATION

Several members of the Committee have expressed to me a deep concern about the education of Indians, and they will have questions in specific areas that they will address to you. But I would like to point out that in 1956 we enacted Public Law 702, directing the Secretary to conduct a study and investigation of Indian education in the United States. As far as I know, the study has not been made, and I do not believe any money has ever been requested to initiate it. What do you think about the desirability of such an investigation and what do you see as our long-range goals in this field?

INDUSTRIAL

I am concerned about the actual success of industrial development on reservations -- the extent to which industries are being encouraged to come onto reservations, closing up their factories in other

communities in order to employ Indians through what is, in fact, a government subsidy.

I note in the Department's Conservation Yearbook, it states on page 65:

"But many Indian reservations are located in regions where few if any industrial or business opportunities exist. The Bureau can and does build roads and bridges, and underwrites the cost of irrigation projects and agricultural extension services. But the more development work it does in cooperation with tribal governments, the more apparent it becomes that today's business and industrial economy is still far from the reservation world."

Now, it is well known that this country is enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity. Job opportunities are abundant in many places. Congress has provided a vocational training program especially designed for Indians and has funded it so that these people can be trained in skills that will permit them to earn their livelihood. To what extent do you think the Bureau should be encouraging Indians to leave their reservations for these job opportunities so that the unemployment among Indians, which has been reported as high as 40%, can be sharply reduced?

INDIAN TRIBAL RIGHTS

In the 88th Congress, Senator Allott introduced S. 156. The purpose of the bill was to provide that regardless of any tribal ordinance, constitutional provision or law no Indian could be deprived of membership in an Indian tribe if he was otherwise qualified because of his non-residence on the reservation. The bill also provided that members of tribes living off the reservation could not be denied participation in tribal elections or other matters affecting the use of the tribal estate. Further, section 3 of the bill provided that no tribal constitution, ordinance or law could prevent an Indian from taking by devise an interest in trust property because he was not a member of the tribe where the land is located.

This piece of legislation was designed to overcome some very serious difficulties in Indian affairs and was warmly endorsed by a number of tribes. It is well known that a very substantial percentage of the total Indian population is living away from the reservation, and oftentimes these people are completely unaware of the actions being taken by tribal officers with the tribal estate in which they have an undivided interest. It is probably true that many Indians who otherwise would be willing to relocate to some other part of the country are reluctant to do so because they are afraid that tribal claims and revenue from other sources will not be divided among all the members and, therefore, they won't get their share or benefit in other ways. Some device must be found to protect the interests of these off-reservation people, particularly when the government is actively pursuing programs to relocate Indians to areas where there is employment. What are your views on this subject?

MARK ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NORTH DAKOTA

DISTRICT OFFICES:
302 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AREA CODE 701: 232-8030

FEDERAL BUILDING
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
AREA CODE 701: 774-8601

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
AREA CODE 202: 225-2611

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

April 1, 1966

Mr. Garmann Jorgenson
Rolla
North Dakota

Dear Garmann:

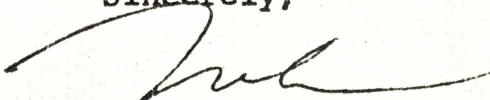
Thank you very much for sending me the picture-
folio showing my visit to the Turtle Mountain
Reservation last fall.

I assume you sent a similar folder to Congressman
Haley, and if you did not, please let me know as
I would like to share mine with him, since I know
he will be most interested also.

Once again, I am most appreciative of the trouble
you went to compiling this booklet. Hopefully, this
year will see some more positive steps toward solving
some of the problems we were witness to at Turtle
Mountain.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



MARK ANDREWS
Member of Congress

MA:jf

Sheldon Jackson Junior College

Sitka, Alaska

Office of the President

April 1, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

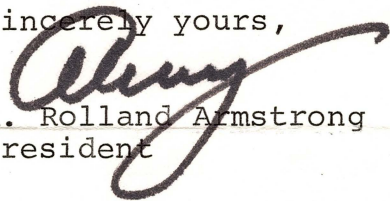
Today your name will be before the Senate Committee for confirmation.

I want you to be aware that I hope this will be accomplished and that you will have this very important position in the life of our nation.

We will be thrown into closer contact than we were formerly in late 1966 or early 1967 when I anticipate being stationed at Window Rock in Arizona. I am sure you will be there many times and hope you will find our home a place where you can slip away from the duties and visit.

Best regards to your wife and family.

Sincerely yours,


R. Rolland Armstrong
President

h

Please reply by Air Mail

Confidential

April 1, 1966

Memorandum to the Secretary:

Stewart, I cannot convey to you in adequate words the fine impression Bob Bennett made this morning in the 2-1/2 hour confirmation Senate Interior hearings. The Chairman and I personally talked a few minutes ago and he said that every Member was impressed with Bob's sincerity and candor.

The actual approval is being deferred until each Senator and Bob Bennett have had an opportunity to edit the entire proceedings since they want the confirmation hearings made a part of the record in confirming him. I am certain this will be a unanimous committee vote.

I have advised Henry Wilson.

Bob

Robert C. McConnell

Copy to: The Under Secretary
Assistant Secretary Anderson
Orren Beaty
Bob Bennett ✓

Statement of Harry R. Anderson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee, I am the Assistant Secretary having general responsibility for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is my pleasure as the representative of the Secretary of Interior, Stewart L. Udall, to present to the Committee the President's nominee for the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Bennett has held important positions in the Bureau at all levels of operation and being an Indian himself has an insight and understanding of the people.

Mr. Udall feels that Mr. Bennett can give the Bureau of Indian Affairs the leadership which it needs to help Indian people accelerate their transition process. His familiarity with the operations and organization of the Bureau should be helpful as he makes those changes in that organization so that it can carry out its mission with greater efficiency.

Mr. Bennett has a reputation in the Department of the Interior for being an idea man and this coupled with his administrative ability should make it possible for him to proceed with his task with imagination and speed.

I expect to work with him and support him, and during the short time he has been here we have developed a good spirit of cooperation between his office and mine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

JAMES A. HALEY
7th Dist., Florida

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
ROOM 1235 LONGWORTH BUILDING
(NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING)

HOME ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 1053
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOSPITALS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
NAVAJO-HOPI INDIAN
ADMINISTRATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

April 4, 1966

WASHINGTON STAFF:
MISS ALICE MYERS
PALMETTO, FLORIDA

MRS. MARILEE B. MACNICHOL
RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

DISTRICT OFFICE:
BARTOW, FLORIDA
R. ELMO HOOD

Mr. Garmann Jorgensen
Project Director
Work Experience Program
Title V
Rolla, North Dakota 58367

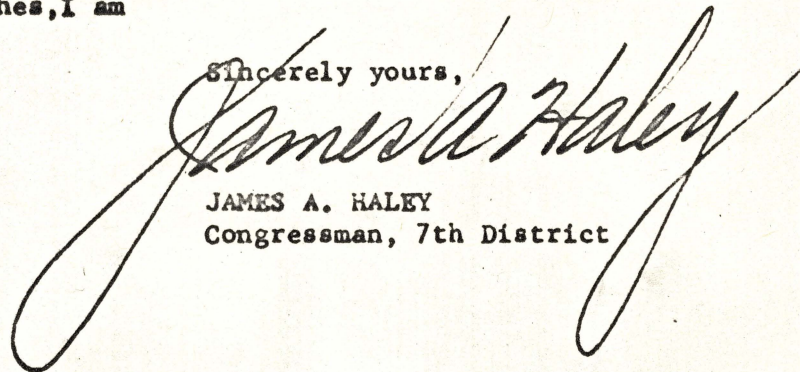
Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

Thank you very much for sending me the photograph album covering the Work Experience Program at Rolla, and the photographs that were taken when I visited you with my subcommittee staff last fall.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering me in this manner.

With good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



JAMES A. HALEY
Congressman, 7th District

JAH:amk

April 7, 1966

Hon. Mark Andrews
Member of Congress
1707 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Andrews:

I wish to thank you for your solitious inquiry as to my health, and inform you that I am feeling pretty good.

I did send a photo album exactly similar to yours to the Honorable James A. Haley, thinking he, too, would be interested in these pictures.

Your appeal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs on our behalf is bringing results and we will now enter into a cooperative agreement with them being able to place Title V trainees on part of their equipment.

I want to take this opportunity to express our thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Garmann Jorgensen
Project Director

GJ/gem

cc: George Sparrow, Title V Consultant, FWB
✓ J. Arthur Lazell, Information Officer for Special Services
Paul Nixon, Associate Regional Representative
Title V Office

Carson City, Nev.,
P.O. Box 186.
April 7, 1966.

A 4/13

APR 12 1966

APR 2 53 PM '66

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner Designate,
Bureau Of Indian Affairs,
Department Of Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In this area, those of us who are more or less aware of the intent of congressional emphasis on the policy of federal termination await with both senses of optimism and trepidation your elevation to high post of Commissioner. *the*

As the spokesman who initiated opposition which led to state adoption of opposition during the 47th, 48th and 49th sessions of the Nevada legislature, I am taking this means to appeal to you not to be a party in selling our race down the river.

You will note that most Indian treaties say: "in perpetuity" which also means that being two-party agreements, the Indian people have to be in favor of any such moves. To know Indians as they live, their aspirations and most important---their frustrations in being on the short end of everything in their relations with the federal government, you must be aware that the majority of the Indian people are not in favor of changing their lands to tax liability for which most are not economically prepared either in resources or in competency.

Here in western Nevada, we have the ~~Silases~~ Silases, Metoxens, Schenandores and Doxtators from Wisconsin. My wife is a Silas originally from West Depere, Wis. We also had a Clarence Powless whom I knew in Haskell who was teaching at the Stewart Indian school for several years .

The last Nevada resolution asking Congress not to push termination as it affects Nevada Indians emphasized that the Indians will in time recognize the feasibility of terminating federal trusteeship when their progress warrants. Then, it will be truly in the interests of all the people---the Indians, the state and counties. The lingering after-effects which preponderantly can be lumped as adverse of the Klamath Indians of Oregon serves as the most cogent basis for opposing termination as a unilateral policy. The action of the Nevada legislatures played a big part in the findings of task force that Pres. Kennedy appointed to study this policy led by Dr. Sol Tax of the University of Chicago. The recommendation was to deemphasize termination. Indian progress will be years in coming to requisite levels

(2)-Bennett.

It has been just comparatively recently that the federal government has provided aid for higher education for Indian youth which means that at least a generation will be gone before there will be any significant advances among the Indian people in the west.

Even the Navajoes with their spectacular advances in development of tribal resources will take years to meet requisite attainments to warrant termination. Just think of the Indian tribes who have nothing but sagebrush and rocks on their reservations and you will come pretty close to the answer.

This being the dictum of Congress I know you can't change it. There may be ways in which you might be able to get the message across to people who never have seen the Indians, their history which compromises everything this country professes to stand for.

Anyway, good luck to you. I am not advocating that you sacrifice your big opportunity of a lifetime for the sake of Indians if it cannot be done any other way, I am

Yours with utmost sincerity

Manwell R. Bender, Sr.

Manwell R. Bender, Sr.

NOMINATION OF
ROBERT LAFOLLETTE BENNETT
OF ALASKA
TO BE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS
ON THE
NOMINATION OF ROBERT LAFOLLETTE BENNETT
OF ALASKA
TO BE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1966

★(Star Print) 50-119

NOMINATION OF
ROBERT LAFOLETTE BENNETT
OF ALASKA
TO BE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HENRY M. JACKSON, Washington, *Chairman*

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, New Mexico

ALAN BIBLE, Nevada

FRANK CHURCH, Idaho

ERNEST GRUENING, Alaska

FRANK E. MOSS, Utah

QUENTIN BURDICK, North Dakota

CARL HAYDEN, Arizona

GEORGE MCGOVERN, South Dakota

GAYLORD NELSON, Wisconsin

LEE METCALF, Montana

THOMAS H. KUCHEL, California

GORDON ALLOTT, Colorado

LEN B. JORDAN, Idaho

MILWARD L. SIMPSON, Wyoming

PAUL J. FANNIN, Arizona

JERRY T. VERKLER, *Staff Director*

JAMES H. GAMBLE, *Professional Staff Member*

II



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1966

★(Star Print) 50-115

89TH CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

{ EXECUTIVE REPT.
No. 1

NOMINATION OF ROBERT LaFOLLETTE BENNETT TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1966.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JACKSON, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany the nomination of Robert LaFollette Bennett]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is unanimous in reporting favorably the nomination of Robert L. Bennett to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Although the hearing on this nomination was held on April 1, it was decided that action would be deferred until a written report could be prepared outlining committee views on the programs, policies, and general administration of Indian affairs during recent years. Your committee believes there are compelling reasons for departing from customary Senate practice and filing a written report on an Executive nomination. This report is not to be construed as a reflection on Commissioner Bennett who has not had the responsibility for the conduct of Bureau affairs. Rather, the committee feels it should elaborate on the numerous subjects discussed at the hearing which reflect the committee's dissatisfaction with the pace of progress in elevating the American Indian to a level of parity with other citizens of the country.

The Indian Bureau has been in operation for well over a hundred years, and since 1948 almost \$2 billion has been appropriated for the agency. In the last half dozen years alone, \$1.5 billion has been made available for Indian programs. The number of employees in the Bureau and the Indian Health Division has grown steadily until today there are about 22,000 people serving the needs of approximately 380,000 reservation Indians. For fiscal year 1967, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is asking for \$238,500,000 and the Indian Health Division for almost \$88 million, a total of nearly one-third of a billion dollars. It is proposed that an additional 1,200 employees be hired. Notwithstanding these burgeoning appropriations and the effort of so many thousands of employees, poverty and squalor continue to plague many reservations. We are shocked by this situation. That

Indians remain at the bottom of the economic ladder, have the highest rate of unemployment, live in the poorest housing, and suffer chronic poverty, is a clear indictment of past programs and policies pursued by the Bureau.

During the course of the hearing on Mr. Bennett's nomination, reference was made to a proposed reorganization of the Bureau. The committee notes that the Bureau has been reorganized at regular intervals over the past 25 years, yet none of these actions has resulted in a real uplifting of the American Indians. In an effort to combat poverty and other socioeconomic problems facing Indians, the committee urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cooperate to the maximum extent with other Government agencies to enlist existing and available Government programs for Indians and to counsel Indians to take advantage of these opportunities which are available to them as well as all other citizens. With the confirmation of Mr. Bennett as the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, it is expected that these long-standing problems will be attacked vigorously by executive action fully utilizing existing programs and, where needed, through legislation.

INDIAN CLAIMS

In 1946, Congress created the Indian Claims Commission to provide a forum before which tribes could bring their grievances and adjudicate their long-standing claims. The Commission has awarded almost \$200 million to claimants, and it is expected that soon many more judgments will result in substantial awards to other Indian tribes. These funds, which supplement regular appropriations for the operation of the Indian Bureau, provide an opportunity to program for individual and tribal advancement. In all instances where it is wise to do so, this money should be used to assist the Indians in planning complete independence from further Bureau stewardship, and the Bureau should take the initiative in this direction.

In 1964, the Kalispel Tribe received approximately a \$2.7 million award. Until that money was forthcoming, the Bureau had paid virtually no attention to nor performed services for these Indians. Suddenly, the Bureau came up with plans for their future. This committee disagreed with some of the proposed program and, in 1965, adopted a resolution recommending that a substantial portion of the judgment funds be placed with a private trustee so that the Indians could have the experience of dealing with nongovernmental advisers as does any other group of citizens. A copy of this resolution was sent to the Department of the Interior. To date we have heard nothing, but the committee believes this approach is sound and should be used in similar situations in the future.

The pattern has been established that additional legislative authorization will be required in order for judgments to be used. This offers this committee and the House committee an opportunity to appraise the current status of the tribes concerned and assess prospects for the future, but that cannot be done unless we have full information from the Bureau. Past reports on judgment distribution bills have been grossly deficient in reporting the economic, social, and educational levels of these tribes, or their needs for the future. We are requesting that the Indian Bureau immediately begin to furnish up-to-date reports on all tribes whose judgment distribution bills

are now before Congress, and provide Bureau appraisals of the capacity of these tribes and their individual members to manage their own affairs. Such reports should automatically accompany future distribution bills submitted to Congress.

HEIRSHIP

In 1961, after a thorough investigation of the extent of fractionated ownership of Indian allotments, a series of bills were introduced to aid in returning to single Indian ownership or to tribal ownership some 6 million acres of heirship land, much of which was nonproductive. In 1963, the Senate passed a workable bill, supported by a majority of tribes. It lacked wholehearted Bureau enthusiasm and was not acted upon in the House. The Bureau has given lip service to correcting this very serious administrative problem, but has made no discernible progress toward solving it. Therefore, the committee is requesting that the Bureau submit at an early date proposed legislation that will effectively and seriously meet this issue.

INDIAN EDUCATION

The committee is also concerned about the education of Indians. On April 1, 1966, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare testified before the Subcommittee on Education of the Senate Labor Committee that "in 1965, 16,000 Indian children between the age of 8 and 16 were not enrolled in school; half of them were forced to forgo education because of lack of facilities," and that "the dropout rate among Indians is 50 percent compared to a national average of 29 percent."

It is inexcusable that any Indian children should be without adequate classroom facilities. In 1956, Congress enacted Public Law 702, directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study and investigation of Indian education in the United States. The study has never been made, and the questions of the effectiveness of present programs and of our long-range goals in this field remain unanswered. If progress is not made, we must respectfully suggest that consideration should be given to the transfer of responsibility for Indian education to some other Federal agency until the States are prepared to take over this function.

UNEMPLOYMENT

American Indians are reportedly the most underemployed minority group in the United States. Indian Bureau programs to induce industry to locate on reservations through various Federal and tribal subsidies have often proved very questionable. On the other hand, we believe the special Indian relocation and vocational training programs which have been enthusiastically accepted should be expanded. In a time of unprecedented prosperity in the United States, there can be no excuse for high unemployment among Indians—and it can and must be sharply reduced. This is especially true when there is a growing demand for employable skills in the Nation's labor market. Today, with proper vocational education, guidance, and help Indian citizens can take their rightful place in our modern industrial economy.

OFF-RESERVATION INDIANS

Approximately 150,000 Indians now live away from their reservations. It is imperative that the rights of these people in the estate of the tribes of which they are members be protected and that they continue to have a voice in the election of tribal officials, the management of tribal property, and the use of tribal revenue. The committee believes that the failure of the Bureau to offer legislation to assure Indian voting rights in this regard has had the effect of discouraging them from seeking opportunities elsewhere lest they be deprived of their personal interests. Some legislative measure should be recommended by the Bureau to protect the interests of these off-reservation citizens, particularly when the Government is actively pursuing programs to relocate Indians to areas where employment is available.

OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL INDIAN PROGRAMS

As a result of legislation enacted in the 1950's, a few tribes were separated from supervision and control of the Indian Bureau and became an integral part of their respective States and communities, entitled to all the rights, privileges, and services applicable to their neighbors. In recent years there has been virtually no legislation recommended by the Department of the Interior to place other tribes or groups in a similar situation, even when this action would clearly be in the best interests of the Indians. House Report 2680 of the 83d Congress set forth a list of tribes who were found by the Bureau itself to be qualified for full management of their own affairs. The House committee expressed its opinion that steps should be taken to effect discontinuance of further operation of the Bureau on those reservations. In the intervening 12 or 13 years almost nothing has been done. If those tribes were prepared to go their own way more than a decade ago, the committee can only conclude that the Bureau is more interested in perpetuating its hold on Indians and their property than in bringing them into the mainstream of American life. Even when this committee in three specific instances requested legislation from the Bureau during the 88th Congress that would give these tribes the opportunity to be released from the web of paternalistic control and regulation, it was not furnished.

It is the Bureau's function to raise the educational and social well-being of the Indians, assist in developing their assets, and encourage them to handle their own individual and tribal affairs so that they may all eventually become self-sufficient citizens of our American society. Once that is achieved, special services should be discontinued. However, the Bureau should make certain that State and local governments are prepared to extend all of their programs to the Indians at such time that Federal supervision ceases. Notwithstanding the willingness of several States to do this, the Bureau has tenaciously held onto its wards, without whom it would have no reason to exist.

As an example of the problems faced by your committee, attention is drawn to the Colville Tribe in the State of Washington. This group of Indians, by majority expression, has stated over and over again that it wishes to be terminated from Federal supervision and control. The Senate, after several hearings, passed legislation last year that would bring about this result, but we have had minimal cooperation from the Bureau. While grudgingly endorsing the legislation, the Bureau proposed a substitute development plan that would have saddled the tribe with a timber mill it did not want, a huge debt it could not pay, and perpetuate Bureau supervision indefinitely. It seems to the committee that where a tribe takes the initiative in breaking ties with the Government, the Bureau should render every possible assistance. We expect this policy to be pursued under Mr. Bennett's administration.

ALASKA

During the course of the hearing on Mr. Bennett's nomination several problems involving Indians in Alaska were discussed. The committee recognizes that some of these problems are unique to that State. The most difficult issue relates to policies of the Bureau in connection with native land claims. Senator Gruening, of Alaska, has prepared additional views outlining the scope of this problem and has submitted an individual statement which is made a part of this report. The committee directs Commissioner Bennett to give prompt consideration to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The hearing on Mr. Bennett's nomination discloses a great number of unresolved Indian problems, and it is the committee's belief that it is in the full interest of our American Indians to pursue these matters until satisfactory solutions are found. The new Commissioner of Indian Affairs is requested to formally advise the committee, in writing, within 90 days following his confirmation of the steps he has taken to begin to meet the problems outlined herein, and to make periodic reports thereafter of progress achieved. The challenge is to him and, more broadly, to his Department. This committee does not intend to file this report and forget the problems raised nor the issues confronting this minority group of citizens. These Americans of Indian birth should no longer be denied the equal opportunities open to all in a free society. These descendants of our very first citizens should be freed from unnecessary bureaucratic entanglement and outdated concepts and allowed to take their long-awaited, rightful place in our national life.

The committee is impressed with Mr. Bennett's announced determination to meet this challenge, and urges the Senate to confirm his nomination.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF SENATOR GRUENING

ALASKA

The single most difficult problem in Alaska at this time directly related to policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the existence of native protests to State land selections and other claims to land on dubious grounds of aboriginal rights.

These protests, which now embrace approximately 15 million acres of land, have been encouraged and filed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. However, after these protests have been filed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department has refused to take any action whatever on them. The practical effect of the Department's refusal to act one way or another, either approving or dismissing these native protests, has been to paralyze the land selection program by the State of Alaska.

Under the Statehood Act, the State of Alaska is entitled to select 103 million acres of land. Although land selections have reached an acreage approximately equaled to that involved in native protests (although not in the same locations), the State has been able to obtain title to only about 3 million acres of land. A crucial factor in the slow progress of the State in land selections is the existence of protests that have been filed and, even more difficult, the policy of the Department of the Interior which would apparently make every acre of Alaska subject to questionable claims of right by native protests.

The following is a list of the protests known to have been filed with the Department of the Interior:

Area	Serial No.	Gross acreage of protest area	Area	Serial No.	Gross acreage of protest area
Lake Aleknagik ¹ -----	A-056255--	59,000	Gulkana ¹ -----	A-061646--	1,700,000
Minto ¹ -----	F-028755--	1,124,000		F-033429--	118,100
Nenana ¹ -----	F-030957--	² 2,790,000	Copper Center ¹ -----	A-062051--	1,200,000
Northway ¹ -----	F-028757--	2,274,508	Yakataga ¹ -----	A-062052--	260,000
Tanacross ³ -----	F-028758--	⁴ 3,142,700	Birch Creek ³ -----	F-031708--	948,860
Mentasta ¹ -----	A-061650--	22,400	Stevens Village ³ -----	F-031865--	1,682,000
	F-033402--	377,400			
			Total-----		⁵ 15,668,168

¹ Native protest only to State selection.

² 30,500-acre overlap of Minto.

³ Native protest to all claims.

⁴ 300-acre overlap of Northway.

⁵ 30,800-acre overlap has been excluded.

The first four of these protests (Minto, 207,300 acres; Northway, 2,274,508 acres; Tanacross, 1,684,480 acres; and Lake Aleknagik, 65,000 acres) were filed in 1961. In each of these cases, the Bureau of Land Management land officers at Anchorage and Fairbanks denied the protests. After these actions were taken on February 21 and 24, 1962, the Bureau of Indian Affairs appealed the denial of the protests to the Bureau of Land Management. Since that time no action whatever has been taken on these appeals.

The effect of the native protests, filed at the instigation and with the aid of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the subsequent refusal of the Department to act on them has been, in effect, the withdrawal of 15 million acres of Alaska from eligibility for selection, in addition to some 65 million acres otherwise withdrawn, and thus unavailable for State selection.

As noted above, besides the protests now on file, the same procedure could result in withdrawal of all acreage in the State from selection. This is thus completely negating the purpose of the land selection provisions of the Statehood Act. Economic development is frustrated and opportunities for commerce and industry in such fields as mining, lumbering, agriculture, and recreation, which would benefit native citizens together with others, are lost to Alaska.

This situation is producing economic and social paralysis in the State of Alaska and constitutes a repudiation by fiat of an executive agency of provisions of the Statehood Act enacted by the Congress. In effect, the Department of the Interior has arrogated to itself the legislative function of Congress by its refusal to act on land selections filed by the State.

Therefore, I recommend that the following actions should be taken by the Department of the Interior immediately:

- (1) Orders should be issued refusing the acceptance of any additional native protests.
- (2) The Secretary of the Interior should dismiss the protests now pending in the Department.

If it is the considered opinion of the Department of the Interior that a basis exists for assertion of valid native claims of right to land in Alaska which cannot be satisfied by existing provisions of law, the Department should present Congress with its proposals for necessary legislation. Such a legislative proposal should provide for compensation of such claims from funds in the Federal Treasury in lieu of awards of real property. Mr. Bennett, in his testimony at the preconfirmation hearing, expressed his view that land did not offer a solution to the Alaska natives' problems, a view which he had previously expressed in Alaska.

The validity of the claims and the amount of compensation should be determined by adjudication by a properly constituted body such as the U.S. Court of Claims (as in the case of the Tlingit-Haida claims), or such other adjudicatory body as might be preferable. I would personally be very happy if the right to such financial compensation could be established. This could be done without the objectionable interference with the State's land selection program.

APR 14 1966 4/14
150
Box 243
Fort Yates, North Dakota
April 11, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Acting Commissioner
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Indian people of our great country are so grateful for your becoming our Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We need a person who will hear our pleas in promoting effective measures in progressing our many American Indian people.

Our people need assistance and this lies in inter-cultural communication--better inter-cultural communication between our Indian people and the non-Indian educators.

We must educate ourselves -- not to change ourselves, but to become better Americans without losing our culture. We shall not separate from our race, nor shall we change ourselves to fit what others think we should be.

We have a place in society and it depends on what we want to make for ourselves.

I was fortunate to have obtained a copy of a preliminary proposal for research for the Standing Rock Sioux. In this proposal for research questions will be placed before our Indian people causing them to wonder why there is a high dropout rate of Indian students in colleges and to consider the possibility that our Bureau schools are really inferior to others. We are beginning to wake up to this. The enclosed letters are intended to show you what is turning in the Indian mind here on Standing Rock and we need your help to access whether these criticisms are justified and is so what can be done about it.

Mr. Bennett, may I write to you often and keep you informed about our problems here on the reservation. I will be so happy to send you photographs of the living conditions and writings of our problems.

God bless you in your new position. May your every step be guided according to His Will. I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Adelina Defender
(Mrs.) Adelina Defender

Enclosures

The Washington Post

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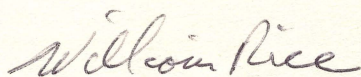
April 13, 1966

Mr. Faustine Head Tucson
Box 4
Southern Ute Reservation
Ignacio, Colorado

Dear Mr. Tucson:

The Senate committee
confirmed Mr. Bennett unanimously
and there is little question that
he will be confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Rice".

William Rice
Editorial Department

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR STEWART L. UDALL
AT HIS BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 14, 1966
(Unedited)

I did not come out here to give speeches. I came to listen more than to talk, and therefore I would like to make the opening remarks in the form of a beginning of a discussion rather than a set speech.

I plan to meet with the National Congress of American Indians tonight and I hope that my meeting with them is a free-for-all.

I think we are at a crucial turning point in terms of Indian administration and Indian affairs. I think that the time of the taking on of responsibility of a new Commissioner is always, in a bureau as big and important as this one, the time to sit down and reflect about policies and about where we go from here.

We cannot in the field, as in almost any other field, make policy and implement it on our own, particularly policy requiring new laws or appropriations. The Congress is our partner. We invited six or eight of the top Congressional leaders to join us for these discussions. Congressman Reifel is here. He is more one of you than anybody else in Congress, and I am delighted that he is going to be here for all four days. It is a great tribute to his devotion to the cause of Indian people, his willingness to come here and spend his time.

Senator Anderson will be joining us tomorrow and be with us most of that day. As the senior member of the Senate Interior

and Insular Affairs Committee and one who has had a long acquaintance with Indian problems, a lot of what I know about Indian affairs I learned from him.

Senator Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Committee, and Congressman Aspinall, Chairman of the House Committee, felt that it would be wise - and we concurred - to send to this meeting the Committee staff people who handle Indian legislation. We are delighted to have Jack Taylor and Jim Gamble. We welcome them to participate in these talks.

I want to make one thing plain to all of you. I know that the Indian Bureau has been kicked around in recent days. I know that some of you may feel at this point that you are damned if you do and damned if you don't, and so why stick your neck out? Let me offer this advice to you: Those of you who have worked with me and with Assistant Secretary Anderson and others know that we welcome critiques from all personnel. I hope this is one of the hallmarks of my administration. Criticism is always welcome. As I have said before, the man that I admire most - he might be a superintendent or an area director - is someone who tells me to my face that I am wrong and proves it. I welcome any comments, any observations, that you may have. That is one of the reasons for having this behind closed doors so we can have the freest possible discussion. As far as I am concerned, those of us at the head table are going to form our judgments of you by the contribution you make and the judgments you make. We want the freest possible exchange. I hope we break

down into informality - get on a first-name basis. Let's have an old fashioned free-for-all in the exchange of ideas. We will expect the Congressman and the Senator to pitch right in.

I want to say a few things about Bob Bennett, who was confirmed yesterday unanimously as new Commissioner. Confirmation of this man is very significant for the Bureau. This is the first time that any of us can remember that there has been a career Commissioner. Most of the time, as far back as any of us can remember, the Commissioner has not been selected from within the Bureau. He has been selected for a number of reasons, usually political, and we have had good ones and bad ones, weak ones and strong ones. I happen to think that Philleo Nash was one of the strong ones. In the main, his administration made good marks. But now we have a Commissioner who is two things: himself an Indian, and a product of the career service. I think this is a tribute to Bob Bennett and I expect great things of Bob Bennett.

I made some rather foolish remarks when I was selected as Secretary of the Interior. I now look back and realize that I sometimes took the role of being my own Indian Commissioner. Having had more than a passing interest and experience in Indian affairs for six years as a Congressman, I thought I knew more than I did, and I even thought that maybe one time I might even undertake that role. Bob, I want you and your staff to know that my job as Secretary is not going to be to try to be the Indian Commissioner. I think that if J., and Harry Anderson, and the other of the

secretariat, do our jobs right in backing you up, and making you the best Commissioner of this century, this is our objective. It is up to you to revitalize and reinvigorate the Bureau, to give new leadership to the Indian people, to give the type of leadership to the American people that will enlist the most effective possible cooperation from all segments of our system.

So we selected - the President and I - Bob Bennett as Commissioner because we felt that he was the best, or one of the best. I have liked what I have seen of Bob Bennett and I have had my eye on him longer than he knows. I liked the way he landed on his feet in Alaska and put some of the critics of the Indian people on the run in the very beginning. He said something rather significant the other day - that if a superintendent or area director did his job right, he probably would not be particularly popular with the Indian people. He said that, in making and carrying out the tremendous decisions that have to be made, it is necessary at times to push the Indian people themselves to make decisions, although this does not always make for popularity. But above all, the superintendent should seek to do what is right for the Indian people.

I hope that you will, as a Commissioner, be more interested in progress than popularity - the progress of the Indian people. I know that is your idea and concept and I want to reiterate that my job is to help you do the best possible job as Commissioner.

The President has approved a reorganization plan, as all of you know, that would transfer to the Department of the Interior the

water pollution control functions now in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This reorganization will take effect on May 10. I think in terms of giving the Department a new mission - a broad new role - of making the Department a Department of natural resources - that this is the most important decision any president has made since the Department was created in 1849. I am given to making rash statements on occasion. I have said that, if this new responsibility came to the Department, I expected to personally spend as much as 20-25% of my time on water pollution. I also made the statement that, to get you launched properly and to get the type of new interest that I would like to see in Indian affairs, I would spend more time this year on Indian affairs than I have spent in any of the other five years. One of my assistants said if I didn't watch out I wouldn't have any time left.

I think this is a very crucial point in Indian administration. I want to do what I can to support you. There are limitations to this, I know. And I know there has been the attitude in the past that the Secretary is too busy and should not be bothered and doesn't want to be bothered by Indian problems. This has not been the case. It is not the case. And we are ready to spend whatever time is necessary.

I am going to be more critical of those who take the view that the Secretary himself and the Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretary should not be involved. One of the last things that I did yesterday, was as a result of a suggestion from one of the tribes and their lawyer. It was to call on the president of a major corporation of

the country to help them establish a new private enterprise on one of the Indian reservations.

I expect at the Washington level to be seeing many of you in my office and in your offices with great frequency in the weeks ahead. Let me say a few things at this point about the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I want to make it plain at the beginning that in the main I am satisfied with the performance of the Bureau. However, as I said in my speech in Washington a few weeks ago when Mr. Bennett was nominated, I think there is room for improvement, and in some areas we can make some very substantial improvement. We are here today to talk about how we can make improvement, not only in terms of how the Bureau does its business - because this is not merely a problem of making day-to-day decisions but some new laws are needed - new programs are needed. I imagine one of the reasons the BIA ends up so much of the time as a scapegoat - is that it is easy to criticize. You don't have to criticize an individual - the Secretary or an area director - you simply say the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to blame. I think one of the most interesting things - Jim, I want to be very frank today about my own reaction to the Senate report that was filed earlier this week on Mr. Bennett's nomination. I think there are some points in that report that deserve to have been made, and that are very legitimate criticism. I think that maybe some of the criticisms that were made should have been made at me or the Department rather than the Bureau. I am willing to take such criticism.

I don't want to argue with the Senate report. Two weeks ago we spent two hours with them behind closed doors. Congressman Haley was there - the Commissioner and I and Jim Gamble - and 8-10 senators. They came and they stayed. We had a real let-your-hair-down session. It was a very good session. I think the Senate report might have been better. I am not criticizing it in that respect. I think we are all agreed that the big question is not of arguing over the mistakes that may have been made in the past, but where do we go from here?

Admit that we can quicken the pace of programs. I admit that the Department, not the Bureau but the Department, has not made some decisions that it should have made.

But it is going to be a very fruitful discussion to get in a dialogue where we are discussing old arguments. I would rather see this conference and our dialogue with the Congress, from this point on, not one of recrimination, but one with a constructive and positive approach. Let's see if we can frame new relationships with Congress, with the Indian leaders, and the Indian people in such a way that we can achieve the result that I think everyone is agreed upon. I don't think, in terms of long-term policy, that there is any great disagreement between me and most of the members of the Congress.

What new laws and programs are needed? I think this is the real creative area. My own criticism of the Bureau in terms of my own working relationship with it, is that I think at times it is lethargic. I would like it to be more responsive and quick.

One of the criticisms I have had of the Indian Bureau in the past is that it seemed to have a time clock of its own and it is hard to get the feeling that anything is urgent. I think it is this responsibility, this feeling that certain things are urgent, that is needed.

The Bureau has so many responsibilities. Unlike the other bureaus in my Department which have relatively easy jobs - running a national park - building a dam - you have the toughest job in the Department. You people, I would say, have one of the toughest jobs in government. You have to be generalists, and you can't be specialists. If any of you are specialists, you are not very well qualified.

I think that the Bureau has been like an army, spread thin over a very broad front. We do need to reorganize and concentrate with a great deal of effort in some areas. I want very frankly to discuss the whole water front because I think there is room for improvement all the way down. I think in terms of Congress. I served in the Congress for six years and I served on the Indian subcommittee. Congress itself can and should put forth more time and effort. There are very few congressmen that have spent the time Congressman Haley has spent getting out in the field, and I hardly think this is the fault of the Indian people themselves. How many times have they sat down recently with their Senators and Congressmen, have gotten them to the reservation and have gotten them involved? I think we can have a better dialogue and better relationship with the Congress. I think there is a responsibility

both ways, by working closer together. I want to be careful, having been a Congressman, to criticize Congress. They are part of the cutting edge. I'm surprised in a way, I look back over the last 12 years that I have been involved, how little initiative has come from Congress of new ideas, new legislation. I don't say there hasn't been some, but there has but very little. Congress itself could give more time and attention. Ben Reifel is present here for the four days of this conference. I asked him to come for maybe one or two days, but he came for four. This is an indication of the type of interest we have to have from Congress. As far as the Indian people themselves are concerned, I think they have been too content at times to make the Bureau a scapegoat. This is a game which they all play. There has been too much timidity. The leadership has been weaker than it needs be. I think that our Indian people must realize that the way to progress in this country is usually that of boldness and taking of risks, not of timidity. And I think that there is a lot of room for improvement, and I will discuss this more specifically with the Indian people this evening at the meeting of the National Congress of American Indians.

Several states and local governments are also responsible. Here is an area where there is room for improvement. There is more here than anywhere else. The attitude of most of the states and local governments still is "The Indian people are not our problem; let the Federal Government take care of them." How do we build a bridge of getting the Indian people involved with mainstream America if we have to contend with attitudes like this? I think there has

been progress made - I have been involved in some of it - with some of the State Governors. I remember, five or six years ago at Navajo, a big dispute arose - the legislature was going to pass some ridiculous law, and someone suggested going up and talking with the Indian people. They did that - the first time it was ever done - and the whole situation completely changed. We need a lot more of that.

If the states are to assume more and more some of the functions and responsibilities that the Federal Government carries, we are going to have to work more closely with them. And what about the American business community and the American academic community? Have they done their part in terms of the American Indian people? Everyone weeps for the American Indian but how many have put blood, sweat and tears in helping the Indian people? I wonder if this isn't a fertile field where we can reach out and bring the finest minds of the universities and big business. I will get more specific on this later. If we have failed to make progress - if we have failed to move as fast as we should - there is enough blame to go around. Unless all of the different elements that I have mentioned are willing to do their part, I don't think the Bureau and Department can do it all. I know we can't - you know we can't. Let's be frank about it. There is enough work for all of us to do if we work in concert.

But the thing that has, I think, done more to put all of us here on the spot and to challenge us is what has happened in the last

five years in this country of ours. This is the thing that disturbs me most of all and challenges me most of all. I think basically the Task Force report of five years ago is completely sound. We may need to move beyond it and update it, but look at the new waves that have washed ashore in the last five years. Our country has moved into an unprecedented period of peacetime prosperity. The increase in our gross national product in the past five-year period has been larger than the total GNP of most nations in the world. It has been that phenomenal. There has been an increase in income - in business products - yet in that period of rising economy the poverty question of which the Indian people are only a part, becomes more and more embarrassing. This is the reason President Johnson two years ago declared the War on Poverty. This is an inconsistency that is intolerable in a country as rich and wealthy and powerful as ours. The place we have really failed is in seeing that we are a different country than we were five years ago. The Indian people should be tied in to the great things that have been happening.

That is a special challenge to you, the Congress, and all the rest of us. No longer are the laws that might have been good five years ago necessarily appropriate now. For example, the Indians have had and do have the highest unemployment rate in the country, and I don't think we can be satisfied to bring it from 46% to 42% or whatever it might be. (I suspect we don't really know what it is and I will get back to that later.)

I think the Federal Government and the state and the local governments, if we are to really do something, will have to spend

more money. This year, of the several budgets I have been involved in, was our first hold-the-line budget we had to prepare. The overall increase for the Department was very small and some of the big glamour programs of the Department got cut back. The only program where there was an increase was the Indian Bureau. The increase was for Indian schools. I simply ask any of those wondering if we are spending too much money on the Indian people, where do you begin to cut? Someone says we are spending too much money. Which of the money is it that they would cut? School teachers? Roads? Let's get off the defensive on some of these things.

Just one rather dramatic fact. You talk about the development of the resources of this country. The Indian people have large land areas, some not the best, but some good. We have a reservation near here, the Navajo, as large as the State of West Virginia. I asked for the comparison of money spent on roads on Navajo and West Virginia last year.

Navajo	\$3 million
West Virginia	\$161 million
Navajo	1,000 road miles
West Virginia	32,000 road miles

You can say that West Virginia has a population of three or four or five million or whatever it is, and that in Navajo it is 100,000 and therefore there should be a difference. But you can take this and go right down the line. Because as I read it - and I spend more time under this President in bearing down on budgets and so does my Under Secretary - I got to know more about budgets than I ever expected to. If we really want to do something about Indian

development, it may be that the key to this is not simply looking to the Federal Government - that the big thing is to get the Indians into the money markets of the country - to the banks - into the economic mainstream. We will spend time on this while we are here.

So we do have a whole new focus, Bob. And I think it is a great challenge to you, to all of us here. Because we have a President who believes that having pockets of poverty in a country like ours is intolerable, a President who has an almost mystical belief in education. If you really give a first-rate education, then you can lick poverty. This is the President's philosophy.

I am not sure we have had the money to have a system of first-rate education. We have not been able - and I testified on this a few weeks ago - to get Indians in the big new quality education legislation that the Congress passed a year ago. We are a year behind. This would be giving us 7-8 millions for special enrichment programs to help these children who are so seriously disadvantaged. I will say tomorrow in our press conference what we are going to do in this field. I think maybe it is just as well that we be candid with ourselves and sort of pick ourselves up off the floor because we have no way to go but up.

Forget the past - where do we go from here? Get a smile on our faces and discuss things here and in the future in a way that will enable us to come up with creative new solutions.

I think the Indian people and the Bureau need new tools, new opportunity, new programs, building on the foundations that we have

built on the past. I want to say one thing about our new partner in the Indian business, the Office of Economic Opportunity. It has been charged that we were going to kick the OEO people off the reservations and I do wish our friends would talk to us before they misconstrue our remarks. I will discuss that because I think we need a lot more candor in our relations with the Indian people themselves. I think any good superintendent ought not to regard the OEO as an intrusive force and a divisive force in the picture. Take them in stride. And I think maybe having OEO in our midst makes us re-think things. Maybe they can help fill some of the gaps.

I think we want to develop teamwork - that we coordinate efforts. Part of your job is going to be to establish better working relationships with Sargent Shriver and OEO. I was with him at lunch yesterday. He is a good friend of ours.

We are going to have better relationships with some of the health people and the education people in HEW. Our relationships with the health people have been excellent. We have to have better bridges to other bureaus in this department and in other parts of the Federal Government. There has been too much of a feeling that the problems of the Indian is a problem of the Indian Bureau. We need to marshal the resources of the Federal Government - in education - housing. Then if we fail, we fail as a government, not just the Indian Bureau.

The problems are more subtle and we do need new patterns of teamwork. I will tick off some of them here:

There is the question of the reorganization of the Bureau. I want to discuss that with you, and I think we have reached some tentative judgments on this that will enable us to move more effectively in light of the new responsibility, the new focus on Indian problems. The question has been raised, too, with regard to the recruitment, training, and assignment of personnel in the Bureau. I have been wondering, particularly when I look at the organizations in my Department with the best esprit de corps - the Park Service, for example - they have two or three very good schools for their top personnel. They have one at the Grand Canyon, and one at Harper's Ferry. These are training programs. This is in part where the esprit de corps and the expertise develop. In terms of how you recruit and train and assign and assess performance, what can we do that would improve things?

The Indian Bureau needs a constant infusion of new blood - it might come from Peace Corps returnees. I talked to Jack Vaughn about this Tuesday. I think, as a group in terms of their idealism, their esprit de corps, the more of these young people we can get, the better.

We have got to discuss a very big subject: Where we are going from here in terms of tribal government, tribal responsibility. We have very exciting ideas that have already been put forth on this.

Then there is the question of development of Indian resources. This is one of the biggest challenges we face. When one looks at Indian resources today and one asks himself the question what IBM or AT&T or Standard Oil of New Jersey would do if they owned this

particular piece of land and these resources and you look at what we have done because of a lot of shackles we operate under, it is almost as much difference as between maximum and minimum.

I am convinced this is an area where we can get some home runs. We may need some new laws and some new help. I think the Indian trusteeship way that we have operated in the past has been like having hobbles and handcuffs on at the same time. How can a man swim like that? I hope to get Congressional support for new ideas.

Why shouldn't Indian people do like IBM with a piece of mortgaged land? The thing that encourages you most is when you see a tribe on the move and an attorney with a creative mind and a superintendent who is gung ho - let me illustrate this in terms of realizing maximum return rather than minimum return by the Indians. An example of it is at Colorado River Reservation in Arizona. But what do we do? Just lease the land out and get a little rent? Or do we do it in the maximum way? You can't mortgage Indian land. Why shouldn't Indians mortgage their land? This is the key to get into the money markets of the country. But they say it involves risks. Sure it does. Each of us who owns a home that is mortgaged runs a risk. Life is full of risks. The tribes say, what if we borrowed money and developed the land and had our own people use it, what would be the difference in the economy? The difference is probably five or ten or 20 times the return. The tribe possibly leases to a development corporation and the corporation pledges it to the bank and roundabout through the back door we get mortgaging going. Maybe the Indian people and the lawyers are going

to back away saying they don't want to do this. I simply suggest and this is one of the things I am going to talk to the Indian people about this evening.

The time has come to operate on our hopes instead of our fears. Why can't we pass a few laws and untie our hands and for the first time operate on the basis of hopes and assumptions that everyone will work together? This is the American way - this is the secret of success in this country. We dared to do anything we thought we could do even if someone thought it was impossible.

As I think that the Senators and members of the House realize - the land trusteeship problems of the Federal responsibility have been in many ways one of the most inhibiting things. It has been inflexible, rigid.

I am not at all sure whether we can develop proposals and get together with them with the Congressional leadership. I wish I could be optimistic in my usual way. I am optimistic. Maybe we can do it. If we can't do it, I think it means that we will inevitably fail in one of the big tasks we face. The Indian resources, as all of you know better than I, range everywhere from Palm Springs to the poorest reservations that have really the worst - the lowest - standard of living in the United States. And yet we could single out ten or twelve reservations with very good resources, some of the best in the country, for development - and not a major corporation in this country that would not take resources these Indians have and increase the value ten or twenty times in the next twenty years. But can we do this

for the Indian people? If we can't, then the American way of doing things is not used to benefit the First Americans.

This is the thing that really challenges you. How do we develop new techniques - the opportunity to enable tribes which have in terms of people-land ratio - to make their estates more valuable? Here again we have been shackled with the rigidity of our rules and present policy. Let me give you an example. Charles Luce told me about this. He is attorney for the Umatilla Tribe. When one of the big dams on the Columbia River was built and the tribe received a large settlement, the ones who remained on the reservation and who wanted to further develop their reservation resources came up to me with what was a very creative idea - this was six-seven years ago. They wanted to take the money and, instead of dividing it up per capita, to buy out the interests in the Indian reservation of those Indians who no longer lived on the reservation and who would prefer in that period to take cash. This, of course, would make the reservation more viable. The Bureau of Indian Affairs said there was no way to do it. Indeed there was not at the time. But how can you solve economic and human problems unless you can solve problems like this?

Another thing we have to discuss is statistics about the Indian people. Nothing makes the Bureau look more inept than the lack of basic statistics. When a question is fired at you regarding unemployment or school dropouts and the number of children in or out of school, and our answers are imprecise, nothing gives a worse impression. Without adding new employees, I think we can set up a

system of systematically gathering data. We have had five years of unprecedented growth in our gross national product - to what extent have Indian people shared in this? No one can tell you. No one knows.

Senator Anderson has some ideas on the subject, and others do, too. How we involve the leadership of the American business community in Indian problems? How do we get Walt Disney and Standard Oil interested in developing Indian reservations? Can we do this?

I come finally, after this wandering discussion, to the close of my remarks. I propose that from here on we operate - let's put the past behind us - although we have got to deal with some problems - let's have the Bureau and Department operate with optimism and hope and let's make this one of the most creative periods, if not the most creative period, in the history of the American Indian people and their problems. Let us be the ones who are always out front taking the initiative. Let's propose laws and ideas and programs, and work with state and local governments. If we can't establish the kind of dialogue with the Congress to get laws passed - if the American business community won't - let the failure rest there. I proposed that at this conference and in the days and weeks ahead, as far as I am concerned, the best thing I have seen on paper coming to this conference came from one superintendent and one area director. I am ready to listen to the rest of you.

WILL ROGERS, JR.

April 14, 1966

The Honorable Robert Bennett, Commissioner
Office of Indian Affairs
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

I would certainly like to help you in any way
I can.

Please keep me in mind if anything comes up.

Best regards,



Will Rogers, Jr.

P.S. Remember, the Jews raise Cain
with the Jews, the Arabs with
the Arabs and even, so I am told,
the Vietnamese with the Vietnamese.
So an Indian must expect trouble
from his fellow Indians. However if
there is any way I could get some of
my fellow tribesmen to support you,
I would surely like to do so.

B.R.

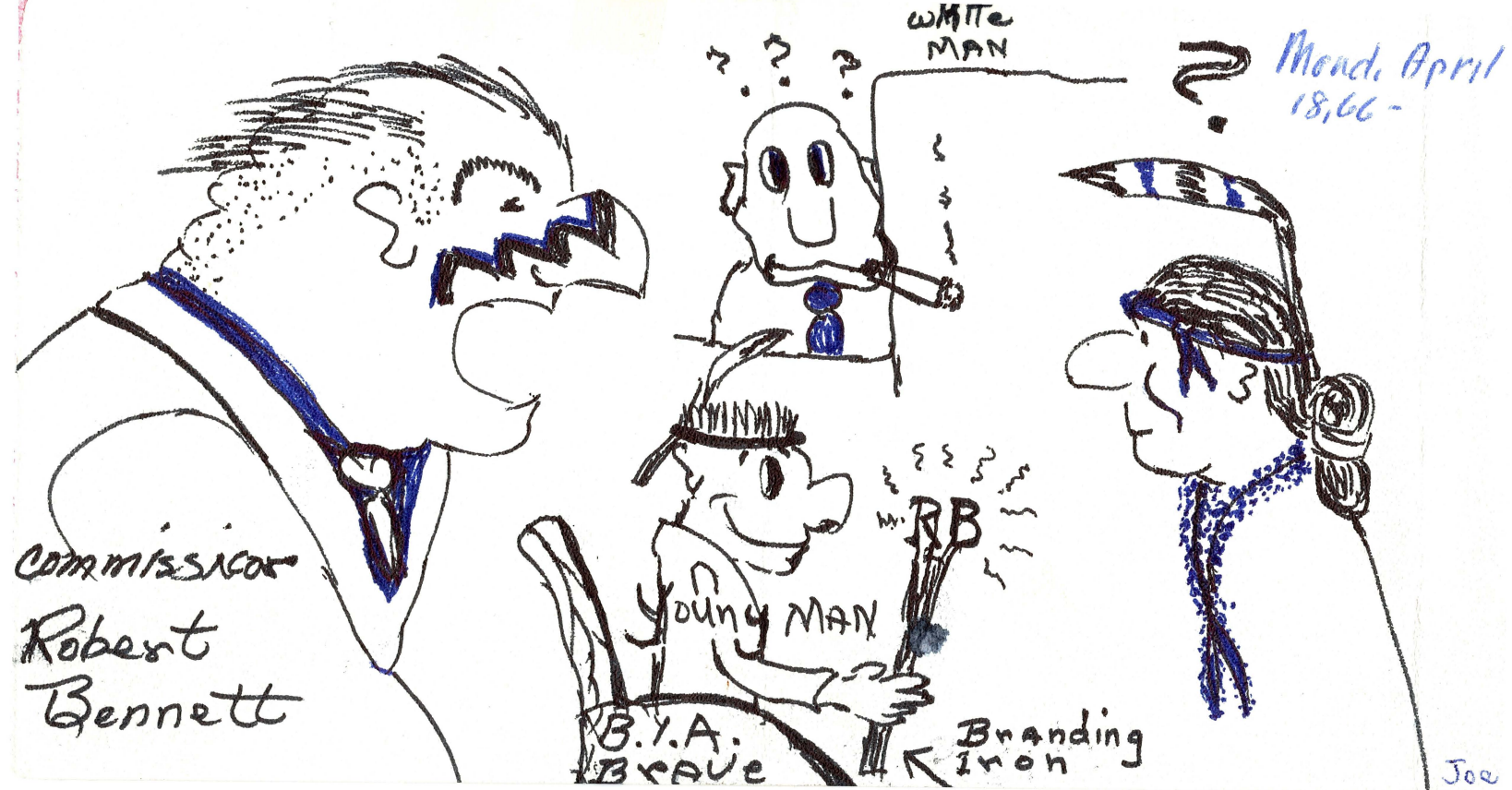
P.S.S. As I read the Santa Fe stories, you

are starting off fine

B.



BY SUB BILLISON
18 APRIL 1966



I CANNOT MOVE

Hurry AND MOVE



Im half
NAVAJO



Hopi

CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
JOHN L. MC CLELLAN, ARK.
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.
WARREN G. MACNUSON, WASH.
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JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.
A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, OKLA.
ALAN BIBLE, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
GALE W. MC GEE, WYO.
MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.
E. L. BARTLETT, ALASKA
WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WIS.
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LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
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KARL E. MUNDT, S. DAK.
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THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF.
ROMAN L. HRUSKA, NEBR.
GORDON ALLOTT, COLO.
NORRIS COTTON, N.H.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

April 18, 1966

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
THOMAS J. SCOTT, ASST. CLERK

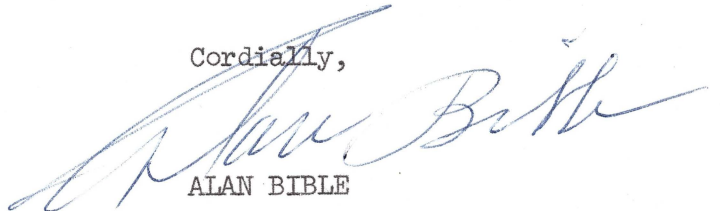
Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I very much enjoyed visiting with
you in my office recently, and thought you
might like to have the attached.

My regards and best wishes.

Cordially,



ALAN BIBLE

enc

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LANSING, MICHIGAN

110TH DISTRICT
RUSSELL HELLMAN
BOX 35
DOLLAR BAY, MICHIGAN

MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON:
WAYS AND MEANS

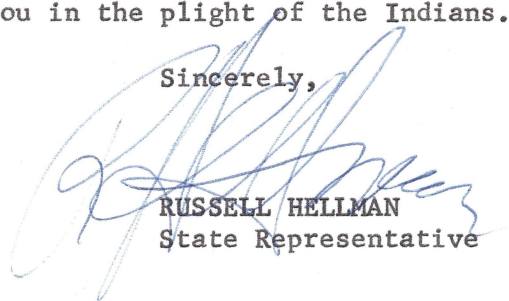
April 18, 1966
dictated 4-18-66

Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I read with great interest of your appointment as
U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs and I would
like to offer my services in any way that may be
of assistance to you in the plight of the Indians.

Sincerely,



RUSSELL HELLMAN
State Representative

RH:vm

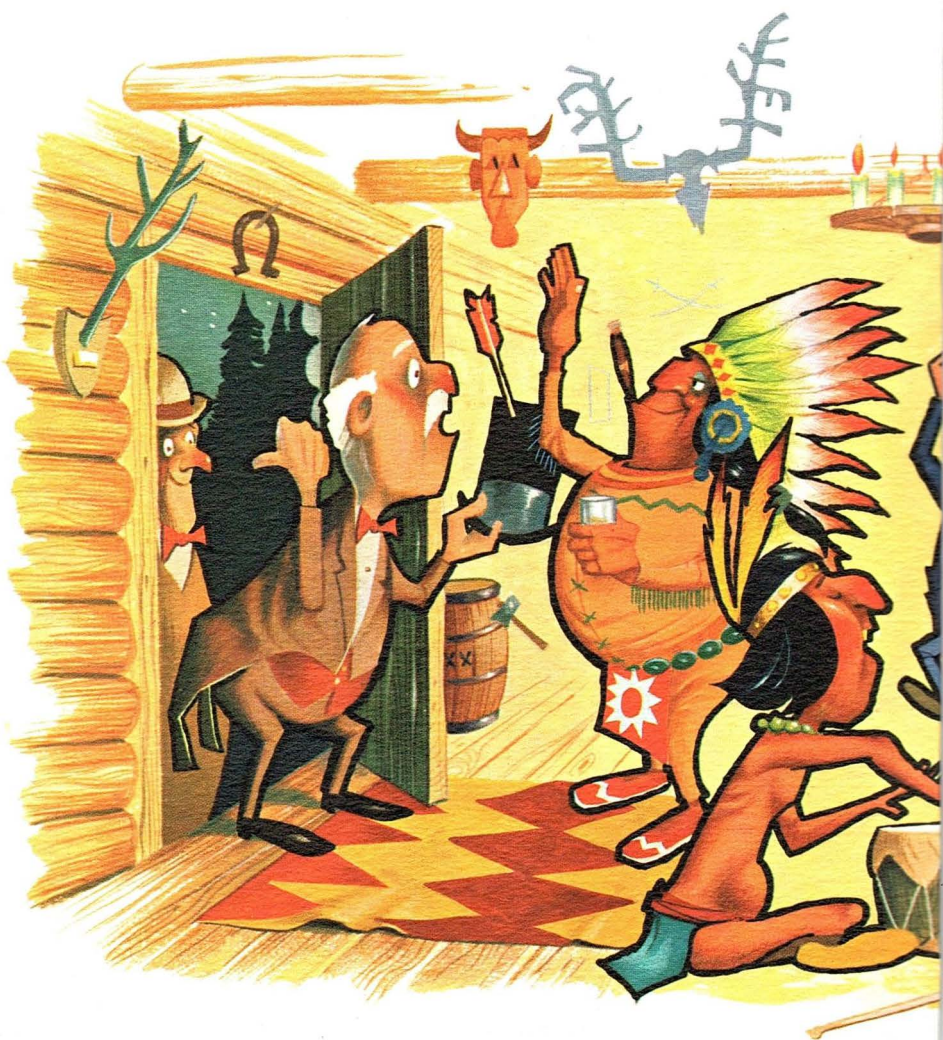
ADVENTURE at WOOLAROC

Mr. H. H. Keeler



ADVENTURE-a

barbecued hump
of domestic bison
jointed woods chicken
warrior shoots osage roots
settler's salad
pone papoose apples
ranch snow
burnt berry extract
squaw leaf juice
buffalo milk
native hemp



tWOOLAROC

In the primitive Osage Hills, fourteen miles southwest of Bartlesville, on Oklahoma State Highway 123, are 4000 acres of woods, lakes and rocks which gave inspiration to the name WOOLAROC.

Except for improvements necessary for maintenance, the hills and gulches have been undisturbed, remaining today much as they were when the first prehistoric Indians came to this country and found them — and as successive tribes of Indians on through the centuries hunted and fought over them.

On this land the gleam of campfires lighted faces of helmeted soliders of Spain, of frocked priests of France, of voyageurs of Canada, of mountain men, of Moravian missionaries, of United States cavalry troops, of trail drivers and buffalo hunters. Later on these same wooded gulches provided hide-outs for bank robbers and moonshiners.

It was this part of the Louisiana Purchase that was assigned to the Cherokees during the Indian removals. Then in 1871 the Federal Government moved the Osage Indians from Kansas into Indian Territory, and this land, plus the rest of present Osage County, became the Osage Nation.

Here in the peaceful valleys of WOOLAROC more than 1000 wild animals graze on the famed Bluestem grass and find a plentiful supply of water in the eight lakes on the ranch.

The buffalo, deer, elk and many other animals help preserve the atmosphere of the old Southwest, making this site a logical setting for WOOLAROC MUSEUM and its outstanding collection of southwestern art and artifact. Here is preserved for the generations to come a panoramic picture of our country's past.



HOW

It is an interesting fact that although the recognized Indian greeting is "HOW" there is no record of an Indian word for "Goodbye."

The only conclusion to be drawn from this is — the hospitable Indian never wanted his guest to leave, and if the guest insisted, then at least he left his scalp behind.

The Woolaroc Indian tribesmen are equally reluctant to see their guests depart. They have no word in their language meaning "goodbye" but they do have a phrase they use at parting — . . . HURRY BACK!



I PROMISED TO SEE
HOSTEEN NEZ AT HIS
HOGAN FOR SEVERAL
DAYS.

?

BENNETT
INDIAN
COMMISSIONER

H. W. GORMAN.
4-18-66



THE DENVER MINING CLUB LTD.

Midland Savings Building
Denver 2, Colorado
Tel. 825-1573

World's Largest Mining Club

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TREASURER E. J. WOODRUFF

DIRECTORS

A. H. PATTEN
HARVEY MATHEWS
WARREN C. PROSSER
ROY BURKETT

April 19, 1966.

Hon. Robert La Follette Bennett,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I have read with much interest the enclosed article from the Denver Post of April 17, 1966 "U S Moves to inspire Indian Creativity", I think it is "high time" for such a move and I hope it will be crowned with success.

201
Back in 1900 to 1902 I was a law clerk in the Interior Department, Indian Affairs, with the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, headquarters at Muskogee, Indian Territory, and I was engaged in the work of preparing rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes Citizens entitled to allotments of land in the Indian Territory, now Eastern Oklahoma. I spent two years in Mississippi, Pearl River Country, for the Department, trying to induce Some Choctaw Indians still living there, to go west and claim allotments in the Indian Territory. So, as you will see, I have had some experience with Indians. I am still interested in seeing their condition improved.

I presume you will in the course of your work, get out in this country once in a while, in which event I should like very much to have you call on me.

May I have the pleasure of hearing from you.

Cordially,

Guy L. V. Emerson
President.

APR 21 1966

100

APR 21 11 07 AM '66

U.S. DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION
(EMPLOYEE - See General Information on Reverse)

6 PART
50-126

(FOR AGENCY USE)

1. NAME (CAPS) LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE BENNETT, ROBERT L.		MR.-MISS-MRS. MR.		2. (FOR AGENCY USE)		3 BIRTH DATE (Mo., Day, Year) 11-16-12		4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO 503-52-0841	
5. VETERAN PREFERENCE 2 1 - NO 2 - 5 PT. 3 - 10 PT. DISAB. 4 - 10 PT. COMP. 5 - 10 PT. OTHER		6 TENURE GROUP 1		7 SERVICE COMP. DATE 02-18-32		8 PHYSICAL HANDICAP CODE 00			
9. FEGLI 1 1 - COVERED 2 - INELIGIBLE 3 - WAIVED		10. RETIREMENT 1 1 - CS 2 - FICA 3 - FS 4 - NONE 5 - OTHER		11. (FOR CSC USE)					
12. CODE NATURE OF ACTION 997 SEPARATION - TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT IN SAME AGENCY		13. EFFECTIVE DATE (Mo., Day, Year) 04/26/66		14. CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITY					
15. FROM: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER K-00-00-01-ADM-0002-A-S-1-O-179		16. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE GS-00301		17. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE 17/01		18. SALARY PA \$22,217			
19. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, WASHINGTON, D. C.									

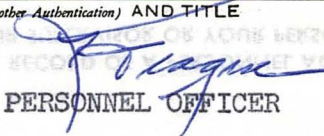
20. TO: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER		21. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE		22. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE		23. SALARY	
24. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE							

25. DUTY STATION (City - county - State) WASHINGTON, D. C.		26. LOCATION CODE 08-0010-001			
27. APPROPRIATION		28. POSITION OCCUPIED 1 - COMPETITIVE SERVICE 1 2 - EXCEPTED SERVICE		29. APPORTIONED POSITION FROM: TO: STATE 1 - PROVED-1 2 - WAIVED-2	

30. REMARKS: ☐ A. SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF 1 YEAR PROBATIONARY (OR TRIAL) PERIOD COMMENCING ☐
☐ B. SERVICE COUNTING TOWARD CAREER (OR PERMANENT) TENURE FROM: ☐
☐ C. DURING PROBATION ☐ D. FROM APPOINTMENT OF 6 MONTHS OR LESS

SEPARATIONS: SHOW REASONS BELOW, AS REQUIRED, CHECK IF APPLICABLE:

TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

31. DATE OF APPOINTMENT AFFIDAVIT (Accessions only)		34. SIGNATURE (Or other Authentication) AND TITLE  PERSONNEL OFFICER	
32. OFFICE MAINTAINING PERSONNEL FOLDER (If different from employing office)		35. DATE 1162	
33. CODE EMPLOYING DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY IN-06 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION
(EMPLOYEE - See General Information on Reverse)

6 PART
50-126

(FOR AGENCY USE)

1. NAME (CAPS) LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE BENNETT, ROBERT L.		MR.-MISS-MRS. MR.		2. (FOR AGENCY USE)		3. BIRTH DATE (Mo., Day, Year) 11-16-12		4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 503-52-0841	
5. VETERAN PREFERENCE 2 1 - NO 2 - 5 PT. 3 - 10 PT. DISAB. 4 - 10 PT. COMP. 5 - 10 PT. OTHER		6. TENURE GROUP PRES. APPT.		7. SERVICE COMP. DATE 02-18-32		8. PHYSICAL HANDICAP CODE 00			
9. FEGLI 1 1 - COVERED 2 - INELIGIBLE 3 - WAIVED		10. RETIREMENT 1 1 - CS 2 - FICA 3 - FS 4 - NONE 5 - OTHER		11. (FOR CSC USE)					
12. CODE NATURE OF ACTION 170 EXCEPTED APPOINTMENT - PRESIDENTIAL		13. EFFECTIVE DATE (Mo., Day, Year) 04/27/66		14. CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITY 25 USC 1					
15. FROM: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER		16. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE EX-00000		17. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE LEVEL-V		18. SALARY PA \$26,000			
19. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, WASHINGTON, D. C.									
20. TO: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS K-00-00-01-ADM-0001-A-S-1-0-000		21. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE EX-00000		22. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE LEVEL-V		23. SALARY PA \$26,000			
24. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, WASHINGTON, D. C.									
25. DUTY STATION (City - county - State) WASHINGTON, D. C.		26. LOCATION CODE 08-0010-001							
27. APPROPRIATION		28. POSITION OCCUPIED 1 - COMPETITIVE SERVICE 2 2 - EXCEPTED SERVICE		29. APPORTIONED POSITION FROM: TO: STATE 1 - PROVED-1 2 - WAIVED-2					
30. REMARKS: A. SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF 1 YEAR PROBATIONARY (OR TRIAL) PERIOD COMMENCING B. SERVICE COUNTING TOWARD CAREER (OR PERMANENT) TENURE FROM: C. DURING PROBATION D. FROM APPOINTMENT OF 6 MONTHS OR LESS SEPARATIONS: SHOW REASONS BELOW, AS REQUIRED. CHECK IF APPLICABLE: CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE ON 4/13/66.									
31. DATE OF APPOINTMENT AFFIDAVIT (Accessions only)		34. SIGNATURE (Or other Authentication) AND TITLE PERSONNEL OFFICER							
32. OFFICE MAINTAINING PERSONNEL FOLDER (If different from employing office)		35. DATE 1162							
33. CODE EMPLOYING DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY IN-06 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR									

1. EMPLOYEE COPY

APRIL 27, 1966

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT SWEARING-IN OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
AS COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
IN THE EAST ROOM
AT 11:40 A.M. EDST

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett and family, distinguished
Secretary of the Interior, Members of the Senate and the
House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

One of the hardest tasks that a President has is
to find the right man for the right job at the right time,
but when he succeeds, it is a source of great pride and
satisfaction to him. I feel that pride and that satisfaction
as we meet here in the historic East Room this morning.

My pleasure is redoubled by the fact that we
have found this man from the ranks of our own Federal
career civil servants. I may be a little partial to those
who have served their country with diligence and dedication
through the years, but I am in the process every day of
ferreting out from the millions of people who serve their
Government faithfully those who merit promotion and who
deserve advancement.

I started out back in the early 1930's. I have
been with the Government now 35 years. I may not have de-
served all the promotions I have received, but you can't
say that I haven't been promoted from time to time. I
recognize it, I appreciate it, and I am grateful for the
system that would permit it.

As I look back here and see a good many of my
colleagues of yesteryears, I am grateful for what the
people have done to them, too. Clint Anderson will not admit
it, but he and I were NYA Administrators in the early
1930's together, a long time before he ever dreamed he
would be a United States Senator from New Mexico.

Speaking of United States Senators, one of the
greatest was Robert LaFollette.

This morning Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett, who
bears this great name of an American who fought all of
his life for the rights of his fellow citizens, named for
a man who is revered from one end of the country to the
other. His namesake comes here to assume a position in
which he will be able to carry on that proud tradition.
He will be doing it for those problems that he is familiar
with and that he thoroughly understands.

I want to make this prediction this morning: that
Bob Bennett is going to be one of the greatest Indian
Commissioners that the United States of America has ever
known. I predict this not because he, himself, is of
Indian descent, but because he has already distinguished

MORE

(OVER)

himself in a lifetime of service to the Federal Government. He first joined the Indian Bureau in 1933 as a clerk in the great State of Utah. Except for his service with the Marine Corps during the second world war, and his two years with the Veterans Administration thereafter, he has been concerned with Indian affairs ever since.

I have noticed that most of the people who come from the great State of Utah have a rare dedication to their Government and an unusual competence. Mr. Bennett is going to need all the experience and all the ability that he can muster.

161 years have passed since that great President Thomas Jefferson charged his countrymen to treat the original inhabitants of our country "with the commiseration that history requires." President Jefferson pointed out that our European ancestors found the American Indian "occupying a country which left them no desire but to be undisturbed." That desire was thrust aside by history and Thomas Jefferson's pleas were ignored.

We cannot turn back the hands of time today, but we can, after 161 years of neglect, honor Jefferson's plea. Others have tried. They have known some success, yet far too many of our Indians live under conditions which made a mockery of our claims to social justice. In 1966, the year that is known as the most prosperous year that the United States of America ever enjoyed, Indians on reservations this year have the lowest standard of living in the entire United States.

I was observing some figures upstairs. I am going to deviate just a moment because it may be interesting to some of those who hear this argument about spending all this time. It looks like Congress is going to spend more than we recommend they spend. But I was worried about that. It looks like they may up the budget \$5 billion this year already from what they reported from the committees. We could stand some of the upping in Indian housing, because I observed that a certain type of worker in this country, the industry he is in, gets a subsidy, and the amount of the total subsidy amounts to \$6500 per year per worker.

I observed the subsidy that we grant on loans. Some of them are 2 percent, some of them 3 percent, some of them 3-1/2 percent, below the prime rate of 5-1/2 percent. How many millions that amounts to in a year?

I noticed some of our irrigation and reclamation amounts as high as \$6000 or \$7000 per family, \$100,000 sometimes on one farm.

I noticed the payments we had made over a period of years that were in the form of supplements. We are debating a very serious matter in the Senate today involving \$11 million, or \$600 for a poor family. We can send a man a farm check in certain areas of the country for \$180,000 for one farm, yet we really get worked up about a \$600 subsidy for a poor man who has already paid a fourth of his income for housing in one of our substandard housing areas.

MORE

(REVO)

MORE

On most of the reservations in this country, 90 percent of our Indians do not today have decent housing in the year of our greatest prosperity. If we can't do it now, when can we do it? On some reservations, large Indian families have annual incomes of less than \$2000 per year. Indian family income today is less than one-quarter of the national average for the whole country. That is something we ought to be concerned about.

The reason we have this little swearing-in ceremony this morning is not only to honor Mr. Bennett, but to let the country know some of these facts. If the President won't tell the country, and you won't tell the country and Congress, well, we can't do anything about this 90 percent substandard housing and about incomes under \$2000 a year.

Commissioner Bennett, your President thinks the time has come to put the first Americans first on our agenda. We are going to give you that job this morning as soon as you are sworn in. From this hour forward, we are going to look to you to discharge that responsibility. I want you to put on your hat and go back over there to that Bureau and begin work today on the most comprehensive program for the advancement of the Indians that the Government of the United States has ever considered. I want it to be sound, realistic, progressive, venturesome, and farsighted.

I want the Secretary of the Interior to support you. I want Senator Anderson and Senator Jackson and the Members of the Congress here to pick that up and let's write it into the laws of this land so we can remove the blush of shame that comes to our cheeks when we look at what we have done to the first Americans in this country.

I want, during my Administration, the time that I am allotted, to put an end to substandard housing and to substandard programs. I am going to depend on you to tell me what needs to be done not only by your Bureau, but by the other Departments and agencies in this Government. I want to give you my pledge here this morning that if you fulfill this charge, you will have the full power of the institution of the Presidency of the United States behind you.

Do anything you have to do. If there are cobwebs in that Bureau, then clean them out. Let's set up some Civil Service Boards to start hearing the cases. Let's get some "can-do" people at work. If you meet resistance, I think you know what to do about that. If you need them, I am going to ask Dillon Ripley to admit you free -- Clint Anderson is on the Board at the Smithsonian -- and you go over there and find some of those tomahawks that are still around the Smithsonian.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 11:50 A.M. EDST)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Anne:

Attached is the list submitted to the guards. Of course, this includes about 30 names which did not RSVP so we don't know whether or not they were there.

Glenda Temple

LIST FOR SWEARING IN OF ROBERT BENNETT, COMMISSIONER
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - EAST ROOM - APRIL 27, 1966 - 11:30 A. M.

FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett
Jo Anne Bennett
David Bennett
Robert W. Bennett
Miss Elise Jude
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Phillips
Mr. Kenneth House

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Frank E. Moss
Gaylord Nelson
Len B. Jordan
Mrs. Fred R. Harris
Frank Church
Karl Mundt
Russell Long

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Jerry Verkler
James Gamble
Dr. William Carmack

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Winfield Denton
John Marsh
Ben Reifel
Leo W. O'Brien
Walter Rogers
James A. Haley
Ed Edmondson
Roy A. Taylor
Harold T. Johnson
Hugh L. Carey
Morris K. Udall
Compton I. White, Jr.

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Walter H. Moeller
John V. Tunney
N. Neiman Craley, Jr.
John A. Race
Richard White
Teno Roncalio
John P. Saylor
E. Y. Berry
Craig Hosmer
Joe Skubitz
Laurence J. Burton
George V. Hansen
Henry P. Smith
Santiago Polanco-Abreu

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George E. Evans

Department of Interior

Secretary Udall
Assistant Secretary Anderson
Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Vaughn
Newton Edwards
Dr. Carruth J. Wagner
Barney Old Coyote
Assoc Com. James E. Officer
Asst Com. E. Reeseman Fryer
Acting Deputy Com. Leonard Norwood
Dr. Sophie Aberle
Roderick H. Riley
Fred H. Massey
Fred Haverland
Virginia Hart
Evelyn W. Pickett
Anne M. Bellak
William E. Finale

Department of Interior Con't

Charles P. Corke
Harry A. Rainbolt
Glenn C. Lundeen
Will J. Pitner
George E. Schmidt
Joseph R. Gauthier

Indian Claims Commission

Com. Arthur V. Watkins
Assoc Com. William M. Holt
Assoc Com. T. Harold Scott

Delegation of Indians

Mr. Scott Dewey
Mr. Earl Old Person
Mr. W. W. Keeler
Mr. Jarrett B. Blythe
Mr. Larrence Hart
Mr. Frank Ducheneaux
Mr. Harry J. W. Belvin
Mr. Robert Benn
Mrs. Clara Barley Brown
Mr. Joseph R. Garry
Mr. Herman D. Laffoon, Sr.
Mr. Narcisse Nicholson, Jr.
Mr. W. E. McIntosh
Mr. John Wilson
Mr. Ansel Carpenter, Jr.
Mr. Lyman Trahan
Mr. Robert Fox
Mr. Herbert LeClair
Mr. William Youpee
Mr. Loyde Allison
Mr. Howard Rock
Mr. Quentin Markishtum
Mr. Buffalo Tiger
Mr. Peter DuFault
Mr. Raymond Nakai
Mr. John Wooden Legs
Mr. Richard A. Halfmoon
Mr. Johnson Holy Rock

Mr. Alfred W. Gilpan
Mr. Norbert S. Hill
Mr. Paul Pitts
Mr. James Jackson
Mr. Roger A. Jourdain
Mr. Filmore Carlos
Mr. Marvin Mull
Mr. Billie Osceola
Mr. Robert N. Harris
Mr. John Baker
Mr. Arvid E. Miller
Mr. Francis Wyasket
Mr. Domingo Montoya
Mr. Olney Patt
Mr. Elwood Harden
Mr. Antoine Skahan
Mr. Albert S. Kaloa, Jr.
Miss Tillie Walker
Mr. William Byler
Dr. E. Russell Carter
Dr. Clifford Samuelson
Mr. Thomas Colosimo
Dr. Lawrence Lindley
Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenthal
Mr. William Zimmerman, Jr.
Mr. Alden Stevens
Mr. Pam Coe
Mr. K. Kasuga
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.
Mrs. Marie C. Maguire
Mrs. Vine Deloria
Mr. W. W. Keeler
Mr. Frank Takes Gun
Mr. Frank See
Mr. Melvin Thom
Mr. Ronnie Lupe
Richard Schifter
Marvin Sonosky
Glen Wilkinson
Ed Berger
Wm. Howard Payne
Earl Boyd Pierce
Rev. Serge Hummon

ADDITION TO THE LIST FOR 11:30 a.m. SWEARING-IN
APRIL 27, 1966

Dan Eddy

Jay Gould

Harry Laffoon

Herman Laffoon

Mrs. Agnes Savilla

Dempsey Scott

(Member of the Ute tribe. name unknown)

Thos. Appah

**ADDITIONAL NAMES FOR SWEARING IN OF ROBERT
BENNETT - APRIL 27, 1966 - EAST ROOM - 11:30 A.M.**

William Charmain

Bill Pensoneau

Betty Pensoneau

Ardell Ruiz

Alice Singer

Anita Romero

Kathy Baca

Preston Kevama

Abel Sanchez



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Seminole Indian Agency
Hollywood, Florida

April 27, 1966

Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

1RB -
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The attached wire mirrors the great disappointment Reverend Billy Osceola had at not being able to attend your swearing in ceremony at the White House. It would have been a treasured experience for him and the Seminole Tribe.

It is with very real and personal pleasure that I extend to you my feeling of admiration for your achievement and high honor. Those of us who know you realize that the sad plight of the Buffalo Jims and the Lena Gophers of our Indian communities will now be influenced by your leadership and ingenuity.

You have the loyal support of this staff and this tribe and should you ever feel the need to call on us we would be happy to give our services in any way we can.

Sincerely yours,


Superintendent

Attachment

NAME OF AGENCY	PRECEDENCE	
	ACTION:	
	INFO.:	
ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION	TYPE OF MESSAGE	
	☐ SINGLE	☐ BOOK
	☐ MULTI-ADDRESS	
THIS BLOCK FOR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS UNIT		

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	STANDARD FORM 14 REV. MARCH 15, 1957
	GSA REGULATION 2-IX-203.04
	14-303
	TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS U. S. GOVERNMENT	

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)	THIS COL. FOR AGENCY USE
--	--------------------------

START MESSAGE ADDRESS HERE

Mr. Quinn

Sent 4/27/66 9:30 A.M. 1jt

W. MARVIN WATSON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.
REGRET I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF
ROBERT BENNETT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TODAY.
WE ARE PLEASED WITH HIS SELECTION AND PLEDGE OUR WHOLE
HEARTED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION.
THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN
UNPRECEDENTED PERIOD OF PROGRESS UNDER HIS DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP.

BILLY OSCEOLA, CHAIRMAN
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

COPY

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BEYOND THIS LINE

NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type)	ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO.	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
(Signature)			

Dear Cleota:

Wow! This was shown on KINY on the news 4-28-66.
I went down and they agreed to give us the picture
which will hang in the office. Who are your friends?

Office is still intact with no replacement yet. Joe
bought a boat finally (from Ken Crites)..

If things get dull out your way, remember, you can
always come back.

WRITE TO US.

Bill

*P.S. Who is HE beckoning to?
It looks to me like he's saying "Call Holmes"*



PAUL DAYTON, C.L.U.

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

1261 WEST WETMORE ROAD, TUCSON, ARIZONA

PHONE: 623-6106 887-0487

April 28, 1966.

MAY 2 1966

107

Commissioner Robert L. Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

MAY 2 1 24 PM '66

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

201
It was such a pleasure to find this story in our local paper this morning. We are glad for your confirmation and for the indications that you will have good support in your efforts to bring good things to the Indians. We feel that community development, economic expansion and particularly the developing of employment opportunities on reservations, the encouragement of education on all levels and especially leadership training for Indian students and encouragement of college study all will be fruitful areas. We pray that you will be given a free hand and good financial backing.

I want to thank you also for the kind words you said to Mona at the press luncheon after her White House visit. It was very thoughtful of you and we do appreciate it. Lots of luck to you from all the Daytons. If you ever come to Tucson we would be delighted to see you again.

Very sincerely,
Paul Dayton

APRIL 28, 1966

622-5855.

SEVENTY-SIX PAGES

But Pound Foolish,' Claims Johnson

Chides Congress Rising Expenses



Chiefs And Indians

A Cheyenne tribesman in full headdress leaves the front door of the White House after attending a special Indian-affairs meeting. (AP)

Plugs For Home, Indian Programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson criticized Congress on Wednesday as both free-spending and pinch-penny, saying it may add \$3 billion to his budget but balks at helping the poor to rent decent homes.

The occasion for his blast was the swearing in of Robert LaFollette Bennett, 49, as Indian commissioner. The President told Bennett, an Indian, to get busy at once on "the most comprehensive program for the benefit of Indians that the government has ever considered."

Johnson said it is time "to remove the blush of shame that comes to our cheeks when we look at what we've done to the first Americans."

In the audience in the White House East Room were many Indians, including Johnny Wooden Legs, a northern Cheyenne from Lame Deer, Mont., wearing full headdress, war paint, walrus skins and bifocal spectacles.

The President, who in many of his recent appearances has sought to picture himself as an economizer and Congress as a free-spender, interjected his comments on the budget in his talk about the Indians.

He said the way the House and Senate are voting "it looks like they may up the budget \$3-billion" over his recommendations this year. A month ago he said it looked as if Congress might add \$1 billion to the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Johnson did not go into details on his higher figure but it comes on the heels of several congressional actions going against his budget recommendations.

Tuesday, the House added \$128 million for school-lunch and free-milk programs in passing a \$6.9-billion Agriculture Department money bill.

And a House Education subcommittee turned down Johnson's plans to transfer the government student loan program largely to private sources. The subcommittee instead recommended \$190 million for that purpose.

But on the pinch-penny side, Johnson got in an apparent ref-

erence to Monday's vote by the Senate Appropriations Committee in which it refused to recommend funds for his experimental rent subsidy program. Congress refused last year to vote the money.

However, the Senate reversed the committee Wednesday and accepted the \$12 million voted by the House — still far below the full \$30 million Johnson asked. The Senate vote was 46-45.

Talking about the need to do something about substandard housing for Indians, Johnson told the gathering the government sends a subsidy check for as much as \$187,000 for an individual farmer and pays up to \$7,000 for certain irrigation projects. Then the President added:

"But we can get upset about a \$600 subsidy for a poor man who already has paid one-quarter of his income for substandard housing."

Johnson told Bennett, a career government worker, to "do anything you have to do" to revitalize the Indian Bureau within the Interior Department.

"If there are cobwebs," the President said, "clean them out. Let's get some can-do people in there."

3rd Chinese N-Weapon Blast Due

WASHINGTON (AP) — Red China may soon explode its third nuclear device, according to information recently received by U.S. intelligence.

U. S. sources said Wednesday night that Washington has advised its allies to expect another atomic explosion on the Chinese mainland in the near future.

Peking set off its first atomic

13.
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11D
L-3D
6A
L-3C

MAY 2 1966

10 000 West 69th Ave. 150
Arvada, Colorado - 80002

April 28, 1966.

Mr. Robert L. Bennett,
Commissioner of Indians.
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

In the April 28th. issue of
the Rocky Mountain News, I noticed your
name mentioned as new Indian Commis-
sioner. And, as you can well understand
from the enclosed prepared letter, I was
very interested to find out whether or
not you were a descendant from the
LaFollette or whether you were named after
the late Senator Robert M. LaFollette (as
so many have been.)

If it is possible, I would very much
like to hear from you at your earliest
convenience - especially if you are con-
nected to the LaFollette family.

Being a student at Colorado State College,
you may, too, reach me by writing to
the following address: McComen Hall - 461,
Boulder, Colorado 80631.

Your assistance would be greatly ap-
preciated.

Respectfully yours,

Franklin LaFollette Jones

Please excuse my use of longhand - my type-
writer is at home - 72.

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 2 10 20 AM '66

1001

43 S. Fullerton

MAY 2 1966

Ave
Montclair

RD

N.J.

April 29, 66

Robert Bennett
Charge of Indian
affairs Wash. D.C.

It is gratifying to
know we have some
one so interested
in the "Indians"

For years I have
been - especially the
reservation at
St. Michael N. D.

Respectfully
Mrs. E. E. E.