

Modern Trails Being Blazed for America's Half-Million Indians

(First in a series)

By LEONARD INSKIP

the editorial/opinion page staff

Washington.

IF AN INDIAN scout of old were to lift his finger today to the winds of federal Indian policy, he would find them shifting, bringing new programs, new approaches and new faces.

Most important, a visitor to the numerous federal agencies concerned with the problems of Indians finds a growing recognition that government programs for Indians are not enough. Government is also, as Lincoln said, of and by the people—and "people," in the context of federal Indian policy, should mean Indians, too.

The government once was committed to the destruction of Indian power and culture, and to the seizure of Indian assets by force, fraud or one-sided treaty. Today it is firmly committed—though perhaps not as fully as some would like—to repairing the damage, to salvaging wasted human assets on reservations and to providing Indians with opportunities for education and jobs, whether on or off reservations.

NEXT YEAR the federal government will spend more than \$300 million on programs identifiably Indian, and millions more on programs that happen to benefit Indians because, like other

citizens, they qualify for Social Security, or farm subsidies, or poverty war aid, etc.

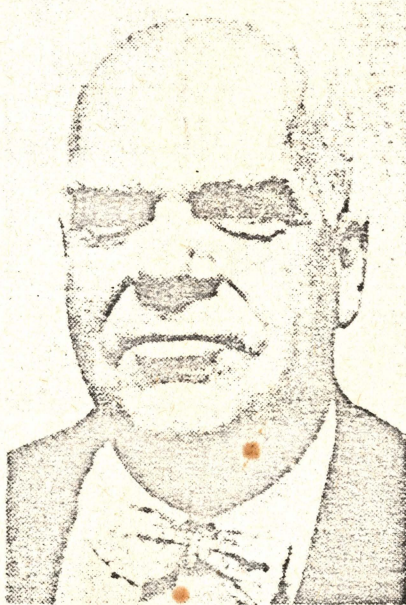
Despite such spending, Indians, as a group, lag far, far behind the general population in terms of income, education, jobs, health and housing. A majority of the nation's 550,000 Indians live on isolated reservations where 19th Century federal policy placed them while clearing a continent for settlement and exploitation.

On reservations, Indians became wards of the government. Indian societies, weakened by war and disease, disintegrated further under federal paternalism and domination.

FEDERAL policy was changed in the 1930s toward one of improving Indian life and tribal arrangements. Then in the 1950s, policy again shifted, this time to termination of federal responsibilities. Termination didn't work where tried.

In 1961, a special task force downgraded termination as a goal. Rather, it emphasized programs to equip Indians to enter the American mainstream, but also to allow them to live decent lives on reservations if that was their choice.

In the early 1960s, spending on Indian programs mounted. Education and health were big gainers. Then came the poverty war, and more agencies found themselves in the Indian field,



PHILLEO NASH

School buildings first

Sometimes programs seem slow in showing results. While administrative red tape can be a problem, another reason is the simple fact that the programs have so much to accomplish.

Take a program to provide minimal water and sanitary facilities on or near reservations. Congress authorized it in 1959 and made the first appropriation in 1961. Now the present rate of spending is several million dollars yearly, but even at this level,

the program will take 15 to 17 years. Not many reservation Indians had such services before 1961.

There are new agencies (such as the Office of Economic Opportunity) and old (the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs, which traces its involvement back to 1824) seeking to improve the lot of this impoverished American minority. Most of the domestically-oriented big federal departments are involved.

BIGGEST agency, by far, is the bureau, whose staff of 16,000 manages reservations in 25 states, spends more than \$200 million yearly (education is the largest item) and supervises as trustee a billion dollars' worth of Indian land and assets.

Historically, it has been accused of doing as much to block Indian progress as to advance it. Today, critics mainly see the bureau as unimaginative and unaggressive in bringing new ideas (and new funds) to the solution of old problems.

Some of the Indian Bureau's conservatism stems from its trust responsibilities (established by law), which lead, according to critics, to emphasis on property management rather than human development.

Philleo Nash, who resigned this month as BIA commissioner, defends the agency and its accomplishments since 1961, when he

took that office.

"I think this organization has been very subtly turned inside out in the last five years," said Nash, who helped draw up the task force report. He feels he combined the best of the pre-1961 BIA with the best of some new blood to remake the agency.

EVEN NASH'S critics agree he went far toward restoring good relations between the bureau and Indian tribes.

Nash considers his biggest accomplishment a school building program of nearly \$200 million since 1961.

"We have brought the federal school facilities and federal Indian school age population closer to being in balance than ever before in history."

Second, he lists improvement in education quality and volume, as measured by teacher degrees, adult programs, vocational spending and college scholarships. Third and fourth, respectively, are public housing for reservations and measures to stimulate economic development.

Much more must be done in all these fields, Nash said in an interview, as he vacated his office. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall thought the same way—but decided that others, including himself, could do the job better and faster than Nash.

(Tuesday: An Indian becomes Indian commissioner.)

Indian Bureau Shakeup Designed to Boost Reservations' Economy

(Second in a series)

By LEONARD INSKIP

(Of the editorial/opinion page staff)

Washington.

WHEN A CABINET member and one of his department heads have a falling out, somebody gives.

And that's what Philleo Nash did this month when he resigned as commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Nash entered the bureau in 1961 as part of a "reform" movement following a task force study. He helped restore Indian confidence in government policy, built schools and stepped up economic development efforts.

But some onetime admirers later became critics, for they felt Nash made peace too readily with the BIA bureaucracy and didn't shake it out of its supposed lethargic ways.

ONE OF THOSE who felt Indian progress wasn't moving fast enough was Nash's superior, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

The national economy has risen for five consecutive years, Udall points out, but Indians on reservations have shared relatively little. The bureau's tout-

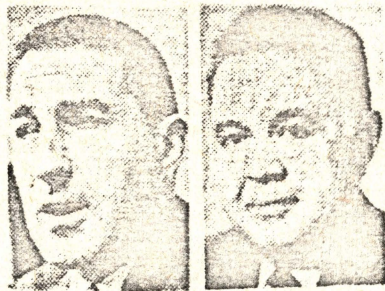
ed industrial development program produced, at most, only 2,000 jobs for Indians, and Udall believes there should have been more.

It is said that Udall and Nash right along had a personality clash (they weren't speaking at the end, goes one account, and Nash's resignation was announced by an Interior under-secretary). A recent issue was Nash's handling of a proposed BVD (underwear) plant on an Arizona reservation.

With Nash gone, Udall, in an interview, said basic goals of the 1961 task force will remain. But he promised "a big new effort" to improve education; "more aggressive action" in industrial development; more vigorous action toward bringing programs of other agencies to Indians; and more "effective" relationships with Congress.

AS FOR BIA'S executive row, Udall said there will be "some new faces and new leadership in the top echelon."

One "new face" is there already. He is Robert L. Bennett, Wisconsin-born Oneida Indian who was plucked by Udall this winter from assignment in Alaska and named No. 2 man in BIA.



Udall

Bennett

President Johnson has nominated Bennett to succeed Nash, and the Senate begins considering the nomination on Friday.

Bennett, a veteran of three decades of BIA service (including the Upper Midwest), is, as he puts it, on "the same wavelength" as the secretary.

An interview with Bennett and a reading of past speeches suggest he will place new emphasis on ways to help Indians be productive, responsible, self-sufficient members of society.

"The role of the bureau," Bennett said in 1959, "needs to be an increasing one of advice and guidance, and less of decision making, so that the Indian people can make decisions and thereby contribute to their own growth or development."

He adds today that the bureau must work "with Indians as individual human beings, rather than in terms of our program responsibility."

FOR EXAMPLE, he says the BIA's revolving loan fund is built around getting back its money, rather than enhancing the confidence of Indians to operate in a non-Indian business world. The Indian doesn't get his hands on the money, only the profit after a venture—cattle raising, for example—is concluded.

There must be an everyday effort to get away from paternalism, and to help Indians, many of whom are geographically and culturally isolated, achieve the kinds of daily experiences other Americans come by naturally, Bennett suggests.

Bennett recalls that in Aberdeen, S.D., there are 75 public agencies providing services to that community. Often the only agency on a reservation is the BIA. It must find creative ways to fill the void and also to help Indians find bridges to the non-Indian world.

Several high positions in BIA are presently vacant, presumably

because the Udall-Nash dispute made filling them difficult (just as the area director's slot in Minneapolis went unfilled for much of 1965).

A NEW POSITION, assistant commissioner for education, is being created, and an outsider probably will be brought in.

Education and related programs, Bennett notes, account for about 80 per cent of BIA's \$200-million-plus budget. Sought is an educator with administrative ability, but who also can "come up with new ideas and techniques to enrich" BIA schools.

Udall plans to spend more time on Indian matters. This leads some critics to fear he will be a part-time Indian commissioner himself, and that programs may suffer.

But if Udall and Bennett are indeed on the same wavelength, more personal attention by Udall need not be harmful. In fact, Udall sees insufficient progress by Indians since 1961 partly his own fault for not being involved enough in BIA.

(Wednesday: An upstart agency stirs reservation dust.)

OEO Sets Off 'A Revolution on the Reservation'

(Third in a series)

By **LEONARD INSKIP**
Of the editorial/opinion
page staff

Washington.

A BRASH new federal agency is stirring up the kind of dust on Indian reservations that hasn't been seen since the great warrior chiefs rode off to battle.

Freud from the past's dead hand and legal restrictions that sometimes seem to hamper the oldline Bureau of Indian Affairs, this new agency — Sargent Shriver's Office of Economic Opportunity — exudes both dollars and a heady confidence that it can help the Indians.

And the agency seems dedicated to the proposition that in the end it will be the Indian himself — helped by Washington's greenbacks — who must resolve his problems.

"There were experts who told us, when the War on Poverty got under way, that the Indian wasn't ready for a program based on local initiative, a program which required Indians to create and manage their own campaigns to combat poverty; that the Indian didn't want and wouldn't respond to such a challenge," Shriver has said. "The experts were wrong."

SHRIVER'S sentiments were echoed in an interview with three OEO offi-

cials: Noel Klores, acting director of the special field programs division; Warren Cardwell, chief of the division's Indian section, and Herbert Bechtold, an analyst whose work includes Community Action Programs submitted by Upper Midwest reservations.

"This has been a revolution on the reservation," claims Klores. "The most meaningful thing is that our agency was right," argues Cardwell. "The Indians can really do it; they are showing the world."

Of 697 CAP programs in the nation, 50 are on Indian reservations (including 15 in the Upper Midwest). The only CAPs in North Dakota are those organized by Indians.

These OEO officials sug-

gest that other agencies have identified Indian needs, designed programs and then implemented them, with the Indian simply responding to availability of a service.

"We feel the Indians themselves should identify their needs, establish priorities, design a program based on priorities and then implement the program," Cardwell said. "Then you wind up with meaningful self help."

BECAUSE CAP programs have been under way only a year or so, it is too early really to measure accomplishments. But while the dust hasn't settled on reservations, lots of dollars have.

The OEO Indian section

(which administers CAP, while other sections and other agencies administer other portions of the Poverty Act) spent about \$4 million in fiscal 1965, expects to spend about \$8 million this year and \$12 million next year. Of the first \$8 million in grants, some \$3 million went to Indian tribes in the Upper Midwest

Most of 15 tribal CAP programs in this region include some kind of preschool or day-care programs for youngsters. About half have school-age programs, such as remedial reading classes or study halls (overcrowded Indian homes offer neither space nor atmosphere for study).

There are a variety of adult programs. On Pine Ridge Reservation 20 young men have become uniformed, mounted Indian rangers, and, while they don't have police power, they do provide an element of security in isolated areas. On Cheyenne River and Rosebud reservations, legal aid services have been established. At Red Lake, a homebuilding training program was set up. At Leech Lake, a home economist demonstrates how to get the most out of relief commodities.

Funded by OEO, each CAP agency is set up by a tribal committee, which hires its own director

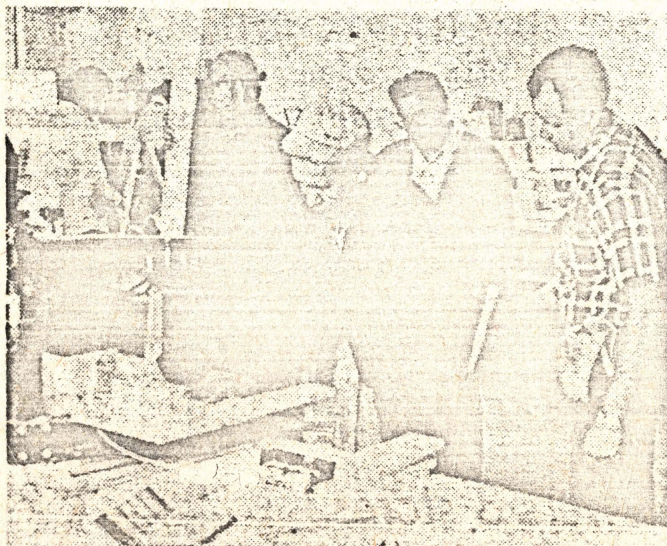
(many of whom are Indians) and staff. More than 350 persons, mainly Indians, are now employed by Upper Midwest tribal CAPs. Use of local poor as CAP employees gives the programs a pipeline into the roots of Indian poverty that other agencies don't have.

A DISPUTE involving CAP occurred at the poverty-stricken Fort Totten reservation where the tribal chairman tried to fire the CAP director, who was backed by council members. OEO was asked to step in, but it refused on grounds this was a question for the tribe to resolve through its own governing procedures. OEO feels that letting Indians make their own decisions is the prime new ingredient it offers.

"We met skepticism at first," said Cardwell. "You don't beat down people for 100 years and expect them to jump up and say they're all for it, people who've never had a voice before."

What is upstart OEO's relationship to the Bureau of Indian Affairs? "The same as to the Department of Defense," responded an OEO official, sardonically. He added that OEO doesn't discourage Indians from getting advice from the BIA.

Thursday: Some gains in Indian health.



Manpower Training Program at Red Lake

U.S. Acts to Raise Low Standard of Indian's Health

(Fourth in a series)

By LEONARD INSKIP

Of the editorial/opinion page staff

Washington.

THE FEDERAL government got into the field of Indian health in the early 1800s to protect soldiers and settlers from contagious diseases (usually traced back to the Old World) that ripped through tribes.

The government is still there, and Indian health still lags far behind that of most other Americans.

Somewhat belatedly, perhaps, the government is beginning to make some real investment in Indian health, though spending is still inadequate when compared with the problem.

IN THE 1954-62 PERIOD, Indian infant mortality was reduced from 65 per 1,000 births to 42; the average for all races is 25. Influenza and pneumonia deaths dropped from 91 per 100,000 population, to 66. New TB cases fell to 263 per 100,000 from 563.

Life expectancy for Indians is now in the 60 range, but still seven or eight years below whites.

These gains reflect an increased realization by Congress and others that an Indian in poor health is hardly the best candidate to become a productive citizen.

Since 1955, when Congress transferred Indian health responsibilities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Interior) to the Public Health Service (Health, Education and Welfare), annual appropriations have risen to the proposed 1967 rate of more than \$70 million from a figure under \$25 million.

PROGRAMS OF the Division of Indian Health rank second in size only to those of the bureau, for these are the two pri-



Indian girl studies to become dental technician

mary agencies responsible for serving Indians. The Division of Indian Health, which operates nearly 50 hospitals, including two in Minnesota, as well as lesser facilities, provides a wide range of medical services.

It also contracts with non-government hospitals and physicians for services.

Dr. Erwin S. Rabeau, chief of the Division of Indian Health, says barriers to good Indian health cover a wide range of environmental conditions, both physical and human. He cites substandard housing, unsanitary and inadequate water supplies, geographical isolation, cultural separation, poor economic opportunity, low incomes, and inadequate education.

"Over 70 per cent of the Indians have to haul water—a majority a mile or more," Rabeau said. Whereas the average citizen uses 150 gallons daily, many Indians may have only two or three gallons.

DESPITE THIS obvious link to poor health, a program to provide water and sanitation facilities in reservation areas was approved by Congress only in 1959. From a 1961 appropriation of \$2.6 million, the figure is up to \$6 million yearly (including \$2.2 million to serve public housing projects). This is but a fraction of the need. The agency could use \$16 million yearly, and still not achieve minimal facilities for five to seven years.

Public Health Service has been criticized for not being more aggressive in such fields as mental health and alcoholism among Indians.

Rabeau said a prototype mental health program is being launched on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to seek more knowledge about the extent of ill mental health among Indians and the effect of cultural stresses on mental health.

Also, the agency has some pilot-type projects under way involving alcoholism, but Rabeau notes that solutions must be found in a successful combination of programs that include better living conditions, job opportunities and community development.

The pressures and attitudes of an entire community — Rabeau talks of a need for a "self-treating community" — must be brought to bear for success to be widely achieved among individuals.

"Unless you can make a change in the environment, you're doomed to failure," Rabeau says. Here, he looks hopefully to the Poverty War and improved education as vital ingredients in better community attitudes.

Perhaps with an instinct for survival under adverse conditions, Indians have a high birth rate—42.1 per 1,000 population in 1962, compared with a national average of 22.4. The Indian rate has recently declined a bit.

PHS says it always has provided family planning (birth control) assistance where medical need warranted. After President Johnson's pronouncements on birth control, both PHS and BIA expanded such activities.

The BIA now will be providing family planning information on a socio-economic basis, and PHS is expanding its services, including distribution of contraceptives to those requesting them.

THIS IS A DOUBLY sensitive area. Not only are many Indians Catholics, but they are suspicious of any moves to limit their numbers by a dominant group that once at times tried to exterminate them. "First the buffalo, now the Indian," a reservation newspaper reportedly said about birth control.

Still, Indian families—deprived of full participation in America's affluence — should not be denied an opportunity to plan their size, if they desire this. It could be a step toward getting out of poverty and toward better health.

(Friday: Public housing on reservations.)

Shameful Housing' on Reservations Improves Slowly

(Fifth in a series)

By **LEONARD INSKIP**
Of the editorial/opinion
page staff

Washington.

IN THE 1960 campaign, John F. Kennedy promised to bring federally-financed public housing to Indian reservations.

Previously, reservations had not been considered eligible for public housing — even though Indian housing was fully as bad as, if not worse than, rundown housing being replaced in urban areas.

"Housing conditions on Indian reservations are a national shame," Kennedy wrote. More than three years later, in early 1964, President Johnson termed such poverty "a shameful fact" as he announced a \$37-million program involving 3,184 units.

TWO YEARS after the Johnson announcement, only a piddling 487 units were completed, while another 824 are under construction. What went wrong between the Kennedy pledge and today's results?

Legal barriers were overcome in 1961 for use of Public Housing Administration (PHA) funds on reservations. Playing an important role was a Washington attorney, Richard Schifter, counsel for the Association on American Indian Affairs. He helped draft the Kennedy statement.

It was not a coincidence, then, that South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation (represented by Schifter) applied for and was granted a public housing program in 1961, the first on a reservation.

PHA Commissioner Marie C. McGuire says many tribes were skeptical of the possibility of public housing until construction actually began at Pine Ridge. Since then, some 64 tribal housing authorities have been set up, including 18 in the Upper Midwest.

THERE HAVE been a number of problems, including high costs due to isolated locations, tribal difficulties in submitting applications (they lack the professional staffs their urban counterparts have) and inadequate staff resources in PHA to fully

offset special problems in tribal applications (where 50 units may require more PHA attention than 2,000 units in New York), Mrs. McGuire said.

There was the question of water and sanitary facilities, which meant coordination with the Public Health Service. And on some reservations, incomes were not high enough even to support low-rent housing.

Early, PHA experimented. At Pine Ridge it allowed the tribal housing authority to serve as its own contractor and to use unemployed Indians. This generated a storm of protest in the Rapid City area by contractors, unions and the newspaper there, Mrs. McGuire said.

Even though the experiment resulted in Pine Ridge's having 150 housing

units completed today, PHA has not gone this route again.

SIMILARLY, PHA investigated possible use of North Dakota-built prefabs last year as a means to hold down costs in northern states, but again it met strong opposition — from contractors, architects, unions, suppliers and others with a stake in conventional avenues. Meanwhile, an identifiable need of 65,000 housing units goes largely unmet.

No PHA-funded housing is yet under construction in Minnesota, although Mrs. McGuire expects work on 50 units on the Leech Lake Reservation to begin this spring (assuming bids are acceptable).

Indian public housing involves two basic types: low-rent and mutual help.

The second, a joint development of PHA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, involves an ownership plan whereby Indians get equity credits for work on their own homes.

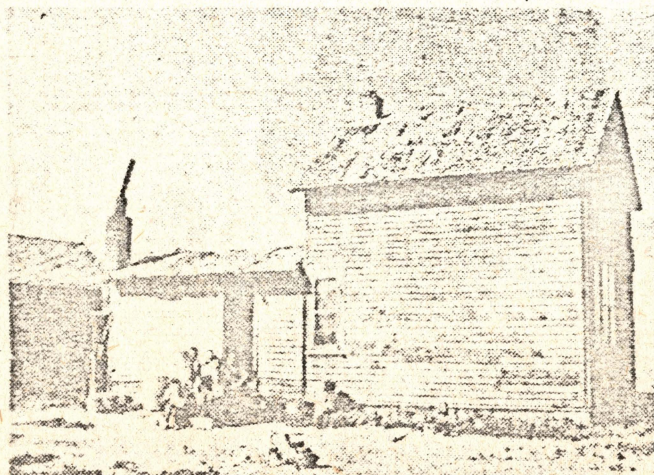
While Mrs. McGuire praises BIA co-operation, others say the BIA has been slow to carry out its role of organizing Indians in mutual help. BIA, which is expanding such housing activities, also has built some relief housing in Minnesota and other places of extremely cold winters.

MINNESOTA Indians were slower than some others submitting applications to PHA and now are confronted with rising costs. Estimates have at times approached \$20,000 a unit. Mrs. McGuire says she can't defend that kind of expenditure.

PHA is investigating possible solutions, including a standard - house concept not unlike that used by big suburban developers. At Red Lake, PHA plans to tie into a poverty war home-building training program there, so that tribal funds already invested in housing can be re-used. But a broad answer for all reservations hasn't been found yet.

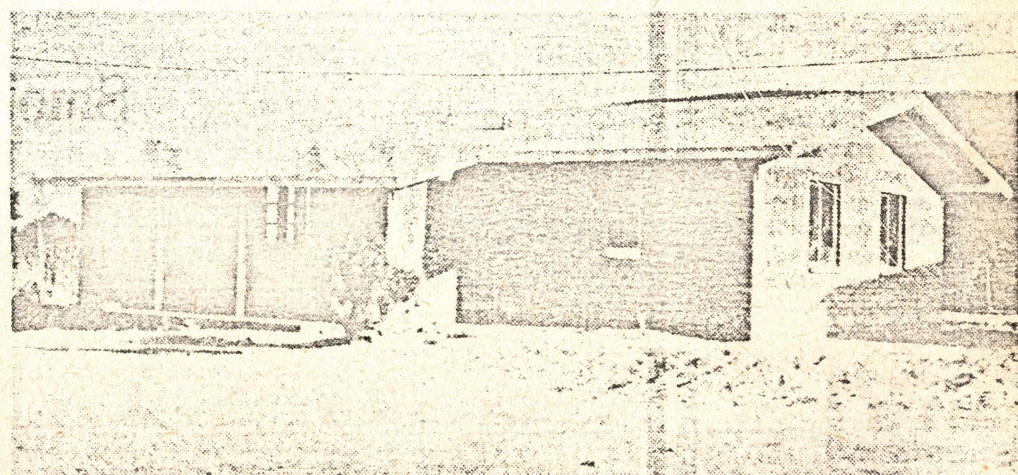
Even so, Mrs. McGuire promises that public housing will be built this year on Minnesota reservations besides Leech Lake. And when PHA general counsel Joseph Burstein adds, "if we have to go out and build it ourselves," one senses that recent complaints from Minnesotans have not been ignored.

(Saturday: Self-government for reservations.)



HOME ON INDIAN RESERVATION

Nine of 10 families poorly housed



'MUTUAL HELP' HOME BUILT BY ARIZONA INDIANS

This type is part of federal housing program

U.S. Indians Have New Opportunities for Self-Government

(Last in a series)

By LEONARD INSKIP

Of the editorial/opinion page staff

Washington.

IN FEBRUARY, the Bureau of Indian Affairs dedicated at Big Cypress, Fla., a new school for Seminole Indians.

For this federal agency that long has done things for Indians, the dedication was a departure. The Seminoles were urged "to organize a board of education to control the education program which will be taught to your children in this school."

Since the words came from the next Indian commissioner, Robert L. Bennett, they can be read as a harbinger of the directions his administration may take.

THIS SERIES of articles described the changing relationship of the federal government to Indians, as seen mainly from the federal side of the relationship, rather than the reservation side. It recounted developments under former Commissioner Nash, outlined changes contemplated by Interior Secretary Udall and Bennett, and described the expanding or new Indian programs by various agencies.

Though far from adequate, there are gains in health, education, housing and economic development. Some real achievements in industrial development remain an urgent need, however, and Udall recognizes this. At least 50 per cent of reservation Indians are unemployed or underemployed.

Perhaps the most significant development is a growing awareness that the kind of self-determination that inspires and generates responsible citizens and healthy communities is needed if all the other programs are to do more than merely permit some individuals to escape the poverty and despair that so often mark reservation life.

And that, simply, is what Bennett's Big Cypress suggestion is all about. A plain, ordinary school board to have a

say in how a federal school is run and one's children educated. This nation is built on self-government and individual self-determination, except on reservations. It was only in 1934 that the national government granted limited governing power to tribes (which long ago did govern themselves, of course). But it continued to hold most real decision-making power affecting tribes and trust property of individuals.

SOME PEOPLE CALL this "paternalism." Where paternalism was excessive or unnecessary, it possibly retarded Indian progress. Some paternalism results from legally-established trust responsibilities, but some is the result of administrative procedure and bureaucracy.

Paternalism, where it has occurred, is "one of the things we have to work our way out of," Udall says. And he concedes that maybe Indians should be permitted to make mistakes like anyone else as part of the learning process.

BIA has moved in the direction of helping develop tribal leadership and self-government, but it will move faster now. For one thing, there is a rival agency in the field—the Office of Economic Oppor-

tunity—which is turning programs over to Indians to plan and administer. On some reservations, tribal leadership is not only latching on to the autonomy provided by new programs, but is obtaining more autonomy under old programs by pressuring for it.

NASH SAID THAT when the Red Lake Tribal council recently let its own contract (with BIA approval) for a new sawmill, this was a "significant step forward in tribal business independence."

When the Public Health Service built and turned over to the Red Lake community a water system, there followed the establishment of an Indian water commission. It operates like any other municipal utility.

Leech Lake, like many other reservations, now has a housing authority (established by Indians) to administer public housing programs. And White Earth, like many other reservations, has a business committee to administer poverty war programs.

And so it goes—small steps toward broader self-government, but steps, nonetheless. Self-government means opportunities to develop both Indian leadership and better jobs on reservations. Federal

agency employment may actually weaken reservation culture, because federal employees are frequently transferred and don't participate in tribal politics usually. If OEO programs do succeed in a real strengthening of community leadership on reservations, this will be one of the poverty war's greatest contributions to Indian progress.

Udall argues that if BIA, under its new leadership, does its own job right over the years, "we will have a new generation of leadership on the reservation" and Indians will have "an increasing ability to deal with their own problems."

Bennett, an Indian himself, says reservation culture tends to be a blend of native and poverty cultures and that the existence of this kind of reservation culture "may create attitudes which breed and insure the continued existence of poverty." But he believes Indians can find their way out of poverty.

"They will," he has said, "when the kind of communication is established with them by which they acquire those cultural concepts necessary for their cultural and economic growth and development."

"They will—when we no longer provide them with the answers, make their decisions, and concern ourselves only with results."

"They will—when they realize that in order to be happy a person must have a sense of conviction about his own worth and dignity, and that the individual's sense of worth receives major nourishment from work and the rewards it brings."

THIS, THEN, is the view of the man whom President Johnson has nominated to be Indian commissioner, the first Indian to hold the job in a century. It suggests some guidelines for BIA policy.

The winds of federal policy have been shifting, and like spring winds blowing across melting snow, these changes are exposing new opportunities for Indians to improve their lives and better communities. But the final answers aren't here in Washington. Indian citizens across the land in places like Big Cypress must provide them.



INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW MEXICO

Small steps toward broader self-government



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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Birth _____
(month, day, year) (city and state, or country)

Education

Name of Institution City and State Years Attended/Degree/Year Received

Principal Occupation _____

Principal Business or Institutional Affiliations City and State Position Years
(mention activity if name not indicative)

Other Professional Posts _____

Military Service and Awards
(please mention whether Army, Navy, etc., inclusive dates of service, highest rank held, decorations received)

Civic, Public and Community Activities and Offices
(list offices held and specific organizations)

b/r/f Are you of Indian descent? ____ (yes) ____ (no) (over, please)

Tribal affiliation: _____

Memberships

(list current professional societies, associations, etc., listing offices held, if any, and inclusive dates of membership)

Awards, Honors, Prizes

(if awards are for specific achievements, please mention which; indicate names of groups bestowing awards)

Please mention major areas of vocational interest, avocational interests, travels and expeditions, etc. Please do not hesitate to reply at length, using additional sheets of paper as necessary.

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Published Works: Please list books you have authored, co-authored, edited or co-edited.

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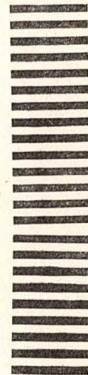
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ROBERT LAFOLLETTE BENNETT

Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs from April 27, 1966, to May 31, 1969, was appointed Director of the American Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 1, 1970.

Prior to being appointed Commissioner by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mr. Bennett was engaged in work with American Indians throughout the country, including the State of Alaska, for 33 years. Mr. Bennett, a Marine Corps veteran, is a member of the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and has earned his LLB.

He was born November 16, 1912, on the Oneida Indian Reservation in Wisconsin and attended public and parochial schools there. Was graduated in 1931 from Haskell Institute (Indian School) at Lawrence, Kansas, where he specialized in business administration. Holds degree of LLB from Southeastern University School of Law.

His occupational experience is as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1933-38 | Served with the Bureau of Indian Affairs agency at the Ute Reservation in Utah. Also served in various capacities with the Ute Tribal Council and as treasurer of three Indian livestock associations in the area. |
| 1938-43 | Assigned to Washington office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as specialist in tribal affairs. |
| 1943-46 | Administrative Assistant, Navajo Area, Window Rock, Arizona. |
| 1943-45 | PFC, Marine Corps |
| 1946-48 | Directed training program for World War II Indian veterans as member of staff of Phoenix, Arizona, office, Veterans Administration. |
| 1949-51 | Rejoined Bureau of Indian Affairs in capacity of Job Placement Office, Aberdeen Area, serving Indian groups in the Dakotas. |
| 1951-54 | Reassigned to Washington, D. C. office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to assist in tribal development programs. |
| 1954-56 | Superintendent of Consolidated Ute Indian Agency, Ignacio, Colorado. |
| 1956-62 | Reassigned to Aberdeen Area Office and appointed Assistant Area Director. |
| 1962-65 | Appointed Area Director of Indian Affairs for the Alaska region, with headquarters in Juneau. |
| 1966-69 | Commissioner of Indian Affairs. |

He is a member of the board of Arrow Inc., the National Advisory Council on Indian Youth, and he is a member of the American Legion, American Society for Public Administration, American Academy of Political and Social Science, American Association of Applied Anthropology, and the National Congress of American Indians.

Mr. Bennett is married to the former Cleota Minor of Baltimore, formerly a clinical social worker with the Heart Institute of the National Institute of Health. His family also consists of six children: John F., a Navy veteran with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, now residing in Ann Arbor, Michigan; William P., a Navy veteran with a degree in Mathematics from the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, now residing in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Leo A., a Marine Corps veteran with a degree in Business Administration from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota, now residing in Plymouth, Michigan; JoAnne C., now Mrs. David James, a student at Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Colorado; David L., a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; and Robert W., a student at Ft. Lewis College.

Mr. Bennett also is associated as a consultant with the William H. Donner Foundation Inc., of New York.



THIS CERTIFICATE OF

Recognition

IS HEREBY GRATEFULLY TENDERED TO

Robert L. Bennett

FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE ADVANCEMENT AND WELFARE OF

St. Norbert College

*Your patronage of education places you in the company of those
citizens who understand and cherish those values most basic to the
preservation and enrichment of human freedom.*



Very Rev. D. M. Burke, O. Praem. Robert M. Brooks, O. Praem.

Very Rev. D. M. Burke, O. Praem.
President

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PERFORMANCE RATING REPORT		Period covered (from, to) 4-1-64 - 3-31-65
Employee's name (first, initial, last) ROBERT L. BENNETT		Position, title, grade ADM.1 Area Director GS-15
Organization and headquarters BIA, JUNEAU		

INSTRUCTIONS.—Prepare in duplicate. Consult detailed instructions in the Performance Rating Instructions to Rating and Reviewing Officials. Rate elements 1 to 4. Rate supervisors on element 5 as well. Additional elements may be added in item 6 and on the reverse side if important requirements of the job are not adequately covered in elements 1 to 5. Any rating element marked "Unsatisfactory" must be supplemented with an explanatory statement.

RATING ELEMENTS			INDICATE BY "X"			
			Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent	Outstanding
1. Volume of work	Degree to which quantity of work turned out meets requirements.	Consider: Amount of work produced; rate of progress on assignments.				✓
2. Quality of work	Degree to which quality of the work meets requirements.	Consider: Accuracy, precision, completeness, and acceptability of work.				✓
3. Work habits	Degree to which employee facilitates work of others.	Consider: Organization of work; observance of rules and procedures; observance of safety rules; cooperation and tact; conduct on the job; dependability.				✓
4. Work attitude	Degree to which employee applies himself to job.	Consider: Enthusiasm for the work; acceptance of supervision; adaptability to changing conditions; willingness to accept responsibility.				✓
5. Supervisory ability	Degree to which supervisor obtains results from those under his supervision.	Consider: Effectiveness in directing and reviewing the work of others, establishing standards of performance, training subordinates, and delegating authority.				✓
Other (specify) 6.						

SUMMARY RATING

Date	Rating official (signature and title)				✓
Date MAR 30 1965	Reviewing official (signature and title) <i>Philip J. H.</i> Commissioner of Indian Affairs				✓
Date JAN 19 1966	For unsatisfactory or outstanding ratings only: Designated official or committee chairman (signature and title) <i>Charles E. H.</i> Chairman, Indian Incentive Awards Committee				✓

DEFINITIONS OF SUMMARY RATINGS

Outstanding: Performance of which all aspects not only exceed normal requirements but are outstanding and deserve special commendation.

Excellent: Performance which fully meets all requirements and which exceeds such requirements in the majority of the principal duties of the position.

Satisfactory: Performance which meets requirements in the principal duties of the position.

Unsatisfactory: Performance which fails to meet requirements of the position.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE RATING -- ROBERT L. BENNETT - 1965

Mr. Bennett has shown a remarkable ability to recognize the opportunities and problems facing the Natives of Alaska and the areas of influence through which cooperation may be obtained for constructive actions.

He has been especially effective in assisting in the organization of tribal groups, and in furthering the planning of development of their resources. Excellent relationships have been established and maintained with Native groups and individuals.

Foremost among Mr. Bennett's achievements has been the establishment and fostering of cooperation and understanding with state officials and the State's congressional delegation.

Under the Patronage of
Mrs. Johnson
The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Udall

Mrs. W. Willard Wirtz
Chairman

requests the pleasure of your company
at the opening night performance
of the

Harkness Ballet

for the benefit of the

Center for Arts of Indian America

Tuesday evening, the thirty-first of January

at eight-thirty o'clock

Lisner Auditorium

Washington, D.C.

Admission by contribution
Card enclosed

Black Tie
Optional

CENTER FOR ARTS OF INDIAN AMERICA

The Center for Arts of Indian America (formerly the Gallery of American Indian Art, Washington, D. C.) was incorporated in the District of Columbia on March 16, 1966, as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization for the purpose of preserving and promoting the visual, literary, and performing arts of American Indians. The Center is financed from private funds. Its goals are to preserve the traditional and classical elements of Indian arts — dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture — and, through scholarships, to provide Indians the opportunity to develop their natural artistic abilities and to contribute them to the cultural life of the United States.

OFFICERS OF THE CENTER

Mrs. Stewart L. Udall, *President*
Mrs. Edna H. Massey, *Secretary*
Mrs. Dorothy McFarlane, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Stewart L. Udall	Mr. Robert Richman
Mr. Rene d'Harnoncourt	Mr. Jose Limon
Mr. Vincent Price	Mrs. Yeffe Kimball
Mr. Charles Eames	Mrs. Adelyn Breeskin
Mr. Alexander Girard	Mr. W. W. Keeler
Mr. Lloyd H. New	Gen. Jesse Larson
Mr. William Rhodes	

BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Mrs. W. Willard Wirtz, *Chairman*

VICE CHAIRMEN

Hon. and Mrs. Clinton Anderson	Mrs. Eleanor Israel
Mrs. Frank J. Barry	Mrs. Robert E. Kintner
Mrs. Robert L. Bennett	Mr. Solomon McCombs
Mrs. Oscar L. Chapman	Hon. Gaylord Nelson
Mr. E. Thomas Colosimo	Hon and Mrs. Claude Pepper
Mrs. Golda Corey	Mrs. Ben Reifel
Miss Kay Halle	Mrs. Roy St. Lewis
Mrs. Fred R. Harris	Mrs. Robert E. Simon, Jr.
Mr. Henry Hecht, Jr.	Hon. Frank Thompson, Jr.
Mr. Charles A. Horsky	Mrs. Edwin L. Weisl, Jr.
Mrs. Harold L. Ickes	Mrs. Frankie Welch
Mrs. N. O. Wood, Jr.	

Mrs. Stanley Cain
Executive Vice Chairman

Hon. Oscar L. Chapman
Mr. Robert E. Simon, Jr.
Co-Chairmen of Committee of Sponsors

Mrs. Stewart L. Udall is General Chairman of four premieres—in Washington, Houston, Oklahoma City, and Chicago—being given by the Harkness Ballet this winter for the benefit of the Center for Arts of Indian America.

Mr. Gerald G. Wagner is General Benefit Coordinator.

Purchasers of sponsor tickets (\$100 each)

and of patron tickets (\$50 each)

are cordially invited to attend a

Champagne Supper-Dance

and to meet

Mrs. Harkness

and the Dancers of The Harkness Ballet

immediately following the

opening night performance of

The Harkness Ballet

The Hall of the Americas, The Pan American Union

17th Street and Constitution Avenue

Music by

Peter Duchin

and his orchestra

Black Tie

The American Legion



National Commander's Dinner
honoring
The Congress of the United States

1966

The American Legion

National Commander's Dinner

honoring

The Congress of the United States

Wednesday, March second

Nineteen hundred and sixty-six

Sheraton-Park Hotel Washington, D. C.

PROGRAM

POSTING OF COLORS

National Guard of Honor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

E. A. Blackmore, National Adjutant

INVOCATION

Rev. Alfred C. Thompson

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

E. A. Blackmore, National Adjutant

REMARKS AND PRESENTATIONS

L. Eldon James, National Commander

BENEDICTION

Rev. Alfred C. Thompson

MENU

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Celery Hearts

Olives

Broiled Filet Mignon

Chateau Potato

Broccoli Monay

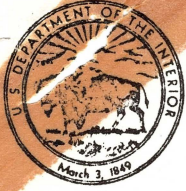
Chef de Cuisine Salade

Chocolate Mint Parfait

Rolls and Butter

Coffee

Dinner Music by Stephen Lesieur



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

March 9, 1966

Dear Mr. President:

Respectfully I submit my resignation as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. If it is agreeable with you, I would hope that it could be effective on March 15.

I do this most regretfully; my five years' association with the Indian tribes and their reservations have been filled with the happiest of relationships with the Indian people and their leaders.

Your administration has been one marked with understanding of the Indian people and responsive to their needs. It has been mindful of its opportunities and its obligations. I have been proud to serve it.

In recent months, we have been fully committed in the War on Poverty, particularly the War on Indian Poverty. Much has been accomplished; much remains to be done.

Although I have become convinced that the success of programs for Indian betterment throughout the whole government will be better served with different leadership, I nevertheless remain committed to you and to the program, and pledge my support to both.

Respectfully yours,

Philleo Nash
Commissioner

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

76665-66(1)

March 10, 1966

Dear Philleo:

With regret, I accept your resignation as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, effective March 15, 1966.

The task of an Indian Commissioner is arduous and demanding, the more so because Americans feel so deeply their responsibilities for old wrongs, and because of their willingness to help so often outstrips their understanding of what will be helpful.

During your incumbency, the Indian people have renewed their confidence in government. Many achievements have been recorded: public housing programs have been extended to the reservations, industrial development opportunities have been launched, public school construction has been advanced and the quality of Indian education has been upgraded.

You led an early attack in the War on Poverty before that war was formally declared. Your sensitive guidance of programs on Indian reservations furnished a valuable blueprint for the larger effort which followed.

The Indian people and your government colleagues will miss you and join me in thanking you for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable Philleo Nash
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 10, 1966

The Honorable James A. Haley

The House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Recently we had the pleasant experience of having Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs at the dedication ceremonies of the Big Cypress School. Mr. Bennett gave an inspiring talk.

Mr. Bennett, who is himself an Oneida Indian, understands our problems and is in sympathy with our programs and was very interested in our methods and goals. It was refreshing to find a man with such a rich background in the field of tribal affairs in such a high post. The two days he spent with us touring the reservations and examining our programs was a profitable experience for the tribe.

We were delighted to hear that Mr. Bennett is being considered for the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He will certainly be an asset to the Administration, but more particularly, he will be an asset to the American Indians. His more than thirty years experience has been largely in direct contact with Indians and their problems and we, the Seminole Tribe, feel that his understanding and experience will surely lead to better programs that will bring more direct and practical benefits to Indian people.

We sincerely recommend Mr. Bennett to you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and urge you to endorse his nomination when it is submitted to the Congress.

Respectfully yours,

President,
Board of Directors

Chairman, Tribal

Secr

VIA AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 10, 21 1966

The Honorable George A. Smathers

The United States Senate

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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Respectfully yours,

President,
Board of Directors

Chairman, Tribal Co

Secr

VIA AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 10, 1966

The Honorable Spessard L. Holland

The United States Senate

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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We sincerely recommend Mr. Bennett to you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and urge you to endorse his nomination when it is submitted to the Congress.

Respectfully yours,

President,
Board of Directors

Chairman, Tribal Council

Secretary-Treasurer

VIA AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Feb March 10, 1966

The Honorable Paul G. Rogers

The House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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We sincerely recommend Mr. Bennett to you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and urge you to endorse his nomination when it is submitted to the Congress.

Respectfully yours,

Chairman, Tribal Council

President,
Board of Directors

Secretary-Treasurer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release March 10, 1966

RESIGNATION OF PHILLEO NASH AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED

Acting Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver Jr. today announced the resignation of Philleo Nash as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, effective March 15, 1966.

Mr. Nash, a former lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, was nominated by President Kennedy as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in August 1961.

Prior to this appointment he served for five months as a member of the Indian Affairs Task Force named by Secretary Udall.

In addition to serving as lieutenant governor of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1961, Nash was a special assistant to President Truman from 1946 to 1953. For four years prior to his White House assignment, he was a special assistant to the Director of War Information, the late Elmer Davis.

As a student and lecturer in anthropology, Nash has had an active interest in Indian affairs throughout his career. Born in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., in 1909, he was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1932 and received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago five years later. From 1937 to 1941 he was a lecturer on anthropology at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Carver expressed appreciation for Nash's service to the Department and Indian people. "The last five years have been constructive ones, in education, in economic development, and in resource management," Carver said. "Mr. Nash has been a fine leader, and has enjoyed the confidence of the Indian people."

The text of Mr. Nash's letter of resignation to President Johnson and the President's response is attached.

X X X

LAW OFFICES OF
FAULKNER, BANFIELD, BOOCHEVER & DOOGAN

HERBERT L. FAULKNER
NORMAN C. BANFIELD
ROBERT BOOCHEVER
FRANK M. DOOGAN
DONALD L. CRADDICK
AVRUM M. GROSS

P. O. BOX 1121
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

311 FRANKLIN ST.
TEL. 586-2210
AREA CODE 907

March 16, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing a copy of House Joint Resolution No. 89 introduced by the State Affairs Committee on March 14th. I am sending this to you in the event that something occurs prior to passage of the resolution obviating the need for it. In that case you might not receive a copy, and I thought you might like a copy for your files.

My best to you and Cleota,

Sincerely yours,



Avrum M. Gross

AMG:db
Enclosure

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAR 18 12 22 PM '66

101

STANLEY J. McCUTCHEON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
709 13TH AVENUE
TELEPHONE 277-3132
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

March 18, 1966

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL ✓

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
19th and C Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friend Bob:

Last Saturday Ernest Gruening came through Anchorage on his way to Tokyo. He phoned me from Washington to meet him at the airport and we had a long and very pleasant visit. His airplane had some mechanical difficulties so he was here for about six hours, and I spent the entire time with him talking of many things, but principally concerning problems of the Natives.

During this time he informed me that he had called Scoop Jackson to continue the hearing on your nomination until he (Ernest) returned from Tokyo.

Somehow or other, although Ernest didn't say so, I gathered the impression that somewhere in the State there are sharpshooters doing their best to harm you. I told Ernest that I couldn't be more enthusiastic about your endorsement, and I explained the good reasons why. I know from my many years of very close friendship with Ernest that he was more than impressed by my position and whatever harm has been done to you by unknown persons in Alaska has been undone and you will find him a supporter at the hearing.

I told him of your liberal and refreshing approach to the overall Indian problem, and he was most pleased to hear of this.

He told me that he knew somewhat of your outlook because of his conversations with you, but that his purpose in asking for a continuance of the hearing was so that he might make a record of your attitude.

I carefully inquired of Ernest what he thought your approach should be, and I learned a great deal.

No. 1. Ernest is dead set against reservations. During our six hour conference he mentioned the Minto claim at least a dozen times and said that acreage is not what the Indians need, it is money, and of course I couldn't agree more, that is providing they get the money. I did conclude from his opinion, although he didn't say so, that he feels the claims of the Indians should be somehow speeded up or perhaps he is thinking of some other method of making money available for the Indian's use.

No. 2. He feels that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (typical of all governmental agencies) is growing in size and personnel out of proportion to the good that is being accomplished for the Indians. He remarked with a smile that there are almost as many B.I.A. personnel in Alaska as there are Indians. He said he was going to ask you concerning the growth of the B.I.A. in Alaska over the past several years and relating that growth (if indeed there is any increase) to the good that is being done for the Native people.

No. 3. He said he was going to interrogate you from the recent series of articles that appeared in the Anchorage News (now in booklet form) concerning the Native people of Alaska. If you do not have a copy of this booklet, Bob, let me know and I will quickly obtain one for you so that you may be prepared.

No. 4. Ernest strongly favors desegregation. He feels that the future of the Indians lies in integrating them with the whites. I am undoubtedly wrong, and he was startled at my expression of disagreement. I echoed the feelings of the Tyonek people who do not choose to see their people intermarry with non-Indians because the tribe will quickly lose its identity and there will soon be no more Tabonas. As you and I know, the Tyonek people are proud and they want to preserve their identity and from my visits with other tribes I sensed the same attitude. My contention gave Ernest something to think about. I suggested that it was a fine think to integrate the schools for the purpose of allowing the Indians to learn some of the non-Indian culture and ways of life, but beyond that I registered objection. I do agree with Ernest that the Indians should have every opportunity to become acquainted with the way of life of the non-Indians, for it is that world that the Indians must face.

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

-3-

March 18, 1966

No. 5. Ernest feels that the Indians should be given as much independence as possible, whenever possible, and that the B.I.A. should be an agency that assists rather than dominates.

No. 6. He very much feels that an economic survey should be done in order to determine where and what opportunities exist for the employment of Native people, and he feels that the survey should be done by people that are not associated with the B.I.A. Confidentially, as far as I am concerned an economic survey will only tell us what we already know, but then on the other hand, someone may come up with some new ideas.

Sometime ago we invited Ernest to the Tyonek reservation where we entertained him and showed him the Village. He was tremendously impressed and mentioned the fact that he was going to discuss the village with some of the leading national publishers, friends of his. He feels that Tyonek is a model accomplishment. Probably the Bureau's part was minimized and the independent accomplishments of the Indians perhaps overemphasized, but anyhow he came away with the impression that the Tyonek accomplishments were a program where the Bureau provided only a guiding hand when called upon to assist. Of course, to a certain extent this is true. In your remarks to the Committee in response to interrogation by Ernest it would do you no harm, if you agree, to mention very favorably the accomplishments of the Tyonek Indians as a model of what can be done when given some independence of thought. Ernest is very well aware that this was done under your administration during your term in office here in Alaska.

I have had numerous discussions with Tom and Steve. All three of us endeavored to figure out just who the sharpshooters might be. It was thought that Roy Peratrovich might be one, but I recall that Ernest phoned Peratrovich in my presence concerning your appointment and it was clear from the conversation that Peratrovich enthusiastically approved. What he might say to Ernest is one thing and what he might do could be another. I have no way of knowing, but we will do our level best to find out where the heat is coming from.

The word of your nomination was announced in this morning's News on the front page with your picture. This is the word we have been

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

-4-

March 18, 1966

waiting for. Today telegrams will go from Tyonek to all appropriate parties. We will also get on the long distance phone to everyone we know, both in Alaska and in the South 48, and will generate just as much good will in your behalf as is within our power to do. We have also agreed to travel to other areas in your behalf.

I hope the above will be of some help to you. In the meantime, our sincere best wishes for your speedy confirmation.

Cordially,



Stanley J. McCutcheon

SJM/bjs

TELEGRAM

3/18/36

SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON,
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PLEASE ADD OUR ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT TO THE LIST
OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT ROBERT BENNETT FOR COMMISSIONER
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. THIS IS NOT A CASUAL ENDORSEMENT
BUT REFLECTS THE FEELINGS OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE
MOQUAWKE RESERVATION, ALASKA, AND IT IS BASED ON OUR
PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH MR. BENNETT. HIS
REFRESHINGLY FORWARD LOOKING THINKING CONCERNING
INDIAN PEOPLE WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE FEDERAL APPROACH
TO INDIAN PROBLEMS WHICH WILL CLEARLY BE OUR GAIN.
RESPECTFULLY

ALBERT S. KALOA, JR.,
PRESIDENT, TYONEK VILLAGE COUNCIL

TELEGRAM

3/13/68

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

PLEASE REGISTER OUR ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT OF YOUR
NOMINATION OF MR. ROBERT L. BENNETT FOR THE POSITION
OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. THIS ENDORSEMENT
REFLECTS THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF EVERY SINGLE MEMBER
OF THE MOQUAWKIE RESERVATION, ALASKA. IF MR. BENNETT'S
APPOINTMENT IS CONFIRMED WE WILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME,
HAVE SOMEONE WHO TRULY UNDERSTANDS US. RESPECTFULLY,

ALBERT S. KALOA, JR.
PRESIDENT OF TYONEK VILLAGE
COUNCIL

TELEGRAM

3/19/66

SENATOR ERNEST GRUENING
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE HEADLINES THIS MORNING THAT
TOLD US OF THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT BENNETT FOR THE
POSITION OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. WE HASTEN
TO REGISTER OUR ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL. MR. BENNETT'S
LIBERAL AND REFRESHINGLY NEW OUTLOOK TOWARD THE
PROBLEMS OF INDIAN PEOPLE PROMISES GREAT ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS, IN BEHALF OF ALL THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA AS
WELL AS ELSEWHERE. AS OUR RESPECTED FRIEND WON'T YOU
PLEASE ASSET IN HIS PROMPT CONFIRMATION. RESPECTFULLY

ALBERT S. KALOA, CHIEF

18 March, 1966

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Jackson:

We would request you to investigate Robert L. Bennett in relation to his appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We would recommend that he not be given this position. In his past dealings with us when he was Alaska Area Director and recently through correspondence, he has shown that he is not truthful or a qualified administrator.

We are fighting for the operation of our cannery and have been asking specific questions to all parties as to why our plant is not operating. In two letters, one to Senator E.L. Bartlett on February 14, 1966 and the other to Sylvester Peele, Sr. on February 18, 1966, he misconstrued MANY facts which neither answered the pertinent questions or presented a just view of the situation. Thoroughly study the enclosed letter to Mr. Peele and see Mr. Bartlett for a copy of the one sent to him. Also study our enclosed statements regarding these letters.

We would appreciate it if our views are heard openly, in both hearings and investigations, in this matter.

Respectfully,

Hydaburg Cooperative Association council

Fred Grant, Jr., president

Sylvester Peele, Sr., vice-president

Robert Sanderson, secretary

Clarence Peele, Sr., treasurer

Glenn Douglas, member

Francis Guthrie, member

Ed Sanderson, member

Hydaburg, Alaska 99922

copies to: Wayne N. Aspinall, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; eleven key Alaska and Seattle newspapers; all Alaska Native Brotherhood in southeast Alaska; our four state representatives; our congressional representatives; Chairman of the State Affairs Committee, House of Representatives; and Governor William Egan

Hydaburg, Alaska
March 19, 1966

Dear Brother:

After reading the enclosed statements etc. you will note we feel it is worthwhile to oppose Mr. Bennett's appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. His attitude towards us can easily mean his policies overall will affect you too. We urge you to oppose his appointment through the direction of correspondence to the right people. Our suggestion to Mr. Morken should also be noted.

Best regards,

Sylvester Peelo
President
Camp No. 6

To all Alaskan ANB Camps

*Under the sponsorship of
Senator and Mrs. Ernest Gruening
and*

*Under the patronage of
His Excellency, the Ambassador of Greece
and Madame Matsas
and*

*His Excellency, the Ambassador of Portugal
and Senhora de Garin*

*The Committee for the Reconstruction of
the Greek-Russian Orthodox Church of St. Michael
in Sitka, Alaska*

*Request the pleasure of your company
at a benefit luncheon fashion party
featuring
the collection of the noted Alaskan designer
Elizabeth Moyes
of Anchorage & Lisbon
on Saturday, March nineteenth
from 12:15 to 2:15 o'clock, during
luncheon*

*The Willard Hotel
Crystal Room*

*R. S. V. P. by reply
card enclosed or phone
Mrs. J. Abelitis 225-3004.*

*Fun, fashions,
famous faces.
Prizes & surprises.*

MAR 21 1966

Att.	In.		Act by
☒		Area Director	
		Tribal Op.	
		Realty	
		Ind. Dev.	
		Mkt. Sp.	
☒		Asst. Dir. ADM.	
		Personnel	
		Finance	
		Prop. Met.	
		Plant Met.	
☒		Credit	
		Land Op.	
		Housing	

Hydaburg, Alaska
March 19, 1966

Mr. Owen Morken
Area Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 1751
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Morken:

As a result of the facts brought out in the hearing of March 11, 1966 held here in Hydaburg, we request the transfer of Mr. Wright and Mr. Walker into jobs they can handle and their replacement by competent, trustworthy men.

The reasons for this request are the numerous faulty facts that they have apparently passed on to the Deputy Commissioner, Robert Bennett. Examples: 1. Our boiler was condemned and would require in excess of \$25,000.00 to repair. (There is one plugged tube. Before this boiler can operate again, the tube must be replaced and the boiler fully cleaned and a hydrostatic test made on it. At the present time the boiler has only one safety valve. Before operation, a second valve must be installed from the official inspection made 8/23/65 by C. S. Hall.) 2. The comparisons of unparallel statistics. (\$92,500.00 "independent survey" with a \$51,000.00 budget found to be for different things.) 3. The misquotation of facts. (The production costs per case. This misquotation transformed an advantage for Hydaburg into one for Klawock.)

Any one of these errors (there were more) would be excusable, but all of them at once and in one case would not be and isn't. The decisions, which the information was used to make, were important ones and have great influences over many people. Such errors cannot be permitted to continue.

In the case that they did not provide Mr. Bennett with this information, please notify us so we might take further action.

If in fact they are guilty of these errors as it now appears, it would be difficult for us to place any trust in decisions they help make. We would thus be forced to agree with BIA decisions only after a great deal of resistance has been overcome.

Sincerely,

Hydaburg Coop. Assn. Council:

Ed W. Grant, Jr.
Ed W. Grant, Jr.

President

Elyvester Peelo Sr.
Elyvester Peelo

Vice President

Robert Sanderson (by RWT II)
Robert Sanderson

Secretary

Clarence Peelo
Clarence Peelo

Treasurer

Ed Sanderson
Ed Sanderson

Councilman

Francis Guthrie
Francis Guthrie

Robert Sanderson
Robert Sanderson

The White House,

March 21, 1966

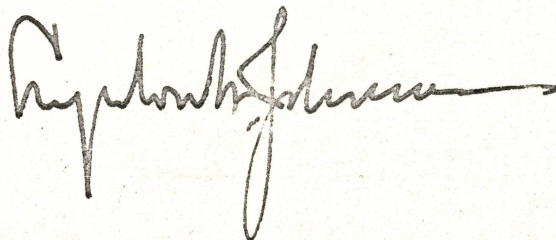
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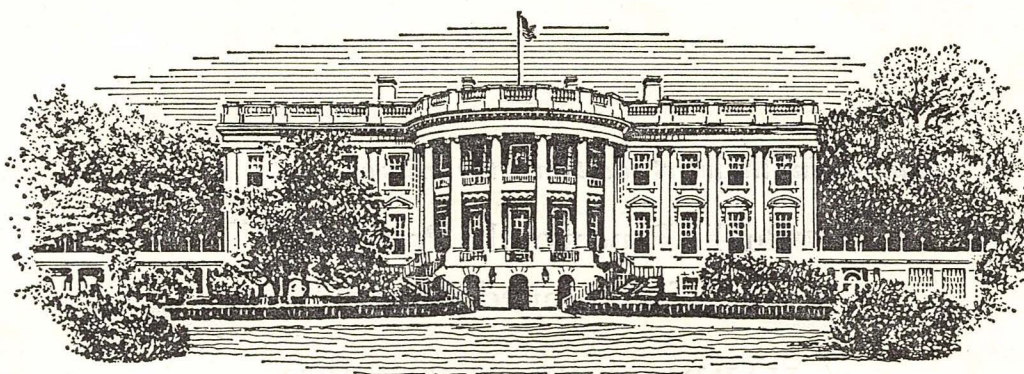
Senate of the United States.

I nominate

Robert LaFollette Bennett, of Alaska,

to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be "Lyndon B. Johnson", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.



Weekly Compilation of
**PRESIDENTIAL
DOCUMENTS**

Monday, March 21, 1966



Volume 2 • Number 11

Pages 373-415

Announcing the latest addition to the series of . . .

Public Papers of the Presidents
of the United States

HARRY S. TRUMAN, 1951

This is the 19th volume in the "Public Papers" series to be released. It contains public messages and statements, news conferences, and other selected papers that were released by the White House during the year 1951.

Among the 307 items in the book are: the President's annual message to Congress on the State of the Union; special message to the Congress recommending a "pay as we go" tax program; radio and television reports to the American people on Korea and U.S. policy in the Far East and on the need for extending inflation controls; the address and remarks in San Francisco at the opening of the Conference on the Japanese Peace Treaty; and the proclamation terminating the state of war with Germany.

The 747-page clothbound book, fully indexed, is priced at \$6.25.

All volumes in the "Public Papers" series are sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Distribution for official use is governed by the provisions of sections 32.15-32.19 of Title 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF
Presidential Documents

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration (mail address National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408), the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages and other Presidential materials released by the White House up to 5:00 p.m. Friday of each week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 8B), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (30 F.R. 9573; 1 CFR Part 32).

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

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Weekly Compilation of **PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS**

Week Ending Friday, March 18, 1966

THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE OF MARCH 12, 1966

[Held following a meeting with the Executive Committee of the
National Governors' Conference]

THE PRESIDENT. If you will come in quickly, we are running late for the next meeting. I will review exactly what has happened. Governor Reed is to my right. Bill has given you a list of those that attended the meeting: Governor Burns of Hawaii, Governor Hansen of Wyoming, Governor Johnson of Mississippi, Governor Volpe of Massachusetts, Governor Scranton of Pennsylvania.

Governor Hughes was in Japan and Governor Connally has another commitment and couldn't be here.

FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

The questions discussed were divided into three parts: What did we have in mind in the establishment of the commission to study Federal, State, and local governments referred to in our State of the Union Message? We discussed that at some length and I explained to the Governors what I had in mind and told them we would go into more detail in our meeting later; that we wanted to know what new institutions and new partnerships were needed to attack these problems.

How could we best organize the Federal Government field structure? How could we go about getting the best and right information on how effective these programs were, our new programs for this year, such as river basin commissions, community health services, multi-State training schools, and so on and so forth? Bill will give you any fill-in on that that you may want.

National Citizens Advisory Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation

Announcement of Appointment of Chairman and Members of the Committee. March 17, 1966

President Johnson today announced the appointment of a National Citizens Advisory Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation. The new Committee will make a comprehensive study of current vocational rehabilitation programs and of the Nation's vocational rehabilitation needs, and submit proposals for comprehensive goals for the future.

Appointments to the Committee have been made by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, John W. Gardner.

The Committee will consult with and make its recommendations to the Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation, Miss Mary E. Switzer.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration administers Federal grants to States in support of rehabilitation services for physically and mentally handicapped people, and for research and demonstration projects to secure new knowledge and find better ways of rehabilitating such individuals. It also administers grants for training programs to produce more professional rehabilitation workers, for the construction of rehabilitation centers and workshops, for an international rehabilitation research program, and several related activities.

Chairman of the National Citizens Advisory Committee will be Dr. Howard A. Rusk, professor and chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University Medical Center.

The members of the Committee are:

W. SCOTT ALLAN, Boston, Mass., Assistant Vice President, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., and President, National Rehabilitation Association.

MRS. JOHN A. BURNS, Honolulu, Hawaii, wife of the Governor of Hawaii and Cochairman, Retarded Children's Fund.

EDGAR J. FORIO, Atlanta, Ga., Senior Vice President, Coca-Cola Co.; Chairman, Fulton County-DeKalb Hospital Authority, and Past President of the Georgia Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, New York, N.Y., President, American Broadcasting Co., and Director, Research and Educational Foundation of the United Cerebral Palsy Association.

BENIGNO C. HERNANDEZ, Albuquerque, N. Mex., attorney at law and former Vice President of the Council of Social Agencies.

WILLIAM P. HOBBY, JR., Houston, Tex., publisher, The Houston Post.

BROTHER BONIFACE JOSEPH, F.S.C., Brooklyn, N.Y., Dean, Bishop Loughlin High School.

JOHN E. KING, Emporia, Kans., President, Kansas State Teachers College.

WILLIAM O. KUHLMAN, Kansas City, Kans., Director, Research and Education Program, International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

BURT L. RISLEY, Austin, Tex., Executive Director, Texas State Commission for the Blind.

MRS. JAMES H. SEMANS, Durham, N.C., former member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation.

ALFRED SLIGER, Springfield, Ill., Director, Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

MRS. JACQUELINE SMITH, San Francisco, Calif., former member of the San Francisco Welfare Commission.

DR. HESTER TURNER, Portland, Oreg., Dean of Students, Lewis and Clark College.

ARTHUR M. WEIMER, Bloomington, Ind., Vice Chairman, Aerospace Research Application Center, University of Indiana.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Robert LaFollette Bennett of Alaska. March 18, 1966

President Johnson announced today that he will nominate Robert LaFollette Bennett of Alaska to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Subject to Senate confirmation, Bennett's appointment is a notable first on two counts: He will become the first Indian to be named Indian Commissioner in 97 years, and the first career-service Commissioner in several decades.

Bennett, an Oneida Indian from Wisconsin, is a career employee of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs with 29 years of bureau service. He has been Deputy Commissioner since October 1965. He succeeds Phileo Nash, Commissioner since 1961, who resigned effective March 15.

Bennett is 53 years of age. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Commissioner, he had served nearly 4 years as the Bureau's area director in Juneau, Alaska. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall characterized Bennett as "a dynamic leader who will quicken the pace of Indian advancement."

A 1931 graduate of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kans., Bennett holds a law degree from Southeastern University, Washington, D.C. He first joined the Indian Bureau in 1933 as a junior clerk in Utah and has remained with it except for World War II service with the Marine Corps and 2 years as a Veterans Administration training specialist in Phoenix, Ariz. He has served the Indian Bureau in the Uintah and Ouray, Navajo, and Consolidated Ute Agencies; in the Bureau's area office at Aberdeen, S. Dak.; and in Chicago and Washington, D.C. He has been cited several times for outstanding performance on the job, and was the winner of the 1962 Indian Achievement Award of the Indian Council Fire, a national organization based in Chicago.

The only other Indian appointed Commissioner was Eli Samuel Parker, a Seneca of the Wolf Clan from New York State, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, as "military secretary" to General Grant. He was a Grant intimate, and became one of the first appointees to civil office in April 1869. He resigned in July 1871, after a stormy tenure as Commissioner.

Alleviation of Jet Aircraft Noise

Memorandum to the President From the Special Assistant for Science and Technology.
March 18, 1966

March 17, 1966

Memorandum for the President

Your recent Transportation Message highlighted the problem of jet aircraft noise in these words:

"Aircraft noise is a growing source of annoyance and concern to the thousands of citizens who live near many of our large airports. As more of our airports begin to accommodate jets and as the volume of air travel expands, the problem will take on added dimension.

"There are no simple or swift solutions. But it is clear that we must embark now on a concerted effort to alleviate the problems of aircraft noise. To this end, I am today directing the President's Science Advisor to work with the Administrators of the Federal Aviation Agency and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Secretaries of Commerce, and of Housing and Urban Development, to frame an action program to attack this problem."

In October 1965 I convened an ad hoc Jet Aircraft Noise Panel to examine the relevant technical aspects of this subject and its many associated economic, sociological, governmental and legal issues. The members of this Panel were drawn from the airframe and aircraft engine industry, the airlines, the field of land use planning and federal and local government agencies.

I am pleased to be able to present to you the report of this Panel entitled "Alleviation of Jet Aircraft Noise Near Airports." This report outlines the Panel's unanimous views concerning the reduction of engine noise, the measurement of noise levels, noise standards, patterns of aircraft operation near airports, and compatible land utilization. It provides a set of recommendations in each of these areas with suggestions for their future implementation. The principal recommendations are:

- Initiation of Federally supported studies of the expected scope of the noise problem through 1975 and of the public and private programs which will be needed to combat the problem.
- Creation of a high level Federal Task Force to undertake, on an urgent basis, a "systems" type analysis of the problem in the vicinity of the Kennedy, O'Hare and Los Angeles airports, the analysis to be extended to other affected areas as soon as practicable.
- Development of valid, broadly applicable standards of noise measurement.
- Pursuit of a definitive technical study pointed toward a reduction in noise levels produced by jet engines and by aircraft, together with a determina-

tion of the costs associated with the various levels of improvement which may be technologically possible.

- Establishment of a Task Force to investigate methods for Federal participation in a coordinated program for compatible land utilization in the vicinity of airports.
- Starting an effort to identify and place into effect any modifications to operating procedures and take-off or landing techniques that would reduce noise without compromising safety.

I believe that these recommendations provide a useful basis for my work with the Administrators of the Federal Aviation Agency and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Secretaries of Commerce, and of Housing and Urban Development, in responding to your direction in your Transportation Message to frame an action program for the alleviation of jet aircraft noise near airports.

DONALD F. HORNIG
Special Assistant for
Science and Technology

NOTE: The report, entitled "Alleviation of Jet Aircraft Noise Near Airports, A Report of the Jet Aircraft Noise Panel (Without Appendix), March 1966" (9 pp., Government Printing Office, 1966) was made available with the release.

United States Savings Bond Program

Remarks of the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Postmaster General on the Appointment of a New Chairman, Interdepartmental Savings Bond Committee. March 18, 1966

We have come here this morning to welcome Postmaster General Larry O'Brien into still another very important job. Larry is going to assume the chairmanship of the Interdepartmental Committee for Savings Bonds. There is no task being performed by any officer of this Government that is more important at the present time.

Every savings bond is a contribution to our national security. Not all of us can help directly to win the fight for freedom in Viet-Nam, but every one of us can do his share to support our men who are out there in Viet-Nam fighting for us.

Every one of us, by participating in the Savings Bond Program, can help to bear the cost of conflict.

Every one of us can contribute to conserving the buying power of our American dollar.

During the 3½ years that John Macy has served as Chairman of this Committee, there has been a substantial growth in the rate of savings bond sales throughout the United States Government.

LOOK

A PUBLICATION OF COWLES COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

488 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10022 MU 8-0300

WILLIAM B. ARTHUR—Managing Editor

March 23, 1966

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bennett:

You are invited
To a reception honoring
THE 1966 NATIONAL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR.

The reception will be
Tuesday, April 5
From five to seven p.m.
In the Sheraton Room
Of the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel
(923 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.)

Sponsors of the Teacher
Of the Year Program are:
LOOK Magazine, and
The Council of
Chief State School Officers.

Earlier on April 5, President
Johnson will present the award
to the winning teacher during
a noon-time ceremony at the
White House.

We hope you will be able to
attend.

Sincerely,



Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bennett
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



LLB149 (05)AB141

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OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1931 CONSTITUTION NORTHWEST WASHDC

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SENATORS SMATHERS AND HOLLAND THIS
DATE:

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT
L BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. MR
BENNETTS LONG DEDICATED SERVICE TO INDIANS AND HIS UNDERSTANDING
OF THEIR PROBLEMS, WE BELIEVE, QUALIFIES HIM FOR THIS HIGH POSITION
BUFFALO TIGER CHAIRMAN NICCOSUKEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF FLORIDA
(05).

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MAR 29 1966

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RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 29 3 13 PM '66

1849 Nieto Dr.
Green Bay Wis
March 30 1966

Dear Friend Robert-

Your letter has been received very nice to hear from you I have an announcement to inform you about if you don't already know about it and that is about Ex Hashelites Reunion June 4th in Albuquerque N. M. Hilton Hotel. Heronimo Alexander lives in Albuquerque and we have been corresponding he has been giving me the low down. My wife Irene and I are planning to attend the doings Frank McDonald is the main scorer. They are expecting a huge turn out. I reckon there will be plenty of excitement there. I plan to make a vacation trip around Lake Superior in August. I must be signing off here because of lack of news. My sending are enclosing a Clipping from the Green Bay Press editorial Page about the wheel from Oneida.

Sincerely Your Friend
Clarence & Irene Powles