

# *State Historical Society of North Dakota*

TRUSTEE OF THE STATE

*Liberty Memorial Building, Bismarck, North Dakota*

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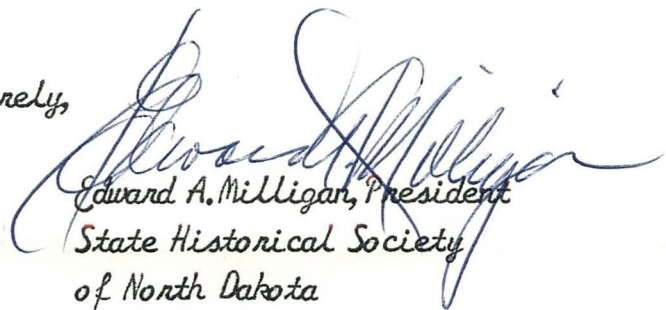
*Bottineau, North Dakota*

*October 21, 1965*

*Congratulates Bob,*

*I hope you have an opportunity to get the ears of the  
Congress and straighten them out on a few things.*

*Sincerely,*

  
*Edward A. Milligan, President  
State Historical Society  
of North Dakota*

TIMBERWOLF UP  
(Milligan Manor)  
Lake Metigoshe  
Bottineau, North Dakota  
58318

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. Edward A. Milligan, President  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Lake Metigoshe  
Bottineau, North Dakota 58318

Dear Ed:

I wish to thank you for your congratulatory letter of October 21. While I would like the opportunity to get the ears of Congress as you suggested, I am not sure who will get straightened out in the process.

I do appreciate your remembering me and our association together in behalf of the Indian people of North Dakota when I was stationed at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

I know that you have the opportunity to visit Washington on occasion and I hope you will visit me at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I can be reached by telephone, number 343-5233.

Thank you again for your very kind note. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



## “Buy North Dakota Products”

COMMISSIONERS

|                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Edwin A. Johnson     | Sheriff                            |
| C. A. Berg           | County Auditor                     |
| Victor C. Jackson    | County Treasurer                   |
| Anton T. Julseth     | Register of Deeds                  |
| John B. Hart         | States Attorney                    |
| W. A. Lawston        | County Judge<br>and Clerk of Court |
| Luba E. Johnson      | County Superintendent              |
| Myrtle Johnson       | Public Administrator               |
| A. R. Neuenchwander  | County Coroner                     |
| Turtle Mountain Star | Official Paper                     |

ROLETTE COUNTY  
NORTH DAKOTA  
ROLLA

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Grant Foss             | 5th          |
| Rolette, North Dakota  |              |
| Lars Gilje             | 4th District |
| Rolette, North Dakota  |              |
| Arthur Lindbo          | 3rd District |
| Rolla, North Dakota    |              |
| Clarence A. Bye        | 2nd District |
| Dunseith, North Dakota |              |
| Leo Jeanotte           | 1st District |
| Rolla, North Dakota    |              |

October 27, 1965

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. May I still see the day when Mr. Robert Bennett will be the first Indian Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This is partly personal, but it is mainly because I believe that in such a position you will be able to assist materially in helping people - both Indians and non-Indians.

If the occasion should arise, and assuming of course you don't get too far out of line as to my basic thinking, I want you to feel free and I would appreciate your calling on me in those isolated occasions when my political assistance would be of value to you and your basic thoughts. Rest assured, Bob, that I realize a Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs doesn't make policy too much - he is just able to influence policy once in awhile and this influencing always has to be when the opening arises.

This is perhaps an occasion for me to remind you that any general could win any war if he had all of the troops and resources he needed to win the war. A great general, including MacArthur, and of course the commanders of the Marine Corps, influences the outcome of the conflict with AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

Also, Bob, please remember that inevitably the tide will turn and your current opportunities will decline. When things get going bad, please remember I'm glad to sign my letters to you as,

Your friend,

John B. Hart

Return In 3 Days To  
Office of  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY**  
Rolla, North Dakota 58367

JBH:mk

nk P. S. Phil send her regards - also please say  
hello - to the wife, and what happened to your leg  
in the Marine Corps? Phil



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. John B. Hart  
States Attorney  
Rolette County  
Rolla, North Dakota 58357

Dear John:

I appreciate very much your kind letter of October 27 congratulating me on my appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I especially appreciate your offer of personal and political support as I try to influence policy along the ideas which we have shared for many years. I wish to assure you that my basic philosophies have not changed throughout the many years, and I believe that it is because of these philosophies that I have been offered this opportunity. I expect to be able to implement them to the extent that I can convince others that these philosophies are basically sound.

Your interest in writing to the North Dakota delegation in my behalf is much more than I deserve and you may be sure that I am extremely thankful to you for this interest. I know that this kind of support will be helpful to me and I look forward to your continued support. I am going into this position with my eyes open, and should my career decline it is good to know that individuals such as yourself can be counted upon.

My oldest son, John, who was in the Navy, is now an electronics computer engineer, working with General Electric in Phoenix. He is married and has one child. The next son, William, who also was in the Navy, is a mathematician working on computer programming for the Lawrence Research Laboratory at Livermore, California, which incidentally is headed by Dr. Teller. Leo, who was in the Marine Corps, has a Business Administration major from the University of South Dakota and he is now a sales supervisor for General Foods Company in Phoenix, specializing in the Birds Eye frozen food line. William is married and has two sons, and Leo was just married last July.

With all good wishes to you and Phyllis, and your family, and again thanks for your letter and other efforts in my behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



PHONE  
225-5534

204-206 CAPITOL BLDG.  
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

*Richard R. Leitherer, O.D.*  
OPTOMETRIST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**R**

O.D.

O.S.

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MEMO:

*10/21/65*

*Dear Bob*  
*Our sincere Congratulations on*  
*your promotion. This is wonderful*  
*news. Dick*

\_\_\_\_\_  
O.D.

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Richard R. Letherer, O.D.  
204-206 Capital Building  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Dear Dr. Letherer:

I want to thank you for your sincere congratulations on my promotion to Deputy Commissioner. I didn't feel that you would remember me, although we did have a common interest in the Lions Club and in "barrel house" piano. I hope you still have the same heavy left hand.

I may be that when my travels take me through Aberdeen, we can get together for a Lions Club luncheon.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



B. Mc Gillis  
Box 250  
Mt. Edgecumbe  
Alaska



Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Former BIA Alaska  
Area Director  
Goldstein Bldg.  
Juneau  
Alaska

Personal

1-C-1104



Sincere Congratulations



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CLEVELAND, U.S.A.

25 M 703-3J





Mr. Bennett —

To extend congratulations

And the best of wishes, too —

May the happiness that's yours today

Continue all life through!

"You are certainly a  
credit to our  
Indian race"

Coach B. McGillis  
Mt. Edgecumbe

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Mr. B. J. McGillis  
Box 250  
Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska

Dear Coach:

I appreciate your congratulatory card and the personal message which it contained. I hope that as the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs I will continue to be a credit to the Indian race.

You can be sure that I will continue my interest in the Mt. Edgecumbe School and a good athletic program there. I have watched the teams under your coaching in action, not only with reference to their athletic ability, but with reference to other traits that help to develop character in young people. You are to be commended and congratulated for the effort you are making to instill traits of good character, as well as to inspire and stimulate your teams to be successful in competition and graceful in losing.

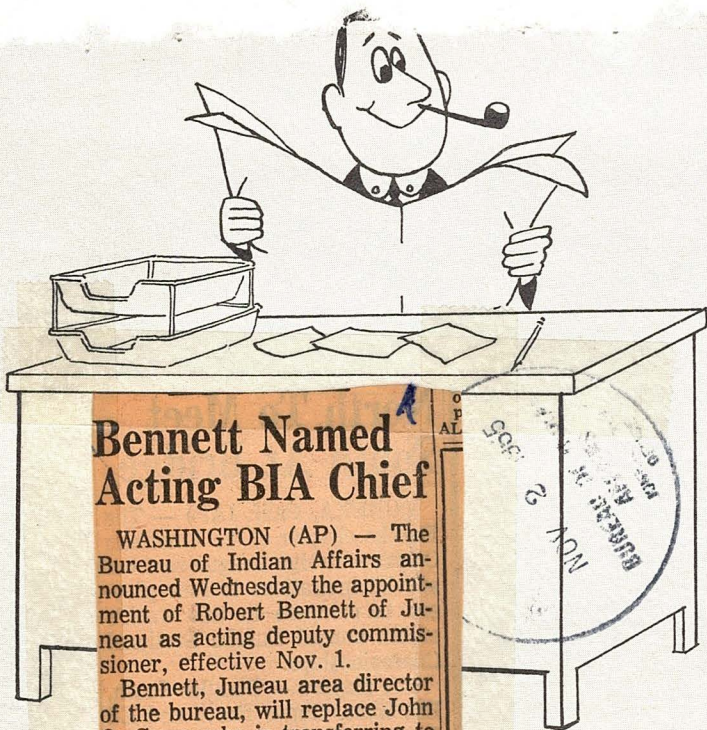
With all good wishes for a successful basketball season this winter, and for many seasons to come.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal





## Bennett Named Acting BIA Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced Wednesday the appointment of Robert Bennett of Juneau as acting deputy commissioner, effective Nov. 1.

Bennett, Juneau area director of the bureau, will replace John O. Crow, who is transferring to a position with the Bureau of Land Management. Bennett's successor has not been named.

Congratulations!

*C. Ross Wood*

C. Ross Wood  
Asst. District Sales Manager

**PACIFIC NORTHERN AIRLINES**  
**THE ALASKA FLAG LINE®**



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska

November 4, 1965

Mr. C. Ross Wood  
Assistant District Sales Manager  
Pacific Northern Airlines  
Box 1620  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Wodd:

I appreciate your taking the time to send me the congratulatory message with the newspaper item relating to my appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

It has been my good fortune to have had the support, during my four years in Alaska, of individuals in business in the State. I believe that the high point of cooperation was reached on the Lions' Club project for the relocation and reestablishment of the people from Afognak to Port Lions. I hope to have the opportunity to visit Port Lions with distinguished guests from Washington and Canada before leaving Alaska permanently.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File (personal)



Memorandum From . . . .  
MARTIN N. B. HOLM

10-22-65

Sab —

Believe you will be  
interested in attached article that  
appeared in American News.

Congratulations Sab — we  
are all proud of you.

Remember too, you will  
have our complete support, and  
cooperation.

Martin .

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. Martin N. B. Holm

Area Director, Aberdeen, South Dakota

Dear Martin:

I appreciate very much your kind note of October 22 and the newspaper clipping from the Aberdeen American-News relating to my promotion to Deputy Commissioner. I appreciate particularly your offer of complete support and cooperation because this is extremely necessary if the Bureau is to carry out its mission to the Indian people. I am thankful to you for your leadership during the enjoyable years that we worked together at Aberdeen, and I am looking forward to this pleasure again.

Having these kind comments from you, with your being in a position to observe me at my worst as well as my few good days, is very meaningful to me.

With all good wishes to you and Gladys, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal





"Watching the Tribe's Welfare"

## Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

TELEPHONE NO. 854-2561  
FORT YATES, NORTH DAKOTA

October 22 1965

| BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| OCT 29 1965        |                 |
| Init.              | Act by          |
|                    | Area Director   |
|                    | Tribal Op.      |
|                    | Realty          |
|                    | Ind. Dev.       |
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|                    | Finance         |
|                    | Prop. Mgt.      |
|                    | Plant Mgt.      |
|                    | Credit          |
|                    | Land Op.        |
|                    | Housing         |
|                    | Roads           |
|                    | M & F           |
|                    | Asst. Dir. C.S. |
|                    | Education       |
|                    | Welfare         |
|                    | Emp. Asst.      |

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Juneau Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is with sincere pleasure that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and I as Chairman congratulate you. We are hopeful that our working relations will continue as satisfactorily as they have for so many years in the past.

Our very best to you - we are proud that you have been selected to such an important position.

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Agard  
Tribal Chairman

Encl.

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Through: Superintendent, Standing Rock Agency

Mr. A. J. Agard  
Tribal Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Fort Yates, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Agard:

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing me on October 22 extending the congratulations of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and yourself. I am looking forward to working with you and the Tribe with pleasure because we have always enjoyed such a good working relationship in the past.

I want to thank you again for your very nice letter and the enclosed newspaper clipping, and I hope that I will deserve the pride which you have in my selection to the position.

With all godd wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal





UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA  
COLLEGE, ALASKA 99735

October 27, 1965

Mr. Robert Bennett  
Area Administrator  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Bob:

I have just read in the Juneau newspaper that you have been promoted to Acting Deputy Commissioner at the Bureau of Indian Affairs effective November 1.

Please accept my congratulations on this promotion, and also my disappointment that you will be leaving Alaska. I feel that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has made great progress under your leadership in the State of Alaska. I know that you will continue your forward looking policies in regard to Alaska in your new position in Washington.

Sincere best wishes on your new assignment.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR S. BUSWELL  
Dean and Director

ASB/jm

cc: Mr. Philleo Nash  
Mr. James Matthews

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Dr. Arthur S. Buswell  
Dean and Director  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Alaska  
College, Alaska 99735

Dear Art:

I appreciate your letter of October 27 extending congratulations on my promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am now back in Juneau sweating out the processes of the necessary personnel actions.

I hope that during my four years here relationships between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Cooperative Extension Service have improved. It is a pleasure to have the cooperation and support of individuals such as yourself in the Extension Service.

I know that your business will bring you to Washington on occasions and I would appreciate your visiting me at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. My telephone number will be 343-5233.

I wish to thank you again for your kind letter and the best wishes expressed therein.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: (personal)



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

ALASKA OFFICE BUILDING — JUNEAU 99801

October 28, 1965

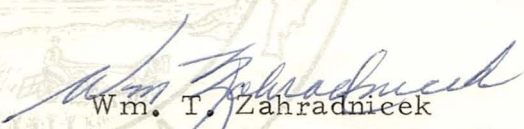
The Honorable Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I and everyone in the Alaska Department of Education wish to congratulate you on your promotion and advancement to Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. We have enjoyed and appreciated your wholehearted cooperation with the State Department of Education. The lines of communication have always been open between the two departments. We feel a great deal of progress has been made toward the improvement of education of Alaska Natives.

We sincerely wish you happiness and success in your new position.

Sincerely,

  
Wm. T. Zahradnick  
Commissioner of Education

WTZ/jn

cc: The Honorable Philleo Nash  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. William T. Zahradnicek  
Commissioner of Education  
Alaska Office Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Zahradnicek:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of October 28 extending to me on your behalf and on behalf of the Alaska Department of Education congratulations on my promotion to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and the members of your Department who have shown such a sincere interest in working with the Bureau to develop the best possible education program for the young native people of Alaska. I know that under your leadership this work will continue and that cooperation between this office and the Department of Education will improve. One of the greatest pleasures has been the fact that your Department and this office have had the same basic philosophies about education, and together we have tried our best to implement them.

I know that your work will take you to Washington on occasion, and I hope that you will get in touch with me whenever you are in the area. I can be reached by phone number 343-5233.

Thank you again for your nice letter and the wishes expressed therein.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File (personal)





# WIEN ALASKA AIRLINES

ALASKA'S FIRST AIRLINE • FAIRBANKS • ALASKA

Nome, Alaska  
November 1, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations, and all success on your new position and promotion. While it is our loss in this State to a degree and Washington's gain; we all well know that you will do us twice as much, since you are so well versed on the conditions and the real problems that face us here today. I well know that you will save the Gov't many many dollars by being there because you know the problems and the answers that would take someone there, not aware of the conditions many many months and many many dollars to find the answers.

I apprediated very much the opportunity we had to meet with you before going to Ketchikan for the State Chamber meeting.

We are all looking forward to seeing the reindeer placed in this area and now working on the University to acquire some acreage adjoining the Vocational School for research by the Extension service in reindeer, fish and off-shore mining for a starter. Old Nome and N.W. is going to blossom forth yet if we all keep joining hands and going for a common goal.

Kindest personal reagrds to you and yours, and hope to see you in Washington someday.

Sincerely,

*Pearse M. Walsh*  
Pearse M. Walsh





Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Hon. Pearse M. Walsh  
State Senator  
Wien Alaska Airlines, Inc.  
Nome, Alaska 99762

Dear Senator Walsh:

I appreciate receiving your letter of congratulations dated November 1 with your good wishes and personal regards.

I have enjoyed my assignment here in Alaska and much of the pleasure has been from being able to become acquainted and to work with individuals such as yourself, who are genuinely interested in the development of an economy in Western Alaska to better the conditions of the native people, and helping us to develop a common purpose which we have shared throughout my assignment here.

I take with me to my new job the knowledge that people such as yourself are available in the local community to support and forward programs of development.

I extend to you a most cordial invitation to visit me any time that you are in the Washington area. I can be reached by phone number 343-5233.

Thank you again for your wonderful letter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: A.D.-personal



**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
815 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 TN 7-8400

November 1, 1965

Mr. Robert Bennett  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Bob:

It is with much pleasure that we have heard of your appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We know that you will bring a great deal to your new responsibility and we shall indeed be glad to have you nearby in Washington. You will certainly be much missed in Alaska.

All the members of the Joint Staff Committee on Indian Work join me in sending you congratulations and warmest good wishes.

Most sincerely,

(The Rev. Dr.) Clifford L. Samuelson  
Executive Officer for Special Field  
Ministries

cc: Joint Staff Committee on Indian Work



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 12, 1965

The Rev. Dr. Clifford L. Samuelson  
Executive Officer for Special Field Ministries  
Executive Council for the Episcopal Church  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Cliff:

I appreciate very much your letter of November 1 extending the congratulations of you and of the members of the Joint Staff Committee on Indian Work on my appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I have enjoyed the wonderful support and cooperation of the Episcopal Church, particularly through Bishop William J. Gordon of the Episcopal Church in Alaska.

I look forward to working with you and the members of the National Advisory Committee on American Indian Work, not only as it pertains to the work of the church among Indian people but also as it pertains to the work of the Bureau. I hope I can count on the continued support of you and the members of the Joint Staff Committee on Indian Work.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



W. W. KEELER  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
1118 SO. DEWEY  
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

CHEROKEE NATION

November 2, 1965

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I remember our association in connection with the Alaska Task Force assignment and I am confident you will do a great job on your new assignment. I am looking forward to working with you and if you feel I can be helpful in any way, let me know.

With all good wishes and warmest regards.

Sincerely,

*Bill -*

WWK/wga





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
7915 EASTERN AVENUE  
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20910

BUREAU OF MEDICAL SERVICES

REFER TO: IH-OPS

November 2, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Bob:

It was with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I noticed the announcement of your promotion to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I most certainly believe that the Bureau's choice was a very appropriate and a well deserved one, and wish to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations and sincere best wishes for your promotion.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Kazumi Kasuga, M. D.  
Medical Director  
Chief, Office of Program Services  
Division of Indian Health

NOV 5 1965

|      |   |                 |
|------|---|-----------------|
| Att. | ✓ | Area Director   |
|      |   | Tribal Op.      |
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|      |   | Asst.           |
|      |   | E               |

IH-OPS

November 2, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Bob:

It was with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I noticed the announcement of your promotion to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I most certainly believe that the Bureau's choice was a very appropriate and a well deserved one, and wish to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations and sincere best wishes for your promotion.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) K. Kasuga, M.D.

Kazumi Kasuga, M. D.  
Medical Director  
Chief, Office of Program Services  
Division of Indian Health



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 19, 1965

Kazumi Kasuga, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Chief, Office of Program Services  
Division of Indian Health  
7915 Eastern Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Dr. Kasuga:

I appreciate your taking the time to write me your letter of November 2 extending congratulations and best wishes on my appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I hope that when I reach Washington we can re-establish the fine working relationships there which we have enjoyed here in the State of Alaska.

I am looking forward to being more closely associated with you again on problems which are of mutual concern to us both.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

# Missionary District of Alaska

OF THE

Protestant Episcopal Church

BOX 441, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

*WJG*

THE RIGHT REVEREND  
WILLIAM J. GORDON, JR.  
BISHOP OF ALASKA

3 November 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Interior Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am writing simply to let you know of my pleasure that the Department of the Interior has recognized your abilities and has raised you to a position of more responsibility and at the same time to let you know how much we do regret that you will no longer be the area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska.

I feel that you have done an outstanding job during your time in Alaska in many ways. Surely you have raised the image of the Bureau in the eyes of the average Alaskan to a new high, certainly during the years that I have been in the Far North. Secondly, you have shown a real and vital concern for the individual native in Alaska and you have communicated this to the villagers themselves. Thirdly, you have entered into the activities of the State of Alaska in your capacity as area director and in many ways have been of real strength to the whole state of Alaska. I certainly feel that you have been a credit to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and of great strength to Alaska during your service here.

Our warm thoughts and good wishes will certainly go with you in your new job.

I do hope our paths will cross again in the not too distant future.

With my warm greetings to you and Mrs. Bennett, I am

Faithfully yours,

*William J. Gordon, Jr.*  
William J. Gordon, Jr.

WJGJr:m

Please Reply Via AIR MAIL



ERNEST GRUENING  
ALASKA

HOME ADDRESS:  
Box 1001  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

GEORGE SUNDBORG  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HERBERT W. BEASER  
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 27, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Bob:

As a result of a more careful rereading of the press release from the Interior Department, I now realize that it is not you but John Crow who will be transferring over to a public land responsibility.

The congratulations which I sent you a few days ago of course go equally with respect to your promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Actually, I think that is a much better spot for you.

I look forward to working with you in Washington.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

*Ernest Gruening*

ERNEST GRUENING, U.S.S.

| DIA JUNEAU, ALASKA                      |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| NOV 1 1965                              |                 |
| Att.                                    | Act by          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RLB | Director        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Tribal Op.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Realty          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Ind. Dev.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Mkt. Sp.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Asst. Dir. ADM. |
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| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Prop Mgt.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Plant Mgt.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Credit          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Land Op.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Housing         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Roads           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | M & F           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Asst. Dir. C.S. |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Education       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Welfare         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                | Emp. Asst.      |

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Hon. Ernest Gruening  
United States Senator  
6311 New Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Gruening:

I appreciate your kind letter of October 27 congratulating me on my appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am looking forward to sharing with you our common interests and concern for the native people of Alaska.

The support of yourself and other members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation has been very much appreciated and I hope to have your continued support and cooperation in my new job. I believe that a very good working relationship exists between your office and the Bureau of Indian Affairs here, and I look forward to such a relationship between the Washington Office and your office.

I want to thank you for your letter and to express my wish that your recovery from your recent surgery will be rapid and complete.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Robert L. Bennett  
Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

copy to your Anchorage office

Robert L. Bennett:jvc  
File (personal)



RMB

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
THE ALASKA RAILROAD

OFFICE OF THE  
GENERAL MANAGER

October 28, 1965

P. O. BOX 7-2111  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

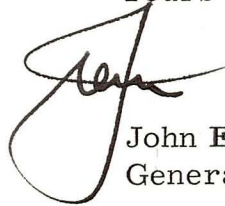
Dear Bob:

I read with considerable enthusiasm this morning the news release from the Office of the Secretary slated for release October 19, 1965, in which it was indicated that you would be promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.

In this particular instance, I am sure that Alaska's loss will be Washington's gain, but the main point of this letter is simply to pass the word along to you that all those who know you here on The Alaska Railroad are indeed happy because of this personnel action.

With best regards.

Yours very truly,



John E. Manley  
General Manager

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. John E. Manley  
General Manager  
The Alaska Railroad  
P.O. Box 7-2111  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear John:

I appreciate your kind letter of October 28 expressing your happiness at my promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

It has been a pleasure to participate with you in Alaska Field Committee meetings in which we shared our mutual problems and interests as members of that committee. One of the highlights of my four years in Alaska was the trip on the Alaska Railroad with you, John Carver, and others. You were an excellent host and I will always remember the enjoyment of that trip.

Thank you again for your kind letter. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File (personal)





IN REPLY REFER TO:

Area Director

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PORTLAND AREA OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 3785

PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

October 26, 1965

AIRMAIL

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Area Director, Juneau, Alaska

Dear Bob:

Please accept my sincere congratulations for your transfer and promotion to the Washington Office in the capacity of Deputy Commissioner.

This couldn't happen to a nicer guy, and I am extending my very best wishes for a most successful tour of duty in this new job.

I will look forward to meeting you in your new capacity in the future. Please don't overlook the Portland Area on your first field trip as Deputy Commissioner.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. Holtz  
Area Director

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. Robert D. Holtz

Area Director, Portland, Oregon

Dear Bob:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 26 extending congratulations for my transfer and promotion to Washington as Deputy Commissioner. It is especially pleasant to get this kind of a message from a coworker because individuals like yourself have been able to observe me at my worst as well as my best. Thus, having your letter after these kind of experiences is a wonderful reassurance.

I am looking forward to working with you and to your continued support and cooperation because, as you very well know, it takes this to do the job which needs to be done.

Thanks again for your very kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RobertBennett:jvc  
File: Personal



# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
JALMAR M. KERTTULA  
STAR ROUTE  
PALMER, ALASKA  
DISTRICT 7



## House of Representatives

Palmer, Alaska  
Oct. 23, 1965

Mr. R. L. Bennet  
Area Director, BIA  
Juneau, Alaska

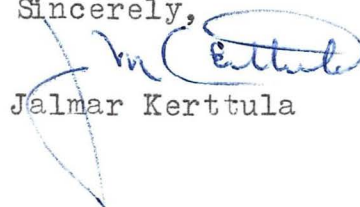
Dear Bob,

I have heard that you are considering a new position in Washington, D. C.

I want you to know that I feel the B.I.A. has improved its program in Alaska since your arrival - this I say after visiting with villagers on the West Coast and interior of Alaska and after meeting the "new" B.I.A. officials.

I wish you well in your new position and want you to know that as one American to another I appreciate it that your integrity, knowledge and good will has played a part in the Alaskan development.

Sincerely,

  
Jalmar Kerttula

| BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA          |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| COMMITTEES 9 1965           |                 |
| CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS |                 |
| CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE |                 |
| COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES     |                 |
|                             | Area Director   |
|                             | Tribal Op.      |
|                             | Realty          |
|                             | Ind. Dev.       |
|                             | Mkt. Sp.        |
|                             | Asst. Dir. ADM. |
|                             | Personnel       |
|                             | Finance         |
|                             | Prop Mgt.       |
|                             | Plant Mgt.      |
|                             | Credit          |
|                             | Land Op.        |
|                             | Housing         |
|                             | Roads           |
|                             | M & F           |
|                             | Asst. Dir. C.S. |
|                             | Education       |
|                             | Welfare         |
|                             | Emp. Asst.      |

JK/jc

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. Jalmar M. Kerttula  
State Representative  
Star Route  
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Jay:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of October 23 wishing me well in my new position as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington. I especially appreciate your kind comments about my integrity, knowledge and good will, and I wish to assure you that with my new duties I hope to use them all to good advantage. in assisting individuals such as yourself and the State Legislature in developing and implementing programs for the development of Alaska.

It is good to know that you feel improvements have been made in Alaska in the work of the Bureau of Indian Affairs during my four years here. This has been possible in large measure by the support of individuals such as yourself and Mrs. Kerttula, and the support and cooperation of the State Legislature.

I know that your duties as a legislator and Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee take you to Washington on occasion and I would consider it a real pleasure if you would contact me at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, telephone 343-5233, when you are in the Washington area.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Kerttula, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: Personal



CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.  
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.  
LISTER H. HART, ALA.  
JOHN L. McCLELLAN, ARK.  
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.  
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.  
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.  
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.  
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.  
MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.  
KARL E. MUNDT, S. DAK.  
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE  
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

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

632 6th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska  
October 22, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
411 Goldstein Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Bob:

I've always known that Philleo Nash is a man of perception and intelligence. But not until reading of your appointment as Deputy Commissioner did I realize just how perceptive and intelligent he is. I can think of no greater luck for the Bureau than to have you back in Washington. I think too, that Alaska will be fortunate to have a man in such an important position so thoroughly informed on Alaska matters.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,



Hugh G. Gallagher  
Legislative Assistant to  
Senator E.L. Bartlett

| SIA JUNEAU, ALASKA |     |                 |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------|
| OCT 26 1965        |     |                 |
| Att.               | In. | Act by          |
|                    |     | Area Director   |
|                    |     | Tribal Op.      |
|                    |     | Realty          |
|                    |     | Ind. Dev.       |
|                    |     | Mkt. Sp.        |
|                    |     | Asst. Dir. ADM. |
|                    |     | Personnel       |
|                    |     | Finance         |
|                    |     | Prop. Mgt.      |
|                    |     | Plant Mgt.      |
|                    |     | Credit          |
|                    |     | Land Op.        |
|                    |     | Housing         |
|                    |     | Roads           |
|                    |     | M & F           |
|                    |     | Asst. Dir. C.S. |
|                    |     | Education       |
|                    |     | Welfare         |
|                    |     | Emp. Asst.      |

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. Hugh G. Gallagher  
Legislative Assistant to  
Senator E. L. Bartlett  
632 - 6th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Hugh:

I appreciate your letter of October 22 and your very kind comments about my selection as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I hope that in my new position I can bring a little influence to bear on the Bureau relating to the needs of the native people of Alaska. The experience of working in Alaska four years will serve me in good stead as matters come up for discussion and decision which relate to native and Indian people generally, and specifically to those in Alaska.

I want to thank you again for your kind letter with its good wishes. In turn, I want to send you my best wishes for success in your new endeavor as you start your six months fellowship to write a book on Congress. Maybe following that rigorous assignment, you may be able to do a book on the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



GRAND OFFICERS 1964-65

ALFRED WIDMARK  
Grand President  
Klawock, Alaska

STEVEN V. HOTCH  
Grand Vice-President  
Klukwan, Alaska

MARKLE EWAN  
Grand 2nd Vice-President  
Gakona, Alaska

CYRUS E. PECK, SR.  
Grand Secretary  
Box 1418, Juneau

PERCY HOPE  
Grand Treasurer  
303 Gold St., Apt. 3, Juneau

HAROLD BREMNER  
Grand Sgt.-At-Arms  
Yakutat, Alaska

GRAND CAMP

## ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD

ORGANIZED 1912

October 27, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Bennett;

Re: Yours of Sept. 13, 1965  
Attorneys for Alaska I.R.A. corporations.

Since you are about to leave Alaska, I do not wish to leave the above subject open wherein you said that "it is our interpretation that the legal aid referred to in the constitution pertains to the employment of general counsel as the Indian Claims Act was not in existence in 1942 when the Tanacross Constitution was ratified"

I feel obliged to take it that the above is your personal opinion and not necessarily the opinion of the Indian Bureau. We can leave it there. If it is the opinion of the department, I believe the members of any I.R.A. corporation should take exception because section 476 relating to "organization of Indian tribes" does not apply to Alaska.

Tribal lines are not regarded in Alaska and so any Indian who meets the residence qualifications of the local corporation can become a member. There is only one limitation placed on the subject of employing an attorney under an IRA constitution, namely, approval of his employment. I would say however that if the Tanacross Council should employ an attorney and should direct him to maintain an action of trespass against such persons, the attorney might be paid by the council and borrow money from the credit fund to pay for the expense of such litigation. Certainly such an expense might be considered in the category of preservation of corporation assets. If not, then you would have to reconsider the status of the Tyonek corporation to deal with tribal property without first obtaining an assignment from the tribe. You could get some light on what a former secretary of the Interior wrote about the principles involved in his letter of June 13, 1940.

I don't expect a reply. I write merely for the record.

As for you personally, I congratulate you on your promotion. You are a very able man and are a credit to our Indian race. I wish you had authority to establish policies.

Sincerely

William L. Paul, Sr.

BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA

NOV 2 1965

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE            |                  | Act by |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| All ANB Grand Officers         | Area Director    |        |
| Lottie Nannauck                | Kake             |        |
| ANS Grand President            | Tribal Op.       |        |
| WILLIAM L. PAUL, SR.           | Realty           |        |
| Grand President, Emeritus      | Ind. Dev.        |        |
| 1521 16th Avenue E.            | Mkt. So.         |        |
| Seattle, Washington            |                  |        |
| Past ANB Grand Presidents      |                  | ADM.   |
| Andrew Hope                    | Sitka            |        |
| William L. Paul, Sr.           | Seattle          |        |
| Cyril Zuboff                   | Juneau           |        |
| Frank G. Johnson               | Kake             |        |
| Roy Peratrovich                | Juneau           |        |
| Alfred Widmark                 | Klawock          |        |
| Cyrus Peck                     | Juneau           |        |
| Frank Peratrovich              | Klawock          |        |
| Joseph Williams                | Ketchikan        |        |
| Patrick J. Paul, Mt. Edgecumbe | Sitka            |        |
| Mark Jacobs                    | Kake             |        |
| Thomas L. Jackson              | Juneau           |        |
| John Hope                      | Hoonah           |        |
|                                | Roads            |        |
|                                | M. & F.          |        |
|                                | Asst. Dir. C. S. |        |
|                                | Education        |        |
|                                | Welfare          |        |
|                                | Emp. Asst.       |        |



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 4, 1965

Mr. William L. Paul, Sr.  
1521 16th Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Paul:

I have your letter of October 27 replying to mine of September 13 relating to attorneys for Alaska IRA corporations. In your letter you present some very provocative arguments in support of your position.

I have enjoyed our confrontations and our continued correspondence because you have presented points of view which otherwise I might have not had the opportunity to receive. These have been stimulating experiences for me and very pleasant work also.

I appreciate very much your congratulations and your kind expressions relating to my ability. In my new position I still hope to remain a credit to the Indian race and I will do my best to influence policies which I feel will be helpful to the Indian people and other native people of Alaska.

I hope to see you at the A.N.B. convention in Kake next week. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File:



October 28, 1965

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Bob:

I have recently been informed of your promotion to Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I would certainly like to congratulate you on this promotion.

I am happy to hear that you are entering this new and challenging assignment. I am dissappointed, however, that you are leaving Alaska.

It has been a pleasure to have had an opportunity to work with you on programs that are concerned with native Alaskans; and I will look forward to future contacts as we tackle problems of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



James W. Matthews  
Assistant Director  
Cooperative Extension Service

JWM:vld  
cc: Dr. A.S. Buswell, Director

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Mr. James W. Matthews  
Assistant Director  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Alaska  
College, Alaska 99735

Dear Jim:

When I wrote you a short time ago to congratulate you on your promotion, I had no idea that you would be writing me in kind, because I was not expecting a promotion. I do want to thank you for your letter of October 28 congratulating me on the promotion and I hope that the new assignment will have as many challenges as the one which faced me when I arrived here.

I hope that the relationships which have been established will continue so that the native people of Alaska will benefit from our joint efforts. I am happy that our philosophies about working with native people are so close together and this makes it easier for the two services to join forces and tackle the immense problems which face the native people of Alaska.

I know that your position takes you to Washington, D.C. on occasion and I would appreciate very much your getting in touch with me, telephone 343-5233, when you are in that area.

Again, Thank you for your very kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



# Sitka Chamber of Commerce

## Sitka, Alaska

### 1965 OFFICERS

Leslie Yaw, President  
James Thomason, Vice President  
Carl Vertrees, Treasurer  
Barbara Bundy, Secretary



October 22, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Juneau Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett,

On behalf of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce, and your many friends in the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe area, Congradulations on your new appointment! It is certainly a promotion well deserved.

We want to take this same opportunity to express our gratitude for the many years of excellent cooperation and support our local interests have received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs under your direction. Also, for the active participation we presently enjoy from Bureau representatives Crites, Wolverton and Carr in local Chamber affairs.

Although Sitka and Mt. Edgecumbe have long been separated by a narrow channel of water, ties between the two communities have been increasingly strengthened over the years. In direct support of this fact, our local Chamber recently incorporated under the name of The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce, with the specific intent of reaching out to include Mt. Edgecumbe interests.

Your diligent efforts on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in support of the Sitka airport will long be remembered. Its completion, along with a bridge across the channel will serve to further cement our overall community relationship during the years to come.

We want to wish you the very best of success in your new position and hope you carry with you pleasant recollections of your years spent in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

*Leslie Yaw*

Leslie Yaw, President  
Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce

| BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA |     |                      |
|--------------------|-----|----------------------|
| OCT 29 1965        |     |                      |
| Att.               | In. | Act by               |
|                    |     | Area Director        |
|                    |     | Tribal Op.           |
|                    |     | Realty               |
|                    |     | Ind. Dev.            |
|                    |     | Mkt. Sp.             |
|                    |     | Asst. Dir. ADM.      |
|                    |     | George Coulter       |
|                    |     | R. Rolland Armstrong |
|                    |     | Merle Stephens       |
|                    |     | James Wolverton      |
|                    |     | Plant Mgt.           |
|                    |     | Credit               |
|                    |     | Land Op.             |
|                    |     | Housing              |
|                    |     | Roads                |
|                    |     | M & F                |
|                    |     | Asst. Dir. C.S.      |
|                    |     | Education            |
|                    |     | Welfare              |
|                    |     | Emp. Asst.           |





Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Mr. Leslie Yaw, President  
Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Yaw:

I appreciate very much your kind letter of October 22 extending the congratulations and best wishes of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce and friends in the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe area on my new appointment.

It has been a pleasure to work with representatives of business and the general public such as yourself, because I have always felt that the business of the Bureau of Indian Affairs belongs to the public who support it. I am hopeful that the relations which have been built up in the last few years will continue, and that with this kind of cooperation Mt. Edgecumbe can rise to its destiny as the education capital for the young native people of Alaska. If Mt. Edgecumbe is to have this destiny, it must have the continued support of such persons as yourself and the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce. I am sure that you can be counted upon for this.

Again I want to thank you for your very kind letter and its good wishes and to assure you that I will always recall with pleasure the years I spent in Alaska, and getting to meet and work with leaders in the State such as yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
107 Federal Office Building  
Seattle, Washington 98104

October 28, 1965

AIRMAIL

PERSONAL

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Juneau Area Office

Dear Bob:

On behalf of the entire staff I wish to offer our sincerest congratulations on your recent promotion and wishes for your continued success in your position of Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

During your administration as Area Director, it has been a pleasure to witness and participate in the positive and purposeful programs which you initiated and carried out to successful conclusions. Your cooperative, frank, aggressive and tactful actions in dealing with everyone has created an atmosphere of teamwork and togetherness. The results obtained by you in your fair and aboveboard manner have been the subject of innumerable complimentary remarks made by the Native people, BIA and other Federal personnel, state employees and the general public.

It goes without saying that we will miss your expert and meaningful direction. We also realize that your new position will be most demanding. It gives us a great deal of satisfaction to know that these duties have been entrusted to a person of your character and ability.

We will be looking forward to your official visits and contacts with our area in your new capacity.

Sincerely,

V. R. Farrell  
Administrative Officer  
& Special Representative

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Mr. V. R. Farrell

Administrative Officer  
& Special Representative, Seattle

Dear Virgil:

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for your very warm personal letter of October 28 in which you extended the congratulations in behalf of yourself and the staff of your office. I hope that during my four years as Area Director here our image has improved so that we are now in a better position to carry out our mission to the native people of Alaska. I am the first to realize that this would not be possible without the cooperation and support of people such as yourself and the personnel of the Seattle Office. You may be sure that being aware of your problems I expect to use whatever influence I have to work with you in bringing them to solution.

I will always look forward to coming back to Alaska and Seattle in my new position and I will take advantage of your kind invitation to drop in and visit with you whenever I am in the Seattle area.

Thank you again for your very kind letter. My best wishes to you, Mrs. Farrell, and ~~the~~ the staff of the Seattle Office.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



October 20, 1965  
Lame Deer, Montana

Dear Bob:

The Billings Gazette carried a story  
this A.M. announcing your new appoint-  
ment.

I join with the many others who  
are delighted with this appointment and  
look for a better future for our people.

My wife joins in my congratulations.

Sincerely

John Antchokan, Jr.

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 5, 1965

Mr. John Artichoker, Jr.  
Superintendent  
Northern Cheyenne Agency  
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Dear John:

I appreciate your taking the time to write me your very nice note of October 20 in which you express your delight in my new appointment as Deputy Commissioner.

No one knows better than I that a better life can develop for the Indian people only if people in positions such as yours are given cooperation and support to make it possible. I hope you will count on my continued support in your efforts, and that I can look forward to your support so that together we can help the Indian people progress to their destiny.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Artichoker, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Area Director

BILLINGS AREA OFFICE  
~~804 NORTH 29TH STREET~~ 316 North 26th St.  
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101

November 8, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Juneau, Alaska

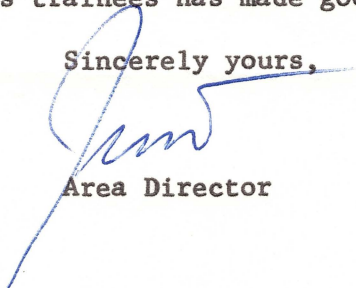
Dear Bob:

The grapevine which is being much overworked these days tells me that you are now back in Alaska and I hope that this reaches you there. I have wanted to write and express my warmest congratulations (or possibly condolences) on your new assignment. I think you should know that universally the reaction is highly favorable and we are all looking forward very much to working with you in your new assignment.

I am wondering if you might be driving through this way on your trip to Washington. It would be wonderful if you could stop over and have a chance to visit since it has been a long time since the last Area Directors' meeting.

Please accept again my best wishes. I am sure that once again John Baker is saying that one of his trainees has made good.

Sincerely yours,



Area Director

FRESNO 11/10

DEAR MR. BENNETT:

WHEN I ARRIVED IN FRESNO YESTERDAY  
I HEARD OF YOUR PROMOTION TO THE  
WASHINGTON OFFICE. SO SOON!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE IN THE BUREAU  
JOB LONGER, BUT I GUESS IT WAS  
INEVITABLE. SO - GOOD LUCK - I  
ENJOYED WORKING FOR YOU!

REGARDS TO CLEOTA.

SINCERELY,

Quitt Blake



You'll say goodbye to Panhandle rains  
Fly no more in rickety planes  
You'll leave Alaska's friendly land of ice and snow  
We like you, y'know, and we sure hate to see you go

The only thing that keeps our eyes dry  
Is knowing that ol' Barter I.

Still beckons from an ice floe on the roof of the world  
If the Washington whirl gets too hot and you goof

We know that you'll be back among us again  
Getting stacks of memorandums from us again  
But we wish you both the best of luck until you do—  
Cleota and Bob, we'll miss you.

Thanks for the memories  
Of earthquakes and of waves  
Of Little Theater Plays  
Of old age pins and horseshoe wins  
Of Packers and of Braves  
We thank you so much -

Thanks for the memories  
Of keyboard thumping blues  
The Bulletin and News  
For pinocle and poker and  
Association dues  
We thank you so much.

Thanks for the memories  
Cleota, we'll miss you  
And Bob, we'll miss you too  
You leave behind a job well done;  
We all owe much to you  
We thank you so much.





IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Mount McKinley National Park  
McKinley Park, Alaska, 99755

November 4, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have just learned of your promotion and reassignment to Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C. Please accept my congratulations and best wishes.

On behalf of the National Park Service, I wish to express appreciation for the interest you took in the affairs of this Service, and for the fine working relationships we had with you on the Alaska Field Committee.

As time in your new job permits, please keep in contact with us.

Sincerely

Oscar T. Dick  
Superintendent

cc: Regional Director, Western Region

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 19, 1965

Mr. Oscar T. Dick  
Superintendent  
Mount McKinley National Park  
McKinley Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Mr. Dick:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of November 4 extending your congratulations and best wishes on my promotion to Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

One of the very pleasurable experiences for me in Alaska was the visit made in company of Deputy Secretary John Carver and others to Mount McKinley National Park. The courteous hospitality extended to me on that occasion and on the occasions of Field Committee meetings left nothing to be desired. I enjoyed our meetings together as members of the Alaska Field Committee.

Thank you very kindly again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



# Alaska

## ASSOCIATION, INC.

119 SEWARD STREET., JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
MRS. LAPREAL F. BIE, R.N., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 11, 1965

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have read of your promotion to Acting Commissioner and wish to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations.

I am aware of the fine job you have done in the past for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and I am sure you will carry on your splendid record in your new position.

My very best wishes to you and Mrs. Bennett.

Sincerely yours,

*Lapreal F. Bie*  
(Mrs) LaPreal F. Bie  
Executive Director

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|      |     | Area Director   |
|      |     | Tribal Op.      |
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|      |     | Asst. Dir. C.S. |
|      |     | Education       |
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|      |     | Env. Asst.      |



Services Financed Through Christmas Seals

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 22, 1965

Mrs. LaPreal F. Bie  
Executive Director  
Alaska Tuberculosis Association  
119 Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Bie:

I appreciate very much your congratulatory message of November 11 on my promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Both Mrs. Bennett and I will leave Alaska with regrets for having to leave so many fine friends and acquaintances. The new opportunity, however, was too challenging to resist. I hope that in my new assignment I can present the situation of the Alaska natives in much stronger fashion than has been possible up to now.

Again, my thanks for your letter and for your kind wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 19, 1965

Mr. Ralph M. Shane

Area Road Engineer, Billings, Montana

Dear Ralph:

I appreciate very much the congratulatory message expressing your feelings about my appointment as Deputy Commissioner. I will do the best I can and I look for the support of individuals like yourself to accomplish the tremendous tasks which are before us. I was especially pleased with your original drawing expressing in that drawing the kind sentiments of your card.

I hope to have the opportunity of visiting with you personally whenever I get to Billings. Best wishes to Mrs. Shane.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 19, 1965

Mr. James F. Canan

Area Director, Billings, Montana

Dear Jim:

I accept gratefully both your warmest congratulations and condolences on my new assignment. It is pleasing to know that the reaction is highly favorable because I have been quite concerned about it since it did involve my succeeding John O. Crow in that position. However, since the transfer of Mr. Crow was an accomplished fact when the position was offered to me, I felt that as long as it was available I might as well give it a try.

While I do not expect to be able to make any field visits on my first trip to Washington on November 27, I do expect to travel across the country in January with the hope that I can visit the Billings, Aberdeen and Minneapolis Area Offices. I appreciate your kind invitation to visit, and I hope this can be arranged in the early part of January.

I imagine John Baker is really taking a lot of credit for this, and I am looking forward to seeing him so that he can remind me.

Thank you again very much for your message, and I am looking forward to maintaining a close working relationship with you as has been the case in the past.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



LAW OFFICE OF  
THEODORE F. STEVENS  
825 EIGHTH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

*RM*

H. RUSSEL HOLLAND

HERALD A. STRINGER  
OF COUNSEL

November 23, 1965

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

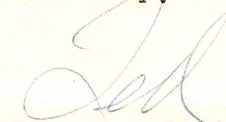
Dear Bob:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 19. We have a mixed reaction to your recent promotion because it means Alaska is losing a good friend on the local level. I know you will enjoy your experience in Washington and that your knowledge of our area will mean that the natives of Alaska will have a strong advocate in the Bureau there.

I look forward to seeing you on my visits to Washington.

With kind regards.

Cordially,



Theodore F. Stevens

TFS/bc

# Sheldon Jackson Junior College

Sitka, Alaska

Office of the President

November 17, 1965

Mr. Robert P. Bennett  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This is to thank you for the many courtesies extended to Sheldon Jackson during your time as Area Director for Alaska.

Sheldon Jackson wishes you every success in your new position as the Deputy Commissioner. We hope that as you return to Alaska, you will come to see us, as we feel very friendly toward you and the work that you are doing for our native people.

Best personal regards,

Most sincerely,

  
R. Rolland Armstrong  
President

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| Emp. Asst.      |  |

*Please reply by Air Mail*



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 23, 1965

Dr. R. Rolland Armstrong  
President  
Sheldon Jackson Junior College  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Dr. Armstrong:

I appreciate your congratulatory letter written in behalf of Sheldon Jackson Junior College on my assignment to my new position as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

While both Mrs. Bennett and I have regrets at leaving Alaska the new opportunity was too challenging to resist. I take with me an understanding and appreciation of the situation of the native people of Alaska and it is hoped that greater attention can be given to meet their needs.

I am very much interested and will have a continuing interest in your project on native leadership. Good leadership is a real need and I hope that your project will proceed so that these leaders can be identified and trained.

I enjoyed our associations very much and I know that your travels take you to Washington occasionally. This is an invitation for you to visit me at any time you are in Washington.

Thank you again for your kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY  
**PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION**

SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL OFFICE • 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE • BOX 36027

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

November 23, 1965

*File*

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Juneau Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Post Office Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I too learn of your leaving Alaska with mixed feelings. I am glad for your promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am sorry for the loss to Alaska in your leaving.

I appreciate your cooperation with us and the Alaska State Housing Authority in our attempts to improve housing conditions. You may be sure of our continued cooperation with your successor.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*James B. Bantley*  
Regional Director

BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA  
NOV 26 1965

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY  
**PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION**

SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL OFFICE • 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE • BOX 36027  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

November 23, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
Juneau Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Post Office Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I too learn of your leaving Alaska with mixed feelings. I am glad for your promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am sorry for the loss to Alaska in your leaving.

I appreciate your cooperation with us and the Alaska State Housing Authority in our attempts to improve housing conditions. You may be sure of our continued cooperation with your successor.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

~~WILLIAM~~ WILLIS B. AMBLER JR.

Regional Director



CANADA

Department  
of Northern Affairs  
and National Resources Northern Administration Branch

Ministère  
du Nord canadien et  
des Ressources nationales Direction des régions septentrionales

Robert L. Bennett, Esq.,  
Area Director,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Juneau Area Office,  
Juneau, Alaska,  
U.S.A.

3-8

Ottawa 4, November 5, 1965

our file / notre dossier A1005-3  
your file / votre dossier

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am sorry I missed you on my recent visit to Juneau. Our DEW Line tour was somewhat quicker than we anticipated. Nevertheless, your Mr. W. Davis and your Mr. W. Weaver were most kind in seeing me and discussing some of our mutual problems. It was also a pleasure to again meet Mr. Jens Forshaug, whom I had the pleasure of travelling with during part of my tour of Alaska in 1958.

I understand congratulations are in order and that you will be leaving Juneau shortly to take up the position of Deputy Commissioner with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. May we wish you every success in your future endeavours. I hope our paths will cross sometime in the near future. If I can be of any assistance to you do not hesitate to write me as our respective administrations have so much in common with the development of northern areas.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. Stevenson,  
Administrator of the Arctic

BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA  
NOV 15 1965

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|      |     | Emp. A          |



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 23, 1965

Mr. A. Stevenson  
Administrator of the Arctic  
Department of Northern Affairs  
and National Resources  
Ottawa 4, Canada

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Like you, I was sorry that we were not able to visit when you were in Juneau. I hope that we will have the opportunity to visit with each other again even though my new assignment takes me to Washington.

I appreciate your congratulations and wishes for success. It was very kind of you to write me.

The fact that our respective administrations have so much in common was again demonstrated at the recently concluded Native Housing Conference at Anchorage, Alaska. There Dr. John F. Gordon and Mr. Barry Yates of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources spoke of what appeared to be both mutual hopes and concerns about housing for native people of our respective countries.

Should you be in Washington, D.C. at any time in the future, I would consider it a favor if you would call upon me at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BUREAU OF STATE SERVICES  
ARCTIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER  
945 - 6TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
TELEPHONE: BR 2-1661

November 23, 1965

*KJB*

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Juneau Area  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Bennett:

All of us at the Arctic Health Research Center regret your leaving Alaska because working with you has been easy and has made cooperative arrangements pleasant.

We wish you equal success as Deputy Commissioner. Can we dare to hope that your successor may possess an equal variety of talent for administration and for entertainment? The combination of Nash and Bennett will probably bring a spate of applications for transfers to Washington.

Sincerely,

A. B. Colyar, M. D.  
Director



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 19, 1965

Mr. Louis B. Ambler, Jr.  
Regional Director  
Public Housing Administration  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
Box 36027  
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Ambler:

As I leave Alaska to accept the position of Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., I do so knowing that the people I have worked with here have been generous in their attitude toward me and my family, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The support and cooperation which individuals like yourself have shown me have made my task here with the Bureau of Indian Affairs both fruitful and enjoyable. Without this support and cooperation it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to carry out my assignment here.

It is with mixed emotions that I leave - regret at leaving so many fine people and this wonderful State, but anticipation at facing the challenges which the new opportunity affords.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the many courtesies extended to me and my family during our stay here. You have helped to make this a memorable experience for us. I know you will accept my successor when he is appointed and receive him with the same spirit of support and cooperation you have so generously accorded me.

Until we meet again, I am gratefully

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc

File: A.D. office

Identical letters to all on attached list.



Mr. Thomas J. Bishsel  
Field Coordinator  
Area Redevelopment Admin.  
P.O. Box 1451  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dr. Max Brewer  
Arctic Research Laboratories  
Barrow, Alaska

Dr. A.B. Colyar  
Medical Director in Charge  
Arctic Health Research Center  
945 - 6th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

Mr. Ted Denny  
President, Tlingit-Haida  
2819 S.W. 169th  
Seattle, Washington 98166

Mr. Tolbert E. Elliott  
Executive Director  
Alaska State Housing Authority  
Box 179  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Col. Clare F. Farley  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska  
P.O. Box 7002  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Mr. Joseph H. Fitzgerald  
Chairman, Federal Field Committee  
306 Loussac-Sogn Bldg.  
5th & D Streets  
Anchorage, Alaska

Mr. George Fedoroff  
Box 174  
Sitka, Alaska

Mr. Elmer Gagnon  
State Director, Fed. Housing Admin.  
Federal Building  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Mr. Carl Heinmiller  
Manager-Director  
Alaska Indian Arts, Inc.  
P.O. Box 271  
Haines, Alaska

Dr. Charles K. Ray  
Director of Education  
University of Alaska  
College, Alaska 99735

Dr. George Rogers  
Institute of Bus. Econ. & Gov't. Research  
1790 Evergreen Ave.  
Juneau, Alaska

Mr. Leo H. Saarela  
Regional Mining Supervisor  
Box 259  
Anchorage, Alaska

Mr. Virgil Severns  
Remote Areas Agent, Box B  
University of Alaska  
College, Alaska

Mr. Ted Stevens, Attorney  
805 Third Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

Mrs. Karl Tilton  
Reservations Chairman, Ind. Council Fire  
1263 West Pratt Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Mr. Guy Ikakok  
Chairman, Inupiat Paitot  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Mr. Mardow Solomon  
Pres., Natives of Yukon Flats Speak  
Fort Yukon, Alaska

Mr. Axel Johnson, President  
Ass'n. of Village Council Presidents of  
Bethel Area  
Eek, Alaska



Mr. Peter Carter  
Pres. Ass'n. of Village Council Presidents  
of Bethel Area  
Eek, Alaska

Mr. Ralph W. Perdue  
Pres., Alaska State Community  
Action Program, Inc.  
Box 1653  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Guy Russo  
Pacific Northern Airlines  
Baranof Hotel  
Juneau, Alaska

Mr. Rudolph A. Kotasek  
Director, Propl Admin. Div.  
Headquarters, 17th Naval District  
Naval Operating Base  
Kodiak, Alaska

Mr. Brooke Marston  
Chairman, Alaska Advosiry Committee  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
2804 Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska

M  
Mrs. Sandy Jensen  
Box 241  
College, Alaska

Miss Celia Hunter  
Alaska Representative  
American Friends Service Commitee  
Box D  
College, Alaska 99735

Dr. Fred Honsinger  
Veterinarian  
Box 2473  
Juneau, Alaska

Mr. Howard Baltzo  
Program Director, Pribilof Islands  
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries  
6116 Arcade Bldg.  
Seattle 1, Washington

Mr. William C. Coyne  
Mgr. Annette Island Canning Co.  
Metlakatla, Alaska

Mr. Albert Thompson  
Manager, Hood Bay Salmon Co.  
715 Hoge Bldg.  
2nd & Cherry Sts.  
Seattle, Wash. 98104

Mr. Fred Gunderson  
Manager, Keku Canning Co.  
715 Hoge Bldg., 2nd & Cherry St.  
Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Lars Nerland  
Mgr., Klawock Oceanside Packing Co.  
715 Hoge Bldg., 2nd & Cherry Sts.  
Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Alfred Widmark  
President, Klawock Coop. Ass'n.  
Klawock, Alaska

Mr. Louis Austin  
President, Organized Village of Kake  
Kake, Alaska

Mr. Fred Grant, Jr.  
President, Hydaburg Coop. Ass'n.  
Hydaburg, Alaska

Mr. Bill Lilly  
Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.  
Dexter Hoaton Bldg.  
Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Charlie Jim  
President, Angoon Community Org.  
Angoon, Alaska

Mr. Kenneth May  
Director, Area Office - USDA  
Food Distribution Division  
630 Sansome St., Room 344  
San Francisco, Calif.



Mr. G. H. Bowersox  
Chief, Transportation Mgt. Div.  
General Services Administration  
101 Federal Office Bldg.  
909 First Ave.  
Seattle, Wash.

Mr. George Gryc  
Chief, Alaskan Geology Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
345 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, California

Mr. Theodore Hetzel  
American Friends Service Committee  
Haverford College  
Haverford, Pennsylvania

The Rev. Lewis Hodgkins  
Associate Rector  
All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Box 686  
Anchorage, Alaska

Mr. Lawrence Lindley  
General Secy. Indian Rights Ass'n.  
1505 Race Street  
Philadelphia 2, Penn.

Mr. Charles L. McEvers  
Indian Committee Secretary  
American Friends Service Committee  
814 N.E. 40th St.  
Seattle 5, Washington

Mr. Fred Overly  
Field Director, Seattle Field Office  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
Seattle, Washington

Mr. Sigurd Wien  
Pres. Wien Alaska Airlines  
Box 649  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Mason LaZelle  
Secy. Alaska Rural Electric Coope Assn.  
Box G, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dales R. Sanner  
State Supervisor for Alaska  
Farmers Home Administration - USDA  
954 Cowles St., Arctic Bowl Bldg.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. O. F. Benecke  
Alaska Coastal-Ellis Airlines  
2 Marine Way  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Benecke:

In leaving Alaska, I can not recount the many times you and Alaska Coastal-Ellis Airlines have accommodated the special needs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs staff and myself. The concern which has been evidenced over the welfare of the native students while traveling, as well as those of the Bureau staff, is greatly appreciated as this is not found in all organizations in the air travel industry.

I want to thank you and your organization for your many past favors and courtesies. I know that you will continue to provide this kind of service in the future. It has been a real pleasure to have done business with you and I will look forward to travel with Coastal again when I return to Alaska on visits in my new capacity.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: ~~personal~~



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

The Right Rev. William J. Gordon, Jr.  
Bishop of Alaska  
Protestant Episcopal Church  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Bishop Gordon:

I was delighted to visit with you in Anchorage during the Native Housing Conference. I hope that the conference and subsequent tour by Senator Bartlett and his party will result in some tangible benefits for native housing in Alaska.

I could not leave Alaska without taking the opportunity to express to you how much I have enjoyed our relationship here in Alaska. I am thankful particularly for your support and cooperation and that of the other people in the work of the Episcopal Church in Alaska. I know that you have been one of my chief supporters and advocates and it is through your good words that I have achieved some of the recognition which I now enjoy.

I know that my appointment to Washington will not end this relationship, although it may necessarily be more long range. I hope that in your travels through the country you will visit Mrs. Bennett and me should you ever be in the Washington, D.C. vicinity. You will be able to reach me through the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington.

My new duties will involve very heavy responsibilities and I hope that you will remember me in your prayers.

With very best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Miss Marion E. Gridley  
Executive Secretary  
Indian Council Fire  
27 East Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Dear Miss Gridley:

In leaving Alaska for my new position as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs I could not help but think of the support which you and your organization have given me throughout my career and, more especially, since I came to Alaska. I believe that this had much to do with my selection for my new job, for it was since I have been here that I was given the honor of receiving the achievement award, Indian of the Year, by you and your association.

I hope that our associations will continue and that I will warrant your continued support. I want to thank you for all you have done for me in my career advancement.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: Personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Henry Littlefield  
Mayor  
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

Dear Mr. Littlefield:

I am writing to express my appreciation to you and to the members of the Council, and to the people of Metlakatla, for the support and cooperation which you have given me while I have been the Area Director in Alaska. I can still remember the courtesies and hospitality which you showed me as a newcomer when I attended the inauguration ceremonies of former Mayor Ryan, just two days after arriving in Alaska to take up my new duties. This made me feel very welcome and helped me get over some of the rough spots in the early days I was here.

I am happy that our working relationships have continued to be pleasant and enjoyable, and no one could be treated better than you and the people of Metlakatla have treated me. While I am leaving Alaska, I will still be involved deeply in your fishing and other economic problems. I hope that I can be of service to you on the Washington scene.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation and I want to extend best wishes to you and the people of Metlakatla. I understand also that congratulations are in order on your re-election as Mayor. I know that you will serve the people well, as you have in the past.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Dr. Jerome Cohen  
Associate Professor  
School of Social Welfare  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Dr. Cohen:

Since your last letter interesting developments have taken place with respect to Cleota and myself.

I have been transferred to Washington, D.C. as the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Cleota and the children will be following shortly. She has been offered a position in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare which will make her a member of a team to review social service components of community action programs submitted by communities under the Economic Opportunity Act.

We will look forward to these new challenges. However, we both regret having to leave our assignments here which were both challenging and interesting. We also regret having to leave so many friends and acquaintances and all of our coworkers here in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Should you be in the East any time, we would be honored to have you visit us. I can be reached through the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: Personal

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Emil Notti  
Cook Inlet Native Association  
738 Fairbanks Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Notti:

It was a pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Notti during the Native Housing Conference in Anchorage. I hope that as a result of this conference and the subsequent tour by Senator Bartlett and his party, it will be possible to improve housing conditions among the native people.

In leaving Alaska I wish to extend to you my best wishes for your success and that of the Cook Inlet Native Association. I have always been a strong believer in native people associating together for both social and business reasons. As you well know, there is strength in association and I hope that Cook Inlet Native Association will continue to strive and grow. When my successor is appointed here in Juneau I hope you will write him and indicate your willingness to work with him in any programs which your Association will support.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Willard Bowman  
Executive Director  
State Commission for Human Rights  
24 Reed Building  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Willard:

One of the pleasures which has been mine as the Area Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska has been to become acquainted with you. During our association I have grown to admire and respect you as an individual and as the Executive Director of the State Commission for Human Relations. It is regretted that my leaving Alaska will end this close association. However, you may be assured that my interest in the mission of the Commission will be a continuing one.

I know that our paths will cross in the future and I look forward to an opportunity to meet with you when any occasion arises. Please consider this an open invitation for you to visit me any time you are in the Washington, D.C. area.

I want to express my appreciation to you for your cooperation and support. Kindly remember me to Mrs. Bowman also.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

The Rev. Jules M. Convert, S.J.  
Executive Secretary  
The Churches' Socio-Economic Advisory Committee  
Kaltag, Alaska

Dear Father Convert:

I wish to express my appreciation for your cooperation and support during the time I spent with you in Alaska. It has been a long time since I met anyone in church work who had the range of interest in all facets of Alaska life that you have demonstrated. I hope that under your leadership, not only Catholic missionaries but other missionaries will display the breadth of understanding and vision that you have.

I know that on occasion you get in the Washington, D.C. area and I invite you, when you do, to visit me at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

My new duties will involve greater and heavier responsibilities and I will be most thankful if you will remember me in your prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Hon. E. L. Bartlett  
United States Senator  
248 Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bartlett:

Since I am leaving my position here as Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the support which you and your staff have given me during my four years in Alaska.

As you know, the relationships between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State of Alaska were rather critical, and I am thankful that you and your staff gave me the opportunity to try and improve these relationships. I think this has been done to a degree and I realize it could not have been done without your support.

As I assume my new duties as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I hope that I can count on the continued support of you and your staff, and I will try to perform my duties in such a way as to merit this support. I am looking forward to the continuance of relationship with you and your staff in Washington.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

cc:  
Commissioner, Washington Office

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal

Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Frank Peratrovich

Klawock, Alaska

Dear Mr. Peratrovich:

I do not want to leave Alaska without conveying to you my heartfelt appreciation for your support during the four years I have spent in Alaska. This was deeply appreciated since you supported me both as a native leader and also as a member of the State Legislature. It is your support that helped me in my relationships with the native people in Southeast Alaska and also helped improve the relationships between this office and the Legislature.

I have enjoyed our personal contacts very much and one of the regrets I have in leaving Alaska is that I will miss the association with people like yourself and Mrs. Peratrovich, since you both have been so kind to me.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Howard Rock  
Editor, Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

I regret that it was not possible for you to attend the Native Housing Conference in Anchorage last week because among other things I wanted to have the opportunity to thank you personally for the support that you have given me during my administration here as Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska.

Our relationship has been most pleasant and I looked forward to each issue of the Tundra Times because I felt you reported conscientiously the attitude and views of the native people of Alaska. I wish you continuing success with the Tundra Times. I want to commend you on the appearance of the first edition on the new offset type press. I hope that this will help the circulation of the Tundra Times grow, as I feel Tundra Times should become an increasingly greater factor in influencing programs and policy for the native people of Alaska.

Should you ever be in the East, I hope that you will favor me with a visit at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Washington, D.C.

Thank you very much for everything you have done for me.  
With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Mr. Frank See  
Grand President  
Alaska Native Brotherhood  
Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Mr. See:

First of all, I want to congratulate you on your election as President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. This honor, together with your being Mayor of Hoonah and a member of the State Legislature, definitely establishes you as one of the new leaders among the Tlinget people. The Thlinget people will need your leadership in the trying days ahead as they will be confronted with many situations as the Tlinget-Haida Judgment becomes a reality. The people of Southeast Alaska are fortunate that they have a person of your capabilities at this time.

I want to express to you and the Alaska Native Brotherhood my appreciation for the cooperation and support that you have given me while I have been Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska. Without the kind of working relationship I have had with the Alaska Native Brotherhood, I would not have enjoyed my tenure here. Although my new job takes me away from Alaska you may be assured that the interests of the native people of Alaska will always be known. I will do as much as I can to further their interests in my new position as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

With all good wishes to you and the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Dr. William R. Wood  
President  
University of Alaska  
College, Alaska 99735

Dear Dr. Wood:

I want to express my appreciation for the support which you and the staff of the University of Alaska have given me and the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the time I have been Area Director in Alaska.

I want to congratulate you and your staff on the many new beginnings which you are making to put educational opportunity within reach of the native people so that they can improve their situation through higher education.

It was my good fortune to have someone like you with a vital personal interest in the native people during my tenure here, and this has served both as an inspiration and as a source of security. While I will be back in Washington, D.C. I hope that the good relationship between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the University of Alaska will continue, because it will take our joint efforts as well as the responsive effort of the native people themselves to help them master the myriad of complex problems which face them.

I wish you continued success in your administration of the programs of the University and to thank you again for your support and cooperation.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: Personal



Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 24, 1965

Miss Tillie Walker  
Field Director  
United Scholarship Service, Inc.  
1452 Pennsylvania Street  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Tillie:

In leaving Alaska I cannot help but be reminded of the attention you have given requests from Alaskan young people for scholarship assistance so that they might obtain the benefits of higher education. This is very much appreciated. I want to thank you also for your friendly support and cooperation which I have enjoyed these past several years. I hope that in my new duties as Deputy Commissioner I can count on you because I will need the friendship and support of individuals such as yourself more than ever.

I regret that last minute changes in my schedule did not allow me to attend the conference in Boston, but I am looking forward to meeting with you in future conferences about the problems of opportunities for young people.

Should you be in the East at any time in the future, I would feel honored to have you get in touch with Cleota and me. I can be reached at the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices, and both Cleota and I would like to have you as our guest.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director

RLBennett:jvc  
File: personal



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

November 29, 1965

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

Mr. Robert L. Bennett,  
Area Director,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
P. O. Box 1751,  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Your letter of November 24 relative to your new position has come in during Senator Bartlett's absence in Alaska.

However, I wanted to tell you how delighted I am for you (and for us) that you are going to be Deputy Commissioner. The only trouble is--you can't be an amoeba and be in both places at once. Anyway, you know the welcome mat is always out for you.

With best wishes and congratulations, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Lee*

Mary Lee Council

*Just learned you  
were sworn in  
today —*

*RDD*



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Alaska Native Health Area Director  
Alaska Native Health Area Office  
Box 7-741  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Refer to: A-CO

November 29, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Deputy Commissioner  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Bob,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Deputy Commissioner. I have enjoyed the opportunity of working with you in Alaska. I am sure our paths will cross and recross in the future.

Doris and I wish you and your family the best in your new position. Remember us in Alaska, and come back to visit us.

Sincerely,

*Holman R. Wherritt*

Holman R. Wherritt, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Alaska Native Health Area Director



A-60

November 29, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Deputy Commissioner  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Bob,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Deputy Commissioner. I have enjoyed the opportunity of working with you in Alaska. I am sure our paths will cross and recross in the future.

Doris and I wish you and your family the best in your new position. Remember us in Alaska, and come back to visit us.

Sincerely,

Holman R. Wherritt, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Alaska Native Health Area Director



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
GEOLOGIC DIVISION  
ALASKAN GEOLOGY BRANCH  
345 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA  
DAVENPORT 5-6761

November 29, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 1751  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your new assignment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.! Alaska will be sorry to lose a valued resident but will gain a friend and ally in Washington. I'm sure that the people of Alaska take pride and rejoice in your success and are thankful that someone of your experience will be in a key position in the Washington office.

We wish you success in your new assignment. Please call on us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely yours,

George Gryc  
Chief  
Alaskan Geology Branch



P.O. Box 241  
College, Alaska  
November 29, 1965

Mr. Robert Bennett, Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It was with mixed emotions that I read your recent letter. While I am happy that you are being promoted to a higher level, I am sincerely sorry to know you will be leaving Alaska. I feel you have done a lot of good here. But then, perhaps you can do even more from your new position. At any rate I want to wish you the best of luck in the new undertaking.

I also want to take this opportunity to send my belated thanks for the excellent booklets, "Quest for Quality". I had meant to do it sooner but have spent the entire summer getting a house built on my homestead and have neglected a lot of things in order to complete the job. I certainly hope Sec. Udall can remain in his office for a long time to come. He has done more for conservation than anyone else in a good many years.

Thank you so much for notifying me of the change and again let me say I am sorry you are leaving. Perhaps we will meet again someday however.

Very sincerely,

*Sandy Jensen*  
Sandy Jensen



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

# Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Inc.

Oneida



Wisconsin



UGWA DEHOLUH YATEHE

Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the Colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

December, 1965

Dear Mr. Bennett

To have as an Oneida Indian From the Community of Oneida now has achieved himself with utmost esteem the Office of Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs namely Robert Bennett .

Therefore be it resolved that the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in body on this date hereby send the blessing and good will of the tribe in the conduct of his high Office as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and wish him continued success in his accomplishments.

Oneida Executive Committee

Chairman Norbert Hill

NH; jw

*Norbert Hill.*





UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA  
COLLEGE, ALASKA

December 1, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Bob:

Thank you so much for your kind letter dated November 19, 1965. It was with great regret that I learned of your departure from Alaska but with delight that I realized you are being advanced to a position of greater responsibility. It has certainly been a pleasure for me to work with you, and I think you realize that our educational philosophies are much more alike than they are different. You should be quite gratified at the progress you have made during your tenure in Alaska, and I know you will continue to provide strong and constructive leadership within the Bureau.

You may be assured that we will work closely with your successor. And I do look forward to seeing you in Washington if I am there before you return to Alaska in your new capacity.

Very best personal regards.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ray".

Charles K. Ray  
Dean

CKR/vm

DEC 6 1965

| REL. | In              | Act |
|------|-----------------|-----|
|      | Area Director   |     |
|      | Tribal Op.      |     |
|      | Realty          |     |
|      | Ind. Dev.       |     |
|      | ADM. Sp.        |     |
|      | Asst. Dir. ADM. |     |
|      | Personnel       |     |
|      | Finance         |     |
|      | Proc. Mat.      |     |
|      | Facilities      |     |
|      | Land Op.        |     |
|      | Planning        |     |
|      | Records         |     |
|      | Ext. Affs.      |     |
|      | Training        |     |
|      | Welfare         |     |
|      | Emp. Assn.      |     |



WILLIAM A. EGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA-FAR EAST TRADE  
AND  
INFORMATION OFFICE  
HUBERT J. GELLERT  
DIRECTOR

785 HOTEL NEW JAPAN  
NO. 29, 2-CHOME  
NAGATA-CHO, CHIYODA-KU  
TOKYO, JAPAN  
TEL: (581) 5511 EXT 8784

Cable: Looknorth Tokyo  
December 2, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of Interior  
411 Goldstein Building  
Box 1751, Juneau 99801  
Alaska, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please accept my belated congratulations on your new post. Although we will be sorry not to have you in Juneau when we finally return, Janet and I are happy to see a good man promoted.

With kindest personal regards to you and your family,

Sincerely,

*Hubert J. Gellert*

Hubert J. Gellert  
Director



FEDERAL FIELD COMMITTEE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN ALASKA  
SUITE 400, 632 SIXTH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

December 3, 1965

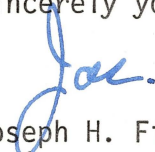
Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Area Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Juneau Area Office  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Bob:

I deeply appreciated your recent letter and I wish to add my congratulations to those of your many other admirers on your appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C. I can think of no one who could bring more to this position than you will.

I am sure our patterns will cross many times in the future. In our current report to the President's Review Committee, we have reviewed at length the Native problem in westward Alaska, and I am sure that you will be in full accord with the thoughts we have expressed. Hopefully, our efforts will assist you in your work on the problem.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joseph H. FitzGerald  
Chairman

| BIA JUNEAU, ALASKA |     |                 |        |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------|--------|
| DEC 6 1965         |     |                 |        |
| Att.               | In. |                 | Act by |
|                    |     | Area Director   |        |
|                    |     | Tribal Op.      |        |
|                    |     | Realty          |        |
|                    |     | Ind. Dev.       |        |
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|                    |     | Asst. Dir. ADM. |        |
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|                    |     | Finance         |        |
|                    |     | Prog. Mat.      |        |
|                    |     | Rec. Mat.       |        |
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|                    |     | Inst. Op.       |        |
|                    |     | Health          |        |
|                    |     | Food            |        |
|                    |     | H. & F.         |        |
|                    |     | Unempl.         |        |
|                    |     | W. & S.         |        |
|                    |     | Other           |        |



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Superintendent

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mt. Edgecumbe School  
Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska  
December 6, 1965

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

Through: Mr. Stephen W. Smith, Acting Area Director, JAO *SW*

Dear Mr. Bennett:

As you see, we are taking advantage of your kind offer to transmit to Miss Brenda Itta an invitation to visit Mt. Edgecumbe. This conforms to our policy of bringing successful Mt. Edgecumbe graduates before the student body, as well as other noteworthy individuals of Indian and Alaska native extraction.

Enclosed you will also find a letter to Lt. Billy Mills which we are asking you to please forward inasmuch as we have been unable to get the lieutenant's address.

You will be pleased to learn that both of these letters were composed, without assistance, by members of the Mt. Edgecumbe Student Council.

And, incidentally, I am taking this opportunity to write, in behalf of the student body and staff of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School, that we feel a great sense of loss in the realization that both you and Mrs. Bennett will no longer be working directly with us here at the school. It is our considered opinion that the wonderful assistance and encouragement which you as a team have given to the school is immeasurable. In any case, we are deeply appreciative.

Further, we wish you and your family much happiness and success in your new and well deserved situation.

Sincerely yours,

*Kenneth K. Crites*  
Kenneth K. Crites  
School Superintendent

Attachments





# COURY BROS. RANCHES, INC.

SUITE 270 VALLEY NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

WOODLAND 4-5639

MESA, ARIZONA

## PERSONAL

December 11, 1965

Hon. Robert L. Bennett  
Deputy Commissioner  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Belatedly I learned the good news of your new appointment, confirmed Thursday by Dr. Kelly at the University of Arizona during one of my very infrequent get-togethers with Bill in recent years.

And it is warmly welcomed news, Bob, for it means recognition too long in coming to you in my prejudiced opinion! Congratulations, and my prayerful best wishes for every success in the years ahead.

While I have quite deliberately shied away from Indian Affairs in these past five years since leaving Valley Bank, I have never lost interest, I must confess. Occasionally, I have been brought into contact with some immediate aspect of the Arizona Indian situation but without genuine zest for involvement under local circumstances.

On the other hand, with Tom Dodge retired here, I find myself more and more drawn back to the Indian scene - for which I can "blame" Tom in between hands of bridge with our wives.

True, I am immersed in the corporate world of management (farms, ranches, even a cemetery as part of these Coury operations), but there is no escaping even in Arizona business the growing impact of Indian economics on our developing economy.

Which brings me to reiterating my standing offer of cooperating with you and assisting in any way you wish, as friend and fellow-participant over past years, in your plans and programs, wherever you think I can be of personal help.

And do let me know when next you will be in Arizona, giving me opportunity for visiting with you - at lunch, or preferably, at dinner, say with Tom and Vivian Dodge and us. I am also anxious to learn how your sons are getting along out here, too.

Again, our best wishes and warm regards.

Cordially,

Thomas S. Shiya  
Executive Vice Pres.  
tss/s

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

December 14, 1965

DEC 16 1965

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I must confess that I read your letter and the news of your recent appointment with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I was both pleased and excited for the new possibilities you will have in your new position. As an interested professional and citizen, I was also pleased that the Bureau has the advantage of your services in this new position, that the American Indian population will have an increased opportunity to benefit from your point of view and programs, and the country as a whole may benefit from an increasingly more effective handling of major social problem in our society. On the other hand, I was sorry that I did not have the opportunity to work with you in Alaska on some of the problems that we discussed recently in Seattle. Nevertheless, I hope that we will be able to work together on other projects related to our mutual concern. If there is any way in which I can be of service to you in your new position, I would be more than happy to discuss it with you.

Thanks for the open invitation. I will certainly plan to visit you and Cleota on my next visit to Washington. Please send her my warmest regards, and congratulations on her new position as well.

Regards,

Jerome Cohen, D.S.S.  
Associate Professor

JC:ir



# NATIONAL COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 8, 1910 CHARTERED BY CONGRESS 1916

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J. 08903 TELEPHONE AREA CODE 201 249-6000

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GALE F. JOHNSTON  
WAYNE A. JOHNSTON  
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JAMES E. PATRICK  
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L. T. POTTER  
CRAWFORD RAINWATER  
VITTT-JAMES RAMSDELL  
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WILLIAM L. SCHLOSS  
JOHN W. STARR  
JO. S. STONG  
HOWARD T. TELLEPSSEN  
DWIGHT J. THOMSON  
THOMAS J. WATSON, JR.  
J. KIMBALL WHITNEY  
J. FREDERIC WIESE  
FRANK W. WOZENCRAFT

December 22, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Bob:

I have just learned of your recent appointment as acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs with headquarters in Washington. Congratulations upon this new recognition of your tremendous ability and leadership over the years.

It seems like such a long time since I last saw you and I look forward to seeing you again on one of my early trips to Washington.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas and happy Holiday Season,

Cordially yours,

Ray W. Sweazey, Director  
American Indian Relationships

RWS:stw



Jan. 5--

Mrs. Stan Bartos, employed in the legal department of the Navajo Tribe, Window Rock (and formerly of Ignacio, Colorado) called. She is here on a week's assignment in the office of Norman Littell. She said they did not want to be presumptuous, but the people at home asked that she be sure to call you to wish you success on possibly becoming the next Commissioner -- they hope it will come about -- and they are crossing their fingers.

You also asked that we remind you to call Rex Quinn when you got back.

K

INTERIOR, HASKELL PRESS.-11-61-264-20M

*From the Arizona Republic, Sunday Dec. 26, 1965*

*Congratulations Bob --*

## Indian Affairs Commissioner To Be Indian

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON—For the first time in nearly a century an American Indian is slated to become commissioner of Indian affairs in the Interior Department.

He is Robert L. Bennett, an Oneida Indian from Wisconsin, who is expected to be named in a few months as part of a major personnel change in the Indian Bureau. He would replace Philleo Nash, commissioner since 1961.

The last Indian to head the bureau that tries to protect the Indian's interest and improve his lot was appointed by President U.S. Grant. He was an Iroquois named Parker who had served as Grant's military aide during the Civil War.

BENNETT was appointed deputy commissioner of Indian affairs only a few weeks ago. Before that, he had been the bureau's area director in Alaska.

The Interior Department would not comment officially on the reported change, but it was understood that this was only one of many changes to be made in the Indian Bureau and other parts of the department.

Nash, 56, is an anthropologist who had served as a special assistant to President Truman and as lieutenant governor of Wisconsin before joining the Interior Department in the Kennedy administration.

## Indian May Soon Head Indian Affairs

Washington

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Times-Post Service

*Sincerely yours,*

*Herman Brumley*





STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

December 27, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Bennett  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your two fine letters of recent date.

I want to assure you that while I wish Roy Peratrovich had been given opportunity to serve as the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, I will do all possible to establish a cooperative relationship with Mr. Morken. (If Mr. Morken is half as good as you say he is--there'll be no problem. Ha!)

Bob, during the time you served so ably in your Alaska tenure, I gained a warm personal respect for your ability, judgment and dedication to your job.

I believe the Secretary of the Interior has indeed made a wise choice in elevating you to the position you now hold. And I hope that before too long we will hear of your appointment to an even higher position. Any promotion you receive will be richly deserved. I think you've done a great job in establishing a definite direction for the Native people. Had you become director of Alaska's regional office many years ago, I think those good citizens of ours would be much further along than they are in many areas.

As long as I am in State government I will work with you toward development of our great human resources.

Though you are no longer directly with us in Alaska, we know much of your endeavors will be with progressive efforts for continued improvement here.

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

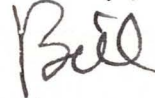
-2-

December 27, 1965

It is a privilege to know you and to continue the fine association we have established. It was also our privilege to become acquainted with Mrs. Bennett.

Mrs. Egan and I hope your Christmas was a joyous one and that 1966 will be a happy, rewarding year for the Bennetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Egan', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

William A. Egan  
Governor



1712 So Main  
Aberdeen, S. D.  
Dec. 29, 1965.

Dear Bob:

It was a pleasant surprise to learn, by the newspaper, that you were being selected to serve as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

To my knowledge this is the first time a person has been selected from the ranks to fill that important position, and this is good.

Bob, I want to take this opportunity to wish you much success in your new assignment.

May God guide you, and continue to bestow his blessings upon you and your family!

Sincerely yours,  
Leslie Zeller



# Certificate of Honor

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. BENNETT

Is Hereby Awarded This Certificate Of Honor

For The Following Reason: Dedicated Pursuit Of Native Problems

As The Ablest Area Director That We Have Ever Had  
With The BIA In Alaska. No Words Can Express The  
Deep Respect And High Regard That I Have For You.

30 Dec. 65

DATE

Bob Blodgett

Robert R. "Bob" Blodgett

Your State Senator

District "N"



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR ROBERT R. BLODGETT  
ELECTION DISTRICT N  
TELLER, ALASKA



COMMITTEES:  
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
FINANCE (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
STATE AFFAIRS (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
POLICY COMMITTEE

Senate

Teller, Alaska  
30 December 1965

Honorable Philleo Nash, Commissioner  
U. S. Bureau Of Indian Affairs  
Interior Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Philleo:

You will, very likely, be quite surprised to receive this letter together with the enclosures. It is respectfully requested that an appropriate occasion be selected to award the enclosed Certificate Of Honor to our Robert L. Bennett. Bob Bennett has been the ablest Area Director that we have had assigned to the Juneau Area Office. Bar none.

For your information no other Federal Official has ever received one of my Certificates Of Honor. I do not put them out like they were going out of style.

We are most apprehensive about Bob Bennetts new replacement even though he comes to us with high recommendations. I know that no man is indispensable, none of us, but we are most reluctant to lose Bob Bennett. Yet he will not be totally lost to us although I am sure his responsibilities will be substantially broadened and consequently he will be unable to devote the time to the problems of my people, the people I serve in the State Legislature, that he used to devote to us.

You yourself have spent more time in Alaska than any Commissioner known to me. Yet I recognize that it is not humanly possible for you to be fully aware of all of our problems. Bob Bennett was on top of our problems and his presence will be a substantial contribution to you, the BIA, our Nation and our people.

With kind and warm personal regards to you and our Bob Bennett I remain,

Sincerely,

*Robert R. Blodgett*

Robert R. Blodgett  
Your State Senator At Large

Enclosures: Certificate Of Honor  
Picture