

Chief Freeman Johnson,
22 Almay Rd.,
Rochester 16 N.Y.

^{ROD}
Congratulations

on your



SUCCESS

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d
e
s,
it

Rochester 16 N.Y.

Evelyn R. Twoguns
Delia J. Rayton
Mrs. Nick Bailey
Jack Hoyt
Chief Freeman Johnson
Glossie Carlisle
Seneca Tribe

Warm congratulations
On your recent success!
May it add to a future
Of real happiness!

Oneida Indian Heads Bureau

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert L. Bennett, an Oneida Indian, is the new commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under unanimous Senate confirmation.

Bennett, confirmed Wednesday, is the first Indian to head the federal agency in more than 100 years. He was born on the Oneida Reservation in Wisconsin in 1912.

Of more than half a million Indians in the United States, about 16,000 live in New York State, 8,000 of them on eight major reservations in the state.

Congratulations

by WESTERN UNION



GUA001

OSGA11 STURGEONBAY WIS 7 604P CDT=

MR AND MRS ROBERT L BENNETT=

DELIVER RIVERSIDE INN GREENBAY WIS=

CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT WISH WE WERE PRESENT TONIGHT GOOD

WISHES=

PAULA AND ARNOLD REINHARD=



The State of Wisconsin

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MADISON

53702

WARREN P. KNOWLES

GOVERNOR

To the Testimonial Dinner of
Robert LaFollette Bennett
Oneida, Wisconsin

Being proud of our citizens is one position I often relate to the general public both in and out of our State. And in the case of Robert LaFollette Bennett, I find that Wisconsin has a double reason to be proud of claiming him as an outstanding citizen.

Not only is Bob Bennett the first Indian to be chosen United States Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but he is the second consecutive commissioner of the Bureau to come from Wisconsin. As you will recall, the former commissioner, Philleo Nash, came from Appleton.

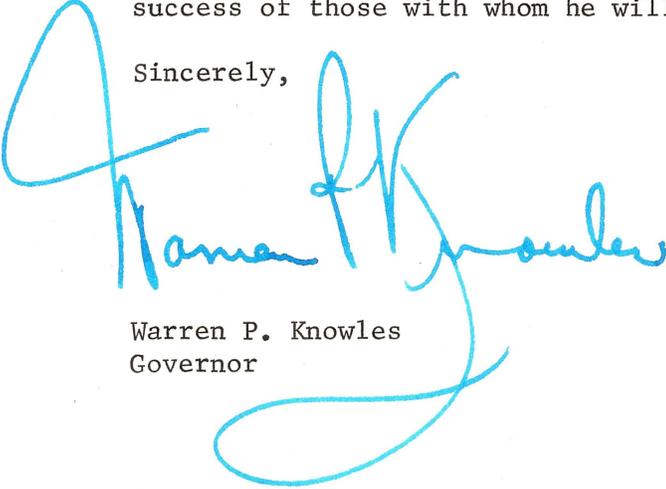
Your new commissioner has a challenging assignment given to him. Many Indians have long wanted a fellow Indian as their commissioner. Consequently, Indians and non-Indians will be watching Mr. Bennett to see how he affects the Bureau and the problems facing tribes throughout the country.

Here I offer my encouragement to him in his new position and my full support as Governor of Wisconsin. I am confident that he will prove to be a capable leader and I am looking forward to working with him and the Bureau to solve problems facing our Wisconsin Indians.

Congratulations should also go to the Oneida tribe for having such a leader come from among them. I am sure that your people are as proud to have Commissioner Bennett one of you as Wisconsin is to have him a native of our State.

In closing, I regret not being able to attend your dinner personally, but I do send my best wishes for the success of your new commissioner and the success of those with whom he will be working.

Sincerely,



Warren P. Knowles
Governor



Congratulations
on Your
SUCCESS


Hallmark

25M 606-2
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MADE IN U.S.A.



Congratulations!
Best Wishes
for every success
in the future.

To Bob and
family with
greetings from
the Rosenthals.

Alt. 7.14

Dear Mr James, Have I got the name correct? I heard you on To Tell the Truth, and even if it is a ripper I was very pleased to head of your appointment as head of the Bureau of Indian affairs, for this has been needed for a long long time.

I was also very happy to know that Peggy Cass and Pitty Cardyle were so vigorous in their feelings regarding the treatment of the American Indian by the people of this country.

It has been a national disgrace and I hope that you will be able to alleviate the situation somewhat tho its pretty late. They must be very disillusioned!

Best wishes for a long and successful administration for your colleagues & their friends thru your efforts
Mrs Dorothy S. Poller

203
Mrs Israel Tappal
147 Greenwood Drive
Cliffwood Beach, N.J.

Mr. Bennett,

I have for some time now felt that my Father's people should be given the chance to make a good life for them & theirs. I have wanted very much to help these people, but being neither rich or well educated myself I've never known how to help them, help themselves. I am most happy to see one of our own people in charge of our affairs. What I can do to help I do not know. Yet, if there is any way at all that I can be of service I wish to be. I know you will be very busy from here on in.

after all, the matters & affairs of the American Indian is not a simple task to straighten out and rectify after many years of little or no help at all.

I know the way they live because I myself lived three years on reservations and have seen the poverty, uncleanness and sickness of my people.

In spite of schooling and the good intentions of others.

In both cases, neither changed the people ~~and~~ their way of life considerably.

In fact I'd venture to say - very little, if any change at all took place.

The years I speak of are 10 to 12 years ago now. Since that time -

I'm sure that much has been done and is still being done to help them.

With you in office I'm sure much more will be accomplished.

Good Luck!!!

If there is some way I can help please let me know. Thank you,

Kateri

P. O. Box 336

Anadarko, Okla.

January 5, 1966

Dear Bob -

My sincere congratulations on
your promotion and my best wishes
for continued success & advancement.

May you, your wife & family
continue to enjoy healthful living
and happiness be yours forever.

Sincerely,

Howard C. Walkington

WILLIAM R. WOOD
PRESIDENT



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COLLEGE, ALASKA

January 7, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

While I am enthusiastic about your promotion to a new assignment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I do regret that you are leaving Alaska. It has been a genuine pleasure to know you and Mrs. Bennett, and to work with you on our common concerns.

It was good of you to comment on the improvement in the University's attempts to provide good educational opportunities for native Alaskans. I assure you that we shall continue our efforts in that direction and, hopefully, will be able to accelerate the pace. You will be pleased to learn, as I am, that this year we have 145 students from native Alaskan families. This is by far the largest number we have had to date. This includes, I believe, the special group that we are training from the Kobuk area for work in the mineral industry. Even more encouraging to me is the fact that there seems to be a tendency growing for our students to stay with us until graduation. I am looking forward to the day when we can encourage some of our good students to become doctors, lawyers, and engineers. Already some of the graduates have achieved a place in the teaching profession.

I do hope that you will find your new assignment an enjoyable and satisfying one, and that you will continue to think well of Alaska and its University. The campus is always a better place when you visit it.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Wood
President

WRW/kb

Nedrow, N. Y.
March 13, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett;

I just read of your new appointment in the newspaper, and wish to you a continued success in this field, not only from myself but from the other enrolled members of Onida's residing here in New York State. If you or your family ever decide to come home to the tribal property here, I would be more than happy to show you of what is left here. A Mr. George Shattuck will be in Washington on March 15 and has an appointment with Mrs. Zelma Barrow, I would suggest if you can find time to go over and see Mr. Shattuck. He is one of the Lawyers who is going to represent us in our case against New York State, and you would find this a very appreciative meeting. In the future, I will direct my letters to your office. I did meet with a Mr. Robert Hill of Wisconsin, in Chicago and Robert came here to Syracuse, N. Y. to meet with the attorneys. Mr. Hill has told me about you and it seems that thru all of this conversation I feel I know you personally. So from all of us, we wish the best of health, wisdom and achievement of your goals and desires.

Very truly yours,
Mr. Jacob Thompson, President
Onida Indian Nation
P.O. Box
Nedrow, N. Y. 13120

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

MAR 17 1966

March 14, 1966

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

Just a quick note to congratulate you on what I understand is an established fact, that you will be the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

While this is a terrific responsibility I think the best man is getting the job.

My congratulations and my pledge to do everything I can to help lighten the burden of this responsibility.

With my kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. Y. BERRY

eyb:1



"Watching the Tribe's Welfare"

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

TELEPHONE NO. 854-2561
FORT YATES, NORTH DAKOTA

MAR 23 1966

100

March 15, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
1951 Constitution Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

First I want to congratulate you for reaching the highest position in the Indian Service and speaking for my Sioux people and myself, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.

After six years absent from the tribal council, I am again one of their members and I must say it is shocking to find the mismanagement of our administration in both the general and rehab. program. Most of our council members are more interested in the money they receive in attending the meetings and boozing it up. Since coming back to the council I find the chairman and the rehab. manager most of the time on a drunk and their seems nothing we could do about it. It is my honest opinion that the superintendent should step in and correct the condition that has got out of hand.

It was embarrassing to me when Mr. Sonosky visited us to have the chairman on a week drunk and even had the gall to appear at the office in that stupid condition. Maybe Mr. Sonosky is encouraging these tribal officials and councilmembers boozing it up. After all he is an attorney for the tribal council.

At my age I would like to see something progressive done for my people and unless the bureau officials take the bull by the horn and correct the present conditions we will continue to go back to our primitive ways. I do not believe we have dedicated workers among our bureau employees, they are more interested to see if they can get a promotion or a transfer in some other area, than to think of the needs for our people. We hear so many times the Bureau is only here to look after the land problems of the Indians. This is a wrong statement at I know they have their hands in every activities of the Indian people, whether it be money, welfare, family trouble, etc., they are always their to interpret regulations, whether there be one or not. So it is my opinion that stern action by the bureau is required now days to put our Indian people as well as the members of the council on the right path. Unless this is accomplish I see no bright future for our people. We have more employees now than we ever had, and what do the Indian people on the reservation have? Nothing. We have more chiefs than Indians in the bureau. Rather ^{than} getting myself all worked up I had better stopped.

I know Mr. Bennett you will be an asset to the Indian Bureau as well as the Indian people, as you know the weak and strong points of the Indians, you know reservation life, you know the thinking of an Indian, with all these knows you have advantage over other commissioners. You have my full support in anything

MAR 23 1966
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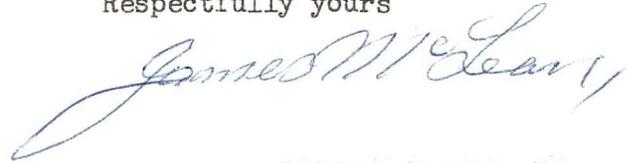
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

you might promote for out people. I know the Standing Rock Indians will support you in every way.

I just had to write you as a friend and let you know my feeling on these wrong doings.

Respectfully yours



James McLean

[The following text is a mirrored bleed-through from the reverse side of the page and is largely illegible due to being upside down and faint.]



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Kasigluk, Alaska

March 16, 1966

Dear Bob and Family

I see by the papers that you finally made the big time. Congratulations-- We finally got settled here and are real happy with this station. It is such a relief to that rat race in Juneau.

I have been trying to run down that Gibson guitar that your boy was using. Mrs. Bennett told me that she would leave it with Guy Roussou but to date I have not been able to find out from him if he had it. I wrote him to get it sent on up but to date no hear. That is the one that I use to teach music in the class room with.

I would appreciate it very much if you get the time to let me know where it is. I could sure use it here. It is my favorite instrument. Good luck in your job. Dickie and I are pulling for you all.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Cates, Principal Teacher

Kasigluk, Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

16 March 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Bennett:

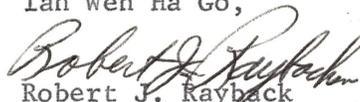
Yesterday, an article in the Syracuse Herald Journal reported your promotion. May I give you my heartfelt congratulations. They are as sincere as they could possibly be because I am an adopted member of the Wolf clan of the Oneida Nation and you are a Wolf.

As an historian, moreover, I am sticking my nose in their affairs -- doing work for a book on Oneida activities since the American Revolution. May I at the same time share a smile with you? No sooner had I read the article than my adopted brother-in-law, Chief Jacob Thompson of the Oneida Nation, telephoned me. He was laughing at the newspaper report that seemed to indicate that you had an incomplete knowledge of Oneida history and that Bob "would jump all over Bennett", as he said to his wife.

No, I won't "jump all over you" for your historical knowledge. Journalists are rarely knowledgeable or accurate in their reporting. Rather, because the article indicates that you never visited your ancestral New York Reservation, my wife and I would like to invite you to be our guest at our home, close to the Oneida Reservation where most of the New York Oneidas live, and about 30 miles from what is left of the original Oneida Reservation. I believe you come through the Dexteter family and a relative of yours is still on the Reservation. Be assured that our impulsiveness does not arise entirely from sentiment. Should you come a'visiting, I will pump you for all the information you have. Yet, in the process, I hope to be a gentlemen and that both of us could learn something more about the Oneidas. At least know that I could use your help.

You choose the time; bring your wife; bring your kids.

Da Neh Who
Iah Weh Ha Go,


Robert J. Rayback
Professor of History

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



LLF115 (32)CTB261

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ROBERT L BENNETT, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WASHDC
MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NOMINATION TO POST OF
BIA COMMISSIONER. CAN'T ENVISION A FINER CHOICE BY THE PRESIDENT
AND KNOW THE SENATE WILL FEEL THE SAME. BEST WISHES FOR YOUR
FUTURE SUCCESS. REGARDS

RALPH J RIVERS MC

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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ROBERT L BENNETT COMMISSIONER BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEPT. OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

HEARTENING TO LEARN THAT A FULLY AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED

LEADER HAS BEEN SELECTED. CONGRATULATIONS.

1966 MAR 18 PM 3 18

KENNETH CRITES

(24)

MAR 21 1966

FAX N

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

101

School Supt.
Mt. Edgcomb School
" " Alaska 99835

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W.P.M.
W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International Letter Telegram

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DR ROBERT L BENNETT, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFIARS

ph Guard
1951 Constitution Ave.
N.W.

~~DEPT OF THE INTERIOR~~ BUR OF IND AFFAIRS WASHDC

DEAR BOB, AL JOINS ME IN CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS. PLEASE VISIT US ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO ALBUQUERQUE NATACHEE SCOTT MOMADAY.

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MAR 21 1966

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Telefax

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ROBERT LAFOLETTE BENNETT

COMMISSIONER M BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR WASHDC

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT. BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED
SUCCESS AND FULLFILLMENT OF YOUR PURPOSE

VICTOR M (PAT) COSTO 1151 LORING ST SAN DIEGO CALIF 92109.

1966 MAR 21 AM 7 44

MAR 21 1966

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ALASKA AREA OFFICE-URA
POST OFFICE BOX 1595
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

March 18, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bob:

My sincere congratulations on the enclosed announcement. Your appointment will prove to be of invaluable aid to resolving the native problems in Alaska.

All of us will miss your musical talents and story telling ability. In looking at the front page of the Anchorage Daily News, I believe the Bureau of Indian Affairs has found its "H-Bomb." Please return soon.

Sincerely,



J. S. Hong
Area Coordinator

UR:JSHong:sw
Enclosure

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAR 21 9 53 AM '66



ALASKA NATIVE INDUSTRIES

C O - O P E R A T I V E A S S O C I A T I O N

A N I C A

PHONE MAin 4-8022

1306 SECOND AVENUE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

March 18, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D. C

Dear Bob:

This afternoon over the air I heard that the President has appointed you Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I want to be among the first ones to congratulate you and to wish you well. It gives me quite a sense of pride to feel that my judgment of where you were going and what would happen to you has been justified, and you deserve this fine appointment.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with you when you were in Juneau as Area Director, and I wish you and your wife my heartiest congratulations and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo E. Murphy
Manager

LEM:scp

1. RLB
2. Files

March 18, 1966

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your nomination. I am sure that the hearings will be as successful and the work can commence.

The enclosed clipping appeared in the Anchorage Daily News and I thought you'd like to have it for a memento.

I didn't have an opportunity to talk to you again before I left for Alaska (that was your Los Angeles weekend with McCutch, Stevens, et al.) but I have had an opportunity to meet and become fast friends with Stanley. He is one of the finest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I have nothing but the highest respect for him and his relationships with the Tyonek's are, in my humble opinion, one of the finest I know of between an Indian group and their attorney.

Although this may be a bit irregular to write directly, I know you will look sideways this time.

Anchorage is a fine city- I have met and renewed acquaintances with a number of old friends I have found here- It certainly is a small world. With all the moves Lois and I have been involved these past 10 years, it seems that no matter what circle we are involved in we have a mutual friend someplace in the Lower 48. It is nice that way.

The assignment here is challenging to say the least. I am fortunate to have this opportunity to "get my feet wet" in the administration side of the Bureau. The staff here are all fine people. Sometimes they don't all pull together, but that we hope will disappear. By and large though they do turn out a lot of work under difficult circumstances.

Lois and the kids are now enroute at last. It was a struggle to sell the house and she is a brave girl to drive cross country with them. I had a note from her yesterday and she is only going as far as Seattle and then onto here by air. Can't blame her for that. I found a house out in Chester Valley. Four bedrooms and the backyard abuts on the school playground. It was a big load off my mind and we are now getting ready to settle down to living again.

As soon as they all get here and are settled, I will be hitting the Mukluk trail to the villages to see first hand what the problems are and hopefully, we can come up with some solutions.

We are enjoying good relations with the papers here, as well as the other agencies. Bob Arnold and Bill Hopkins and I have a good thing going as far as putting out fires is concerned and it is working well to date. There doesn't appear to be any reason why it won't continue that way.

Your many friends in Anchorage, and you have a strong legion, send their best wishes and hopes for a successful tenure as Commissioner. To which I sincerely add my own along with my deep thanks for this fine opportunity. Kindest regards to Cleoda and the others.

With every good wish,

How about your home address?

Tom

Colo. Sprg. Colo.
814 S. Cascade.

March 21-1966

Dear Bob:

Congratulations to you,
and I know you'll serve your
office well. the best of luck.

Mr. Hayne and me are
driving east to Absecon, New
Jersey, out of Atlantic City. our
youngest daughter lives there,
will be there for 4 wks. and hope
to arrive for Easter. during our
stay we expect to visit D.C., special-
ly the Indian affairs office.

all is well with us. I've retired
from the U.S. governat, but still do
specialized service on Automotive
equipment. also my hobbies keep me
busy as I want to be.

Hope to see you.

Sincerely,

Fred



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL COUNCIL

RAY W. SWEAZEY

DIRECTOR

AMERICAN INDIAN RELATIONSHIPS
DIVISION OF RELATIONSHIPS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.
PHONE: CHARTER 9-6000

TWX 602-255-0236

The Sahara Hotel

401 NORTH FIRST STREET • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004 • 258-3411

Monday - March 21st - 1966.

Dear Bob:

Sincere congratulations and good wishes upon your appointment as Commissioner of B.I.A. It is good news indeed and needless to say we who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with you are delighted. I know you will do a creditable job and that great strides will be made under your leadership.

I am here in Phoenix today - enroute to Los Angeles and Portland -

Regards,

Ray Oregon



800
3/21/66

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

BOX 2481
JUNEAU, ALASKA. 99801

March 21, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your appointment to the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have heard for sometime that your appointment was in the mill and it is a real pleasure to learn that is is now official.

I hope your duties as Commissioner will frequently bring you back to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Rietze
Regional Director

WILLIAM A. EGAN
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 21, 1966

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RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 23 3 38 PM '66

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

Dear Bob:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 14, with enclosure, giving your reason for deciding to finance cannery operations at Klawock rather than Hydaburg this year.

I was very happy to hear of your promotion to Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I extend to you my heartiest congratulations. With your qualifications for the position, Bob, I feel the Bureau has made an excellent choice.

Kindest personal regards to you, your wife and family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William A. Egan
Governor

44-23-100

100

"DEMOCRACY THROUGH YOUTH"

★ **Affiliated Young Democrats, Inc.** ★

OF NEW YORK STATE

HAROLD R. MOSKOVIT
STATE PRESIDENT

HOTEL PICCADILLY
227 WEST 45th STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

(212) 265-4450

(212) 246-6600



March 21, 1966

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2nd Vice-President

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4th Vice-President

Michael Gurda
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Robert T. Allar

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bob:

Heartiest congratulations upon your
appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau
of Indian Affairs.

I do want to wish you the very best in
this office with best wishes in all your
future endeavors.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

HRM/mg

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ASSISTANT COMMANDANT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

21 March 1966

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I noted with great interest a recent news item stating that you had been nominated by the President to be the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your nomination. Your recognition has been well earned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. D. Shields".

W. D. SHIELDS

Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

MAR 25 1966
101-743/5

5303 Nicholas Street
Omaha Nebraska
March 21 1966

Hon. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 25 10 29 AM '66

My dear Mr. Bennett,

1. RLB
2. info. to full
reply

It was indeed very gratifying to me to learn that you had been appointed to the head the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am sure that it is just as pleasing to all Indians and to all of us who are of Indian descent. We realize what a tremendous job it is and also how much needs to be done for our Indian brother.

MAR 25 1966
PCC

For several years, I have been talking about an Indian Brotherhood Organization, made up of those of us who have received the education and some of the culture of the 20th century with the prime purpose of helping the Indian when he comes to a city to enter modern life. There are many Indians in all the larger cities and I believe that we could become a major force in bringing the Indian into the stream of civilization. Just recently, I was talking with Father Carl Reinert, Creighton University, and he said that out of every ten people who came to the University begging, seven of them would be Indians. That is not what I want to hear about my people and I am sure that you think the same as I.

Unlike you, I never lived on a reservation but I was born and reared in the Cherokee Nation with only Indians for neighbors and I never heard of an Indian begging-borrowing -Yes- but he always repaid what he borrowed, therefore I feel that we have left many things undone to reduce a proud people to this condition. As a member of the Daughters of American Revolution, I am interested in the program that they offer but to me it is only a token gift but I realize that being of Indian blood, I expect much more of all Americans in this too long neglected problem.

Again, I must say that I am pleased to know that at long last we have one of our own people heading our Affairs. I would be interested in knowing of what you think of my Indian Brotherhood Organization.

Yours sincerely

Vivianne G. Driskell

Mrs. J.L. Driskell
5303 Nicholas St
Omaha, Nebraska

The Ralph M. Parsons Company

Engineers • Constructors

617 WEST SEVENTH STREET, LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE REPLY TO
26 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.

March 21, 1966

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

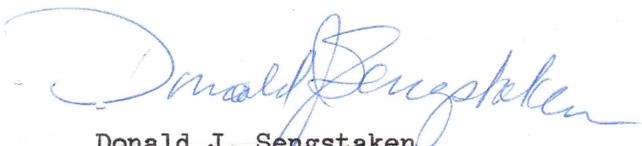
Dear Mr. Bennett:

1. RB
2. Reddy
I was quite pleased this weekend when I heard an announcement on the radio that you had been appointed Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Both Sam Umbenhauer and I would like to extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued success in your efforts to improve conditions for the American Indians.

Sam and I are planning to visit Washington this Spring and would like to call upon you at that time to discuss the current status of the Tyonek Indian Village Power System. We will look forward to seeing you then.

Kindest regards,

THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY


Donald J. Sengstaken
Assistant Manager, Power Operations

DJS:sam



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations on your nomination as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We welcome you to this very important assignment.

The betterment of the social and economic conditions of our Indians should be a matter of primary concern. As Senator from Minnesota, I spent a great deal of time trying to improve conditions of our Indians in Minnesota. I know that you have been doing the same throughout the country and especially in your native area of Wisconsin.

If there is ever anything I may do to be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Hubert H. Humphrey

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

427 Seventy-sixth Street
North Bergen, New Jersey
March 21, 1966

Mr. La Falletti Bennett:

Please accept my sincere best wishes upon your appointment by the President to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Your record of prior service served as Deputy Commissioner merits this appointment

Best wishes.


James A. Foy

The Riggs National Bank

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20013

L. A. JENNINGS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

March 22, 1966

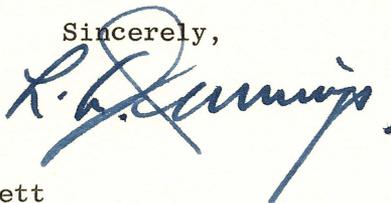
Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please accept our sincere congratulations on your appointment by President Lyndon B. Johnson as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We are fortunate indeed that your outstanding abilities will be exercised in the best interest of all of us.

If we may be of assistance to you at any time, we would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. A. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

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

DIRECTORS:

Emile Foussard, President
Herman Garceau
Harley Jolliffe

St. John Public School

St. John School District No. 3

ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

Leonard Barking
Superintendent
Arda J. Roy, Clerk
Mrs. Jean B. Stewart
Treasurer

3-22-66

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

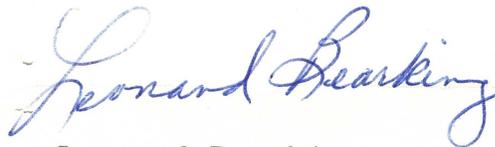
Dear Mr. Bennett:

I didn't get to visit with you while I was in Washington, D. C. last week, but I realize that you are awfully busy with committee hearings.

I must congratulate you being appointed to Commissioner of Indian Affairs; I have heard many fine things about your work and I'm happy that the President has appointed you to the challenging post.

I am competing for a NIMH fellowship at U. of New Mexico so I am busy filing credentials to Dr. John T. Zepper.

Until we meet again, I remain,



Leonard Barking

LB/ba

Northern State College

Aberdeen, South Dakota

57401

OFFICE OF
BUSINESS MANAGER

March 22, 1966

AREA CODE 605
TELEPHONE 225-1110

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

Dear Bob:

We have been hearing rumors and Sunday the enclosed newspaper story was released. May I hasten to congratulate you on this very worthy appointment. I am sure you will clear the various hurdles. You are well deserving of this new job and I for one, would wish you all kinds of success.

2. *RB* Possibly when you make your first trip to Aberdeen as Commissioner you could arrange things to let us know in advance so that you could be honored guest at our Wednesday Lions meeting. We would be most happy for you to tell us some of the problems and goings on that you are working with.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Fowler

H. A. Fowler
Business Manager

HAF/bm

lots of snow here March 4-5
some 18" or more + Mobridge over
35" +

Box 2199
Jno

Jalmar, Alaska

T E L E G R A M

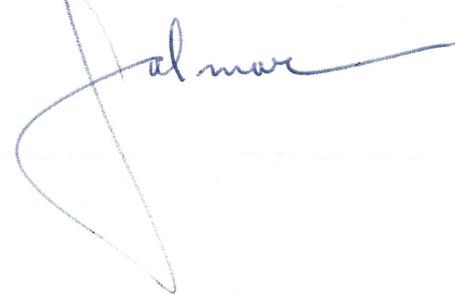
NIGHT LETTER

MARCH 22, 1966

TO: U. S. SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON
CHAIRMAN, INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: KNOWLEDGEABLE ALASKANS FEEL THE PROGRAM OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WILL ADVANCE THE NATIVE PEOPLES A FULL DECADE FURTHER INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY UNDER ROBERT L. BENNETT'S DIRECTION. BOB BENNETT IS THE BEST ADMINISTRATOR OUR REGION EVER HAD. HE IS A GREAT AMERICAN. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE HIS CANDIDACY FOR TOP POSITION IN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. SINCERELY.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
JALMAR M. KERTTULA



CC: ✓ Robert L. Bennett

Stephen Smith

COPY

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH

84801



ERNEST L. WILKINSON, PRESIDENT

INDIAN EDUCATION

House of Jacob

March 23, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

First let us congratulate you on your new appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, we think this is a wonderful development to have one of our own people become the Commissioner. We wish you every success in your endeavors.

The next item we would like to mention is that the Indian students of Brigham Young University will be having an American Indian Week, April 18th through April 23, 1966. It is designed to promote our great cultural heritage, through exhibits, displays, seminars and a pageant.

We sincerely extend an invitation to you to visit our campus and to be a part of our American Indian Week. The Indian students on this campus would consider it a great honor to have such a distinguished person, who represents the Oneida Nation as well as the honorable accomplishments which you have attained.

This letter is to inquire whether or not you would be able to come on April 22nd and 23rd to speak to the Indian students as well as other interested groups. If you can possibly accept this invitation, we would be pleased to hear from you.

We are hoping to have a very successful Indian Week and feel that your presence would greatly add to the success.

Sincerely yours,

Indian Students' Advisory Council

Sherman Martin (Shoshone)
Howard Rainer (Taos)
George Lee (Navajo)
Betty Henderson (Navajo-Apache)
Larry Dennison (Navajo)
Tony Summers (Oneida)

Tony Summers

Window Rock, Arizona
March 23, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Office of the Commissioner
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bob:

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! Its nice to know that an old friend has, so to speak, "Come into his own".

I believe that all people of Indian decent, Navajo and others are very pleased. While I know your task will be difficult, I also know that you will approach all problems with an open mind.

We have often regretted that we were unable to take advantage of a transfer to Alaska when you last wrote to us. We were just not in a position to at that time to consider a move.

You know doubt will be visiting the Navajo Reservation sometime soon. We shall look forward to seeing you then. I am still working for Mr. Kilgore yet but I wonder sometimes if I will be kept on or not.

Please forgive me for being informal again but do write if you can find the time. I know you are busy but I have always enjoyed hearing from you.

Sincere personal regards,



Marian (Bennett) McLemore
Box 32, Window Rock, Arizona

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



LLC038 136 LD112

L AYA030 NL PD ALBUQUERQUE NMEX 23

BOB L BENNETT

1966 MAR 24 AM 8 43

OFFICE OF BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

THE ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO HAS AUTHORIZED ME AS ITS CHAIRMAN TO CONTACT YOU WITH REGARD TO THE SENATE CONFIRMATION OF MR ROBERT L BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S SELECTION OF MR BENNETT AN ONEIDA INDIAN FROM WISCONSIN IS A WISE AND JUDICIOUS CHOICE OF A MAN WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY IN INDIAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION WE SINCERELY SOLICIT YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT OF MR BENNETTS CONFIRMATION BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS SINCERELY YOURS

CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL INDIAN COUNCIL DOMINGO MONTOYA.

MAR 24 9 14 AM '66

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BUR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1966 MAR 24 AM 8 50

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P.O. 262
Bernalillo, NM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MAR 29 1966

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March 24, 1966

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 29 2 23 PM '66

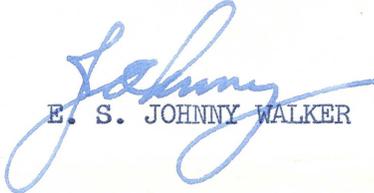
Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Commissioner Bennett:

I am happy to learn that the President has nominated you for the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I am familiar with the fine job that you have performed with the Bureau. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on this outstanding nomination and to assure you of my support.

Sincerely,


E. S. JOHNNY WALKER

ESJW/drt

Congressional

RTB

**THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION
DIXON, MONTANA**

March 24, 1966

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

It is with pleasure that we learn of your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Your background of many years at all levels of the Bureau and your racial heritage undoubtedly make you the best qualified Commissioner the Bureau has had in many years.

We are looking forward to cooperating with the Bureau in the programs you, undoubtedly, will be instituting for the betterment of the Indian people.

We wish you every success in your new position and we want you to know that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes through its Business Council pledges its support to your administration.

Very truly yours,

Lyman Trahan

Lyman Trahan, Chairman
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

225 Mark Drive
Kingman, Arizona
March 24, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

First of all Congratulations on your new appointment! All American Indians are very, very proud of you attaining such success. You may recall both my wife and I were employed at the Aberdeen Area Office during your tour there.

1. RLB
2. personal
reply?
or
to
personnel?

I am transmitting herewith my Application for Federal Employment and I am also transmitting same for my wife for reinstatement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is respectfully requested that our applications be referred to the Navajo Area Office, Window Rock, your Albuquerque or Sacramento Area Offices, depending on which of the three may have appropriate vacancies for which we could qualify.

It is my understanding the new Navajo Area Office is presently recruiting for employees and we would be most willing to consider placement at that location.

Your consideration of my request will sincerely be appreciated.

Respectfully,



Roy T. Flood

Enclosures

2 Lawrence Street
East Rockaway, L.I.
March 24, 1966

MAR 30 1966

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Hon. Robert L. Bennet
Commissioner Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Bennet,

Conhradulations upon your recent appointment. Those of us who are deeply concerned with the future of our Indian people are happy to know that you, one of their own, are now going to take up the task of trying to unravel the tangled and often unhappy problems which face our only true Americans. It will take the wisdom of a Solomon and the persuasive and diplomatic power of some of the greatest leaders in our time to even begin to make a dent into the mess we have made of our dealings with our Indians, but know that you, as an Indian will at least have your heart in the work, which in the long run is the most important.

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 30 1 55 PM '66

Most of my many Indian friends live in South Dakota, many on or near the Crow Creek reservation. Therefore I have come to know Congressman E.Y. Berry quite well and feel that he too has a real concern for our Indians.

I have heard the remark that of all of our Indians, that the Sioux were economically at the bottom " of the Indian totem pole," and that the Crow Creek were at the bottom of the bottom figure. Maybe that is why I have been trying to help them for many y ars, visiting them on the reservations and plugging for good legislation for them as well as sending warm clothing. Having done this work for so long, the people here on Long Island have also become concerned about their welfare, so if there is anything you might want to have some of the easterners informed about, I can possibly get the news items into the papers and also mention new developements wvgen I speak before clubs and church group. Arousing public opinion and then getting them to write to their own con gressmen might help your future programs. Of course this would be in a small way, but a pebble in a pond causes notice by the ripples spreading out to distant shores... or so I hope.

11
100
11

Best of everything in your new position,

Sincerely,
Mildred Roemer
Mrs. S.K. Roemer



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

RMB
IN REPLY REFER TO:

Area Director

BILLINGS AREA OFFICE
~~604 NORTH 29TH STREET~~ 316 North 26th St.
BILLINGS, MONTANA
59101

March 25, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs

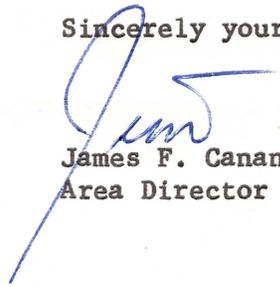
Dear Bob:

When I talked to you last Friday it was still on the basis of congratulations not yet being fully in order. I am now delighted to find that the official nomination has been submitted by the President and that you will be our new Commissioner.

I am sure you know this is a source of great satisfaction and pride to us in the Bureau. We all have the feeling that great days lie ahead in the Bureau under your leadership and I am looking forward to a progressive and productive period. I am glad we had the opportunity to visit with you in Billings and I am sure I speak for the entire Area in extending my warmest congratulations to you.

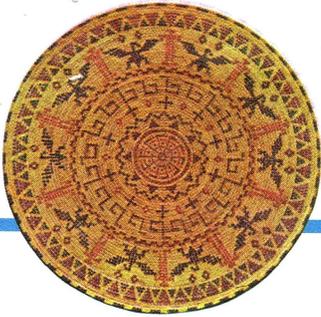
I look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe next month.

Sincerely yours,


James F. Canan
Area Director

MAR 28 1966

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RMB



AGUA CALIENTE
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

March 25, 1966

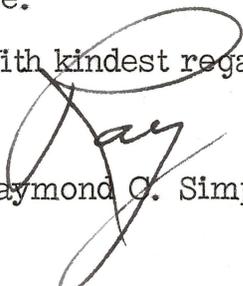
Commissioner Robert Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Upon the occasion of having lunch with you in Washington during my last visit with Tribal delegates from the Agua Caliente Band, I concluded that making you a Deputy Commissioner would be beneficial for all Indians. Hence, I now emphatically offer my congratulations to you upon your new role as Commissioner of Indian Affairs through which the benefits to the Indians can be even greater.

Please allow me to wish you the very best of good fortune and many years of outstanding service.

With kindest regards,

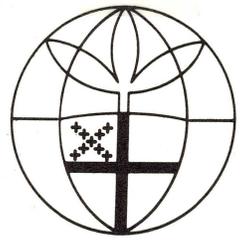

Raymond C. Simpson

RCS:ts

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MAR 28 10 29 AM '66

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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

March 25, 1966

The Hon. Robert Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

We extend to you our heartiest congratulations upon your appointment as U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. You have served in the Indian Service with deep concern, commitment, effectiveness and distinction. You are prepared in an amazing way for this new and demanding task.

We know also that you are well aware of how difficult an assignment this is, and that no mortal can be fully prepared for what is ahead. Be assured we stand ready to be of whatever help and support we can at any time and circumstance. Our prayers are with you.

This letter is sent on behalf of the Presiding Bishop and all of us in the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. I add my own personal good wishes for a good life for you and your family in Washington and I look forward to our continued association in behalf of American Indian welfare.

My esteem and personal regards,

Cliff

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

CLS:dwb

cc: Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior
John A. Carver, Assistant Secretary of the Interior
The Right Reverend John Hines, Presiding Bishop
of the Episcopal Church

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

440 FIFTH AVE.—ANCHORAGE 99501

March 25, 1966

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

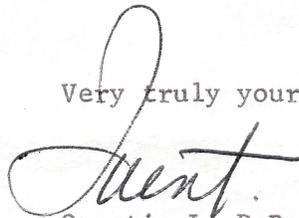
Dear Bob:

It gave me a thrill to read where you have been nominated for the Commissioner's appointment in Washington, D. C. I am sure that the Congress, in their wisdom, will act fast and favorably in this because of your splendid record.

Since I have been appointed Director of Air Commerce under the Public Service Commission and moved to Anchorage, I have missed the personal contact with the Coastal passengers that I enjoyed in my flying duties. I am sure that Cleota is as thrilled and happy as Maxine and me. Please extend to her my very warmest regards. And Bob, to you I want to send my most heartfelt congratulations on this nomination. I will look forward to seeing you both in Washington on my next trip and then, perhaps I will be able to take advantage of the raincheck you extended me for our last dinner engagement.

Kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,



Quentin L. DeBoer
Director of Air Commerce
Alaska Public Service Commission

QLD/gs



NORTH TO THE FUTURE IN 1967!

MAR 30
10023



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

BUREAU OF MEDICAL SERVICES

REFER TO:

March 25, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for your letter of March 9, 1966, congratulating me on my appointment to Chief, Division of Indian Health. It is with pleasure that I can, in reply, extend congratulations to you on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I look forward to working together with you to serve the Indian and Alaska Native people.

We have long recognized the need for sanitation facilities at Canoncito in New Mexico. Unfortunately the solution to the problem is not as obvious as the problem itself. Our Albuquerque Area Office has very recently exchanged several letters with the tribe on this subject and is working toward a solution to their water problem.

With regard to medical care in that area, our Albuquerque Office informs us that Canoncito is part of the large Laguna Service Unit and, as you mentioned, the physician maintains a clinic there every two weeks. In our plans for fiscal year 1967, however, it is proposed that a second physician will be assigned to Laguna and the clinics will be increased to once a week. This should improve the medical services for the Indian population in that vicinity.

We appreciate your interest in the Indian health program and will be very happy to meet with you sometime in the near future to discuss our program.

Sincerely yours,

E. S. Rabeau, M. D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief, Division of Indian Health

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

ATALOA

Dear Bob—

This is to send my congratulations and felicitations on your appointment as Commissioner. A bit tardy, but none-the-less sincere.

I join countless others who salute you as our first Indian as Commissioner of the Indian Bureau. It is wonderful that your ability, experience and dedication have been recognized. I know you will measure up to the trust and responsibilities. Indians everywhere will be very proud of you.

There are certain to be times of loneliness, frustration, and disappointments—times to test your faith in God, man and government. In such times, you will be given wisdom as well as spiritual and physical strength, if you but seek the Light.

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year—'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'—and he replied—'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'" [The gate of the year—Haskins]

I was sorry to have missed seeing you when you were in Santa Fe last spring. (or was it fall?) I was unable to reach you when I called La Parake to invite you to my house for lunch or dinner.

hoping that you may be able to slip away for a real and brief visit if you are here for the Bureau confab in April.

I have been living in Santa Fe for over three years. Was on the staff of the Institute of Amer. Indian Arts until I resigned in September. I found I was pushing the hood after major surgery and decided to slow down. I'm involved in other things but do not lose the pressure of a schedule.

With many others, I have been disturbed about what has happened to NCAI in the past few years. However, I'm greatly encouraged in the new leadership with integrity that came out of the Bechtold convention in November. Perhaps we will see some changes in plans and personnel.

You will need the backing and cooperation of Indians in your plans and programs. I hope you will get these and more from NCAI in the future.

May God bless, guide and sustain you in the days ahead, will be my daily prayer for you -

Cordially,

Atkins

March 26, 1966.



1263 W. PRATT BLVD. #909
262-0620
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60626

March 26, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We have been happy to read of your "ascendancy" to the position of Commissionership.

This is not only an historic event; it is one that will reflect great credit upon the Indian people as well, and upon your own successful and contributing career.

We wish you well and pledge you our cooperation.

Sincerely,

Willard LaMere

Willard LaMere
President

E:GM

Heritage-Wilshire
NATIONAL BANK

Wilshire Office / 11911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90025 / Telephones 477-1511 • 272-4353

March 26, 1966

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

Dear Robert:

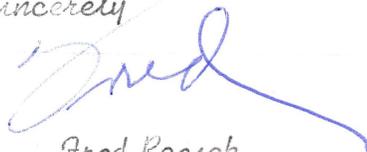
Congratulations upon the great recognition awarded to you by President Johnson. The story was read with keen interest and much satisfaction.

Well do I recall how pleasant it was doing business with you at the First National Bank of Aberdeen before you and I departed from that fine city.

You will serve with distinction. You have all the fine qualities required for the job. The President made a wise choice.

When your duties bring you to Los Angeles, please call me and be my dinner guest.

sincerely



Fred Roesch
8529 Willis
Panorama City, Calif.

KINY

5,000 Watts
Clear Channel
800 K.C.
Affiliated with
CBS, NBC and ABC
Radio Networks

Juneau Broadcasters, Inc.

231 So. Franklin Street
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
Phone 586-1800

KINY TV

Channel 8
Affiliated with
CBS, NBC and ABC
Television Networks

March 26, 1966
Juneau, Alaska.

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

Dear Bob:

Just a note of congratulations of your new appointment. Evidently the Associated Press felt it was big enough news to have it make their national wire and, of course, the Alaska wire played it quite big.

Yours truly has just exited from the hospital after a 17 day siege with pneumonia and assorted other ailments. There has been quite a flu epidemic which seemingly has hit just about everyone. The Rotary Variety show is on this weekend and my wife, who attended last evening, says its a good one. I'm sort of avoiding crowds, so I'll probably miss it.

You might tell JoAnn that I received a get well card from Jeff and Patrick, who seemingly are enjoying the Arizona sunshine no end. I was just a little startled the other day to catch a CBS Dimension feature in which Philleo Nash was being queried about Indian land claims. I gathered it was recorded prior to his departure.

Again, congratulations on your appointment, and everyone here was most pleased, and I hope that you and the family are well settled by now. My regards to your wife and to the cheer leader we all miss so much.

Very Truly Yours,

Vern Metcalfe

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

JAMES C. FLETCHER JR.
60 W. 46TH ST., N.Y. 36, N.Y.

DAY-WELLINGTON, INC.
VANCE BUILDING
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CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. MCFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International
Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

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1966 MAR 26 AM 6 22

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ROBERT L BENNETT1951 CONST AVE NW

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT APPOINTMENT.

HAVING WORKED WITH YOU IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS I KNOW THAT WITH YOUR PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS YOUR APPOINTMENT WILL ASSURE FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT AND THE GREATEST BENEFITS TO ALL INDIANS. MAY I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN YOUR NEW ENDEAVOR

THRADORE R DENNY

TLINGIT AND HAIDA.

100

MAR 28 8 02 AM '66

BUR. OF WASH. DC

JOHN I. TAENI

March 28 - 1966.

The Hon. Robert La Follette Bennett,

Dear Sir,

177 East 77th Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Congratulations and may you enjoy every happiness and success as our new Director of the Office of Indian Affairs.

I am taking this occasion of asking you once again for your autograph. I wrote to you once before, when you became Assistant Commissioner of this office, but no answer was received.

I can understand your reluctance to comply with such requests from unknown persons, however, I have in my possession thousands of letters from foremost Personalities and among them all of the outstanding Leaders of our Interior Department.

The historical and documental value of this collection is recognized by historians and I am enclosing photostats of two of the many articles, which appeared about my hobby.

Trusting you will forgive this imposition and honor me, too, with a little signed note, I am,

Respectfully,

John I. Taeni

APR 21 1966

100
135

Neoluna Neb

March 28 1966

APR 21 1966

My Great Indian Friend

Mr. Robert Bennett.

Washington D.C.

100
135

MAR 31 2 02 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Sir

I just heard you are the Commissioner This Great to have one of our Indians to be the Commissioner & a friend of my

The Santee Tribe are ~~of God's~~ of you and I hope you will remember us, as you did when you were working here for us.

Now as a tribe we need lots of help.

1. housing

money this claim money.

don't terminate us, I mean the Santee tribe don't let that happen.

[Signature]

As you know our tribe is poor
+ getting poorer every year.

We tried to get Housing Deal year
but as Mr. Wash didnt like me, maybe
that why we didnt get it we work with
Mr. Lay at Aberdeen S.D. Heard, Manthorpe

We invite you to come + visit us
this summer, be sure, as we will be
looking for you

Our community houses turn
up, no meeting place for tribe,

My regards to your Commissioner

Your friend

Gordon D. Felt

Spokane

Idaho

RS The tribe has 2 claim won so far
so help us, to get these real soon we
need the money

we are meet with our attorney Sonokey
April 16 1966 at Des Moines S.D. you can get
touch with him Thanks per

Mr. Rose Frasier stop & his said
he sent his regards to you

We tried to get Henry's school gear
but as Mr. Rose doesn't take care, things
that we had we didn't get it we work with
Mr. Jay of Cambridge 8.12. Heard something
we invite you to come & visit us
this summer, please, as we will be
looking for you

Our conversation of things from
you, we needed place for take,
My regards to you

Your friend
Johnnie Miller
H. Frasier
P.S. The table has a chair
to help us to get these real ones
and the money
we are meet with our attorney
April 12 1885 of Cambridge 8.12. you can get
back with him

3-28-1966
13660 S.W. 121st
Tigard, Or. 97222

Dear Bob:

Mrs. Foster and I recently returned from a two months trip to Escudido, Cal. and I learned of your impending appointment as Commissioner.

I'm pleased to see a man from the ranks of the Bureau appointed to this job; I believe you are the first to receive such recognition.

If your hands are not tied and you receive the unqualified support from the Secretary, I'm certain you will bring fine leadership to the Bureau and do a working good job. Please accept my wholehearted congratulations and best wishes for real success as Commissioner.

The appointment of Hale Balaban as Portland Area Director was a wise choice and I understand the staff are quite happy about his selection.

With best personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Don Foster



MAR 30 1966
TO DIRECTOR

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

830 THIRD AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

PLAZA 1-6900

AREA CODE 212

March 28, 1966

Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am happy to send you my sincere congratulations upon your appointment by President Johnson to the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Girl Scout organization is proud of its long association with the Bureau. We are especially pleased that a memorandum of cooperation between our two organizations will soon be sent to all of your officers throughout the country as well as to all of our Girl Scout regions and councils. It is our hope that this reaffirmation of friendship will foster closer relationships in the future.

I send you my best wishes for success in your new office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Louise A. Wood'.

Louise A. Wood
National Executive Director



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*National Executive Committee

*150 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.*

March 29, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your appointment to your present position. You have a tremendous responsibility, as you well realize.

While our Company has had contacts heretofore with the Bureau, particularly in the Yakima area of Washington, we are looking forward to the associations we may have in Alaska.

I enjoyed getting acquainted with you in Washington and hope to meet with you again. After we met, I was in Juneau and became acquainted with Mr. Morken, who succeeded you in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Dunn

PAUL M. DUNN

PMD/jah
c/o St. Regis Paper Company

Turtle Mountain Plant
BULOVA WATCH COMPANY, INC.

PHONE 408
ROLLA, NORTH DAKOTA
ZIP NO. 58367

March 29, 1966

MAR 31 1966
100

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations to you on your appointment as
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Turtle Mountain Plant employs one hundred
and fifteen Indians at the Rolla site. These are highly
skilled employees and are a credit to the Indian race.

Your predecessor, Phileo Nash, visited the
Turtle Mountain Plant. It is our hope that you will
also visit with us so that we can meet you personally
and show you our people at work and our manufacturing
facilities.

Cordially,

R. M. Schultz
R. M. Schultz
General Manager

RMS:mm1

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 31 11 04 AM '66

1001

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

RAY C. GOETTING

~~PO BOX 2036 MILAN STATION~~

GRANTS, NEW MEXICO

ATWATER 7-4512

105 North Second
March 29, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

I think it is particularly encouraging to find an Indian appointed as Commissioner, and I certainly offer my congratulations. It was nice visiting with you by telephone and enclosed is the suggestion I referred to as having been submitted to the New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs. Since that time the Commission has replaced its Executive Director and Wendell Chino has become President of NCAI. John Rainer of Taos tells me they will get back to the business at hand shortly.

Nevertheless, the idea could be modified to enlighten the All-Pueblo Council, any tribe, or the BIA if performed by someone with independent status. Certain resistance exists if the analyst were strictly a Government Employee but a number of local Indians in each tribe feel they need someone obligated to them to prepare such of their desires as would be considered in developing their programs. Since they have very few who would qualify as analysts I felt I should make the attempt to offer my services.

The enclosure reflects examples and may not appear to make sense but I think you will understand the scheme. I would surely appreciate your reviewing it and if possible discuss it with you this next trip to this area.

With all my best wishes in your new assignment, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ray
Ray C. Goetting

PAUL V. McCARTHY, M. D.

PAUL R. LEON, M. D.

RADIOLOGISTS

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

29 March 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chief of the BIA. My best wishes to your wife.

Most sincerely yours,


Paul V. McCarthy, M.D.

PVM:swm



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

MAR 31 1966

100

Pinon Boarding School
Pinon, Arizona

March 29, 1966

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

In reading a Washington newsletter last night, I noticed where President Johnson has nominated you for Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am sure, our Indian people all over the United States are as happy and pleased as I am over the final break through towards this timely Indian recognition. Under your leadership, I look forward to seeing much accomplishments in the Indian bureau programs. The Indians are aware of their needs but they must have sympathetic, understanding and sincere people to help them work out their many problems.

I know you must be terribly busy in your job and I have been hesitant about calling on you for help. On March 9, I filed my application for Housing Development Officer position in the Juneau Area Office. As you know, I have a great desire to return to Alaska as I feel, I have an obligation, a commitment and a contribution to make towards a better future for our Alaska Natives. Anything you can do to strengthen my bid for the Housing Development Officer job in Juneau will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph M. Kahklen
Joseph M. Kahklen

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 31 10 57 AM '66

DEVILS LAKE SIOUX TRIBE
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER
FORT TOTTEN, NORTH DAKOTA
March 30, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner:

We congratulate you on your designation as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and trust and hope your appointment will be confirmed.

Our hearts are warmed and our hopes are stirred by the prospect that a person of Indian Origin will occupy this office.

Now, understanding of our problems will have a better chance of penetrating the policies, procedures, and attitudes of the Bureau. We hope that if the Devils Lake Sioux Reservation becomes a full agency that you will consult with the Tribal Council before you act on the appointment of a Superintendent. One of the most difficult problems to resolve in our relationships with the Bureau is overcoming the breakdown of communications between us because of failure of local personnel to comprehend or consider our viewpoint.

Thus--we hope your tenure in this office is rewarding to you and to us--and that you will consider our request as a step in this direction.

Very truly yours,

DEVILS LAKE SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL :

James Brown - Vice Chairman
Israel G. Gould,
Charlie Black Sr.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 11 12 17 PM '66
APR 12 1966
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS
96950

COMMERCIAL
CABLE ADDRESS
HICOTT SAIPAN

March 30, 1966

Personal

1. RB
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Bob:

I noted in our copy of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, dated March 21, 1966, the notice of intent by President Johnson to nominate you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We were all aware that this was in the wind but it has now come to pass and you are preparing to embark on what will undoubtedly be the most challenging, the most difficult and (I hope) the most satisfying years of your life. I have often felt that Commissioner of Indian Affairs was one of the most difficult and thankless jobs one might have the misfortune to get in the government. In spite of this, I am also aware that it is probably one of the most challenging and you bring to it a wealth of experience. My best wishes go with you as you assume this exceedingly important post.

I wish it had been possible for Philleo to assume the position of High Commissioner here. With his background and understanding he would have been outstanding. In the meantime, we rock along with no firm decision concerning the announcement of our top position.

I trust all goes well with you and that I will have an opportunity to visit from time to time when I may be in Washington. Please give Cleota our best regards.

Sincerely,


James E. Hawkins
Assistant Commissioner,
Community Services



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rosebud Agency
Rosebud, South Dakota
57570

March 30, 1966

PERSONAL

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Dear Mr. Bennett:

1. MB
I was very happy to read in the paper that you are now the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I had heard many rumors concerning the fact you were going to be the Commissioner. Now it is a reality and I assure you I am very pleased.

The recent terrific storm we had in this area brought to mind our trip to the Communications School at Durango, Colorado back a few years ago. You will recall when we went over Wolf's Pass what a terrific blizzard we ran into. We also had a long our good friend Syd Mortensen on this particular occasion. Another trip that I recall was when we attended the conference at Phoenix, Arizona when Gene Barrett accompanied you and I. I think Gene still feels that we over played our hands giving him a rough time nearly all the way to Phoenix. About every time I talk with Gene he mentions this trip and the kidding he had to take from both of us. I recall some of those trips as the highlights of my 33 years with the Bureau.

I hope that your tenure as Commissioner of Indian Affairs is unusually successful which I know it will be. You have had a great deal of experience in all parts of the Indian Service as well as various locations. I assure you I sincerely wish you much success in the future. Will be looking forward to seeing you if you ever come to this area. If I can be of any assistance in any way, shape or form, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Schunk
Superintendent

ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD

Camp No. 2
Juneau, Alaska

March 30, 1966

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

Dear Sir:

The ANB and ANS Camp No. 2, Juneau congratulates you on your recent appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Best wishes for a productive and fruitful administration.

Respectively,

Amos Wallace

Amos Wallace, President

Stella Martin

Stella Martin, President

noted
4/9/66

Ronan, Montana
March 31, 1966

Honorable Robert Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We have been informed that you have been appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Your appointment appears to us to be of great value to the Indian people because of your long experience in working with Indians.

We want you to know that at a special session of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board in Helena, Montana on March 25, 1966, the Board voted to pledge its cooperation and support of your administration of the Bureau.

We are looking forward to working with you and we want to express our appreciation to the Secretary of the Interior for your appointment as Commissioner. Please accept our congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board


Leo Sias, Secretary-Treasurer

LS:rmc

RRB

March 31, 1966

NEZ PERCE TREATY
JUNE 11, 1855

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Nez Perce TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LAPWAI, IDAHO

VICTOR 3-2661

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

The Nez Perce Indian Tribe of Idaho salutes you and extends its most cordial felicitations on your appointment as Commissioner!

We are thrilled that an American Indian now heads the important agency of our Federal government dealing with the complex problems facing our Indian people in this Supersonic Age. Few, if any, have ever attained this high post with a background of experience and leadership in the administrative field such as yours. In addition, we know that you will approach the Indians' problems from an inherent and sympathetic viewpoint.

Many of our members had the good fortune to become acquainted when you were in Lewiston for the National Congress of American Indians. All of us await your earliest return visit as our "Chief".

Our Tribe stands ready at all times to assist you as you lead the crusade for protection of Indian rights and the attainment of the American Indians' just role in the Great Society.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Richard A. Halfmoon

Chairman

Angus A. Wilson

Vice-Chairman

Richard M. Ellenwood

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Asst. Secy-Treas

Mose Thomas

Chaplain

Harrison Lott

Member

Frank W. Penney

Member

Joseph Samuels

Member

1-RRB
2. —

RB!

2. Lyall Parade
Wellington B3,
New Zealand.

March 31st '66

Dear Mr. Bennett.

Excellent news!!

Your appointment to administer the affairs of your people. I have lived in America and can remember seeing some Indians strait from their reservation in Los Angeles in 1925. (Arapo's I think).

Well Sir, let me tell you of a bit of "Good News" for your tribesmen. It concerns Israel - re-established 14/5/48, after centuries of exile. Why?

Well in daily Bible readings for just 30 years tell me why Christ is returning from Heaven to Israel as Jewish King and Gentile Emperor.

That is the "Good News".

Our Indian friends then will have a never failing guide & leader, always willing to tell them of God's love & care for all & of His gracious provision for all earth's peoples.

May that day come soon! Meanwhile, re-opening our Bibles afresh, we may prepare our lives & habits for "The King's" presence.

(ISRAEL - INDIAN PEOPLES) Yours Truly.

Christ returns to Israel. FRANK WILLIAMS