



COMMISSIONER

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

April 1, 1966

1. RB
Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I was pleasantly surprised to read about your recent nomination to be the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. When I think of your birth place on the Oneida Indian Reservation in Outagamie County it brings back fond memories of the days I played golf at the Onedia Golf and Riding Club - I outsliced everybody.

May I wish you every success in your new assignment.

Sincerely yours,

Lavie
Lavern R. Dilweg.

John B. Hart
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ROLLA, NORTH DAKOTA 58367
PHONE 440

April 4, 1966

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

Dear Bob LaFollette Bennett:

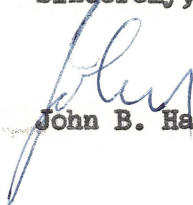
1. RB
Your middle name suggests your parents were liberal minded and, of course, Republicans. I always suspected you were a Republican, but the news item suggests the social case history as determined by the administration has, like a lot of other social case histories, a void.

In any case I wish you all the luck in the world and I know you will do a good job. Needless to say if you feel I could be of any assistance in the Senate confirming your appointment - if it is a Senate confirmed appointment - just let me know.

I regret that following confirmation of your appointment and as a matter in keeping with a long established principle, I will have to be opposed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and his current policies. Or would it be more accurate to say I will have to oppose the lack of Indian affairs policies (those against the State Department seem to always oppose the State Department on the grounds it has no foreign policy, whatever that is). Besides this, over the years I have noted tribal politicians before election of necessity are against the BIA - after election they seem to be part of the BIA.

Good luck to you, Bob.

Sincerely,


John B. Hart

JBH:mk



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South Dakota
Texas
Washington
Wisconsin
Wyoming

April 4, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Congratulations on your nomination for the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We would be quite honored if you would accept the invitation to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to be our guest speaker at the June 10, 1966, Noon Luncheon. Please refer to the letter of February 28 to Philleo Nash. Would you cover the subject requested or would you prefer to outline changes and/or new policies and objectives of the BIA?

You will note that very few Federal Employees were invited to participate due to the memberships' request that participation be confined to the State level. I do not share this general feeling as most Indian work and programs are sponsored by BIA and we need to be informed concerning your work. For this reason I feel that your presence is greatly needed at the meeting.

If you can be present on June 8, I would appreciate your participation in the Education Discussion Group.

Our best wishes in your new position and I shall look forward to your acceptance to be with us on the 19th GIIC National Conference.

Yours very truly,

Walter W. Broemer
Walter W. Broemer
Chairman

WWB/nb

REUBEN JACOBS

~~Chief Sunrise~~

515 Commodore - Park View Apts.
COLLINGSWOOD 6, NEW JERSEY

Phone: Ulysses 4-3356

RJB

April 4, 1966

Dear Bob -

I see by the New York Times, that you are now, the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. My congratulations to you.

It gives me a sense of pride to know, that one of my school mates at Haskell, has made it to the top.

My warm regards to you and your family. and a great big "Howdy" to John Crow and "Ohog" Allen.

Your Sioux friend
Reuben



WIEN ALASKA AIRLINES

ALASKA'S FIRST AIRLINE • FAIRBANKS • ALASKA

P. O. Box-2199
Juneau, Alaska
April 4, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations and all success on your recent appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Wonderful, and we are all very happy and proud for you.

We sincerely hope that in the very near future we will see you and some of your staff on a grand tour of Alaska; and especially Northwestern Alaska.

Kindest personal regards to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Pete Walsh
Pearse M. Walsh

4008 E. AVALON DR.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
APRIL 4, 1966

DEAR BOB:

LOTS OF THINGS COULD BE SAID AND I COULD EVEN
GET OUT THE DICTIONARY AND TRY TO LOOK UP SOME FANCY WORDS,
BUT IT WOULDN'T SOUND LIKE ME, SO CONGRATULATIONS!

I WAS HAPPY TO READ IN THE PAPER WHERE YOU WERE
BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE POST OF COMMISSIONER AND KEPT AN
EAGLE EYE WATCHING FOR THE FINAL WORD TO COME THROUGH. I
HEAR SO LITTLE ABOUT THE BIA SINCE I AM WITH THE PUBLIC
HEALTH SERVICE.

YOU HAVE A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY BUT HAVE
PROVEN YOURSELF CAPABLE AND I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT AT LONG
LAST THE INDIANS HAVE THE BEST LEADERSHIP IT IS POSSIBLE FOR
THEM TO HAVE.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Geneva".

GENEVA E. THOMAS

PO Box 479
Shinnecock Indian Reservation
Southampton, New York 11968
April 5, 1966

Mr. Robert La Follette Bennet
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Dept. of Interior
C St 18+19 Street
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir:

I wish To congratulate you on
Your recent approved unanimously favored
Nomination as the Commissioner of Indian
Affairs, by the Senate Interior Committee.

After reading that President Johnson
had named you, the first Indian in 95
Years as Indian Commissioner, I felt like
shaking his hand for in doing this he
has made more than one young brave
in our nation feel that our education
is worth the long hard struggle.

I know first hand what it means
to be today's American Indian and I felt
a deep personal pride in your accomplishment.

Sincerely yours,
Peter A. Silva, Jr.

Hahnemann Hq.
3698 California St
San Francisco
April 5, 1966

Dear Bob: I know this is
no way to write to the
Honorable Commissioner but
I have never before written
to a Commissioner so please
forgive my lack of protocol.
I just want to send you a
note, Bob, to tell you how
delighted I am and to give
you my congratulations. I know
you will be very successful.
I also know you will run
into some "hard times" and it
won't be the easy going yet
I'm also certain you're going to
be the best Commissioner

We have ever had (or hope to have!)

Congratulations from my heart
and my very best wishes
to you and yours.

As I know there is what I
read in the papers - My husband
has been hospitalized since March
with most serious eye trouble
which threatened total blindness.
It is only this week that we
have encouragement.

Bless you in your work,
Bob, and may you have
every success and happiness

Sincerely

Dee Heard Gibbo

APR 12 1966

100

P. O. Box 453
Ignacio, Colorado
April 5, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

I have been reading quite a bit of you lately and your promotion to the head of our Bureau of Indian Affairs. We are really proud of you not only as our former Superintendent here, but also as being an Indian. We, as Indians, will be looking up to you as our great leader and inspiration. I am sure this will also inspire other people of our race to try to get an education. Good luck to you, Bob, and may God help and guide you in our affairs.

Remember our fish fry? Anytime you come out our way I am sure arrangements can be made to go again.

Sincerely yours,

Isaac Peacock, Jr.

Isaac Peacock, Jr.



CANADA

Department
of Northern Affairs
and National Resources Deputy Minister

Ministère
du Nord canadien et
des Ressources nationales Sous-ministre

Ottawa 2, April 6, 1966.

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

Dear Bob:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of March 30th. We were quite surprised in Canada to hear about the quick change in the Bureau because we knew that you had only recently moved to Washington from Alaska.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to this important post. It was clear to all of us when we met you in Scottsdale that despite your heavy responsibilities as Area Director in Alaska you were destined to assume even greater burdens. On behalf of everyone in Indian Affairs in Canada I wish you the very best in your new assignment. Above all, I hope you will continue to enjoy the good health so necessary to enable you to face the heavy demands of your office.

I have no immediate plans to be in Washington but if the occasion does arise I assure you that it will be a pleasure to visit with you. May I say that you are equally welcome in Canada, and if time should permit please come to see us. We might even arrange some weekend fishing if this should interest you.

Yours sincerely,

R.F. Battle,
Assistant Deputy Minister
(Indian Affairs).

PRINTION

Box 722- 57747
Hot Springs, S.D.

7 April 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett

I cut out some news items in Rapid City Journal last night. I thought I'll mail them to you - I do not need any help. We live here in town. We own our home and pay our taxes. We have enough money to live on. Retirement I get from the federal government for 30 years service. Don't let these remarks get you down - We are proud of you Mr. Bennett. You are well qualified to be our Indian Commissioner - you have worked hard to get to where you are - they also make remarks about Ben Reifel - our congress man. He is an Indian - This was made here in town over

They call him - do nothing
Congressman - No matter
how high we get. Some one
will always bring you down -
Ben works hard and the people
in East River like him - everybody
likes him they are proud of him
as an Indian - you were here
in our area, you have done
lots for our Indian people -
So pay no attention remarks
made by some of them - They have
nothing to gain - I want these
clippings to get there before your
meeting - I am just trying to
help you. May God bless and
your family - Good luck to you

I am
Dan Van Gordon Sr

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY
(A FEDERAL CHARTER CORPORATION)
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY
(ELECTED TO ADMINISTER THE AFFAIRS OF
THE COMMUNITY AND TO REPRESENT THE
ASSINIBOINE AND GROS VENTRE TRIBES OF
THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION)

FORT BELKNAP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HARLEM, MONTANA

April 8, 1966
DATE

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We wish to offer our congratulations to you on your appointment as
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We have been informed of your past experience in working with the
Indian people, and this will certainly be of value to you in your
new position.

We wish to extend an invitation to you to visit us at Fort Belknap
whenever your duties will permit. We are looking forward to meeting
you and working with you.

Again our CONGRATULATIONS.

Sincerely

Dorance Horseman
Dorance Horseman, Chairman

DH/yb

MRS. ROBERT HORNE
NAYTAHWAUSH
MINNESOTA 56566

April 8, 1966

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on your new position. While we cannot wish for you all the tensions that go with a job as involved as that of Commissioner of Indian Affairs we cannot think of anyone who will or who can do it with as much devotion and "know how" as you will be qualified to.

Your many friends in and outside the Bureau of Indian Affairs are delighted as are we.

Smooth sailing (Naytahwaush) to you in this new venture. Our fondest hopes and prayers for clarity of purpose and success will go

MRS. ROBERT HORNE
NAYTAHWAUSH
MINNESOTA 56566

along with you.

It was wonderful to see you looking so well and happy.

Your wife and other members of your family must be very happy for you.

Thanks again for "saving it for the infants". All the "T.L.'s" we could pass on to you could not suffice.

It was wonderful visiting with you and having you present our Distinguished Service Award pins.

Affectionately,
Essie and Bob
Horne



APR 14 1966

South Dakota Council of Churches

REV. ORVILLE M. HEPLER

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TELEPHONE: HOME 352-4524

REV. CALVIN PETERSEN

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
TELEPHONE: HOME 352-8098

REV. JAMES SELMSER

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
CHEYENNE-EAGLE BUTTE SCHOOL

POSTOFFICE BOX 1304

858 DAKOTA AVENUE SOUTH

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA
57350

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 605
OFFICE: 352-6529

SOUTH DAKOTA
BAPTIST
CONVENTION

SOUTH DAKOTA
DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST
CONVENTION

EPISCOPAL
DISTRICT
OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

DAKOTA CONFERENCE
EVANGELICAL
UNITED
BRETHREN

LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA
RED RIVER VALLEY
SYNOD

DAKOTA
CONFERENCE
THE METHODIST
CHURCH

UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, U.S.A.
SYNOD OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

2 CONGREGATIONS OF
REFORMED CHURCH
IN AMERICA

SOUTH DAKOTA
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Eagle Butte, South Dakota
April 8, 1966

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

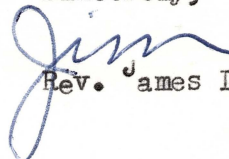
Dear Bob,

Congratulations on your nomination as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I heartily concur with Dr. Ben Riefel and others that you should definitely get the appointment. In the years that I have shared information and programs together at the National Fellowship of Indian Workers meetings I have always appreciated the challenge and the practical knowledge you have given us. Sometimes you have jolted us good and hard when we really needed it!

I am leaving the work as Co-ordinator of Religious Activities at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School and going to Denver to be the Director of the Colorado Migrant Ministry for the Colorado Council of Churches. Maybe I can find a good excuse to get to the next National Fellowship meeting in Sante Fe in 1967!

Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,


Rev. James L. Selmsen

Lado A. Kozely
12, rue du Temple Neuf
67 Strasbourg, France

April 8, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am happy to convey to you, so soon again, my sincere congratulations to your high appointment, and wish you all the success in your new job.

Please find enclosed a copy of my letters which I wrote today to my friends in the U. S. Senate and which are expressing my cordial feelings for you.

I also use of this opportunity to thank you for your own expressions of your personal feelings toward me.

Very truly yours,

Lado Kozely

April 11, 1966

Dear Bob -

I read in the San Francisco Chronicle of your recent appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Congratulations! Aren't you pleased with the high status you have achieved after your many years service in the Bureau? LBJ couldn't have chosen a more dedicated or better qualified person, and I know you will meet the challenge of your new position with much enthusiasm.

My son and I will be returning to Salt Lake City the first of June after spending his first school year in California. If you have occasion to come our way in your travels, and if your busy schedule permits, it would be good to hear from you.

The best of luck and many good wishes for you.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn DeGatti

APR 18 1966



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ABERDEEN AREA OFFICE
820 SOUTH MAIN
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA
57401

ditto acknowledge
IN REPLY REFER TO:

Area Director

noted
5/20/66
RW

April 11, 1966

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for us to congratulate you upon your appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. You are most deserving of this honor from the standpoint of yourself as a person and your abilities, and from the standpoint that you are a representative of the Indian people.

We know that the job will be a most difficult one. We know you, however, and that you will give your total effort to meeting its challenges. May we as your old co-workers and as representatives of the Aberdeen Area Office assure you of our complete and total cooperation. May we assure you also that we will do everything we can to make your job easier. We are on your "wave length." We will appreciate at all times your suggestions and your guidance.

We are indeed fortunate to have a man of your leadership as our Commissioner. We know that we are all here for one reason and that is because of the Indian people. We will do our part in helping you to realize this purpose.

Sincerely yours,

Martin N. B. Holm

Area Director

Remiller

Assistant Area Director

Lodie M. Teller

Assistant Area Director

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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PR JXA005 NL PD TDJU JUNEAU ALASKA 11

ROBERT A BENNETT

CARE BUR INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT BY THE SENATE AS COMMISSIONER
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. PLEASE EXPECT OUR BEST
WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY CAREER IN YOUR
NEW POSITION

ELEANOR HINKE PRESIDENT BIA ASSOC.

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APR 12 1966

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.APR 12 1966
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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

BOX 2719 — JUNEAU

4/14
WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

April 12, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I can think of no one more qualified to handle the very difficult job facing you. If I or any of my associates in the Department of Public Safety can be of help to you at any time, we will be more than pleased.

We missed you at the annual Rotary Variety Show and we assume you're putting on one of your own in Washington. I hope you will be able to visit us this summer.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

Marty

Martin B. Underwood
Commissioner

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 14 10 00 AM '66

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High Twelve Club of Oak Park

MEETS EVERY FRIDAY · OAK PARK ARMS HOTEL

OAK PARK, ILL.



April 13, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Our mutual friend, Albert Cobe, was in my office today, and he told me about you and your recent appointment as Commissioner of the Indian Bureau. Congratulations.

Al gave me an idea here in Oak Park, where I am the perennial program director for the High Twelve Club of Oak Park. The idea is to have you as a guest speaker of the club some time when you are in this vicinity.

Oak Park is a municipality that adjoins Chicago on the west. The High Twelve Club is a service club with a membership of 169 business and professional men, and executives.

High Twelvians meet each Friday noon for a luncheon and a program at the Oak Park Arms Hotel. The hotel is a half hour west of the Loop. ||

A bus shuttles between the hotel and the airports and the Loop. We furnish a room at the hotel for our guests of honor. That included the wife.

If and when you are in this area you have my standing invitation to come out and be our guest of honor. Tell us about the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Recently I spent a month on and around the Indian Reservations of New Mexico, Arizona and southern California. We enjoyed our trip, but would like to see the Indians have something besides the desert lands.

Come and break bread with us and autograph our famed guest book, and be immortalized.

Sincerely yours,

Claude Towne
Claude Towne

237 South Blvd
Oak Park, Ill.

SOCIETY OF JESUS - ALASKA
MISSION SUPERIOR

APR 15 1966

100
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner - BIA
Washington, D. C.

April 13, 1966

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RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

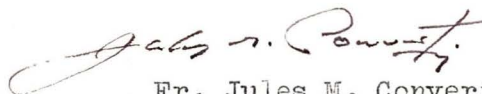
The radio just announced the confirmation of your appointment to new and great responsibilities: this is truly a red letter day for Alaska and all your many friends of the North. Please accept my sincere congratulations and the assurance of my prayers assist you in the task, so difficult but also so rich in potentialities.

I had followed with interest in the papers the questioning before the Senate Committee, and appreciated your answers. May I express a personal wish at this time? It is to see the education of our Native Youngsters better geared to a good life in the rural environment of their village; it will be years and years before our State catch up with the economic patterns of older industrialized states and I believe our first step during this period of transition between Stone Age and Atomic Age is the creation and development of a simple and rural culture. Only a relatively small number of our Eskimos and Indians of the real Bush Country can possibly succeed in an academically oriented school and higher education, and the needs of these have certainly to be met, but I believe that for the present they are. What really bothers me is to see the larger number of young people pushed too fast from one culture to the other... and practically falling by the wayside. It is for these I'd like to see a real study made of possible rural life, still depending to a great extent on traditional subsistence resources, but these being exploited more efficiently; new ones should also be explored and developed. But by now I believe you are familiar with my own line of thought, and I won't insist more at this time.

You may be interested that we have recently found a qualified and devoted layman to relieve me in great part of the extra load I have assumed for quite a few years now to help our parishioners in developing their human surroundings. Mr. Paul Dixon of Anchorage, formerly with the State Division of Aviation has been hired to work at the details of planning and making and keeping the necessary contacts with all Agencies involved as it appears that possibilities are many now with the national Programs against Poverty. Confidentially, I had hoped our Churches Socio-Economic Committee could have sponsored this, but there were hesitations delaying immediate action, so for the present we went it alone, but I hope that in a not too distant future the man can represent us all and work for these villages where the needs are the greatest, and who so often are the ones who need that grassroot assistance as they don't know what can be done, nor how to do it.

Again, thank you for the wonderrul relationship
established while you were in Juneau, and my congratulations
for a promotion well deserved. May God bless you.

Truly yours,



Fr. Jules M. Convert, S.J.
Superior, Alaska Jesuit Missions

10830 S. W. Berkshire Street
Portland, Oregon 97225
April 14, 1966

Dear Bob:

Congratulations! I was happy and very pleased to learn of your appointment and subsequent confirmation as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Your selection for this important place in government affairs is a most well deserved recognition of your ability as an able administrator and a leader among men both in and out of government. I am confident you will have a very successful administration in the task of leading the programs and operations of the Bureau and assisting Indians to continue to move forward in the ever-changing and complicated society of present-day America. Again, my congratulations and best wishes for every success.

Marion joins me in wishing you the best of everything in your new role and in sending our regards to Mrs. Bennett.

Sincerely



R. D. Holtz

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

April 14, 1966
1475 Matheron Ave
Baldwin, N.Y.

Dear Bob.

Heartiest Congratulations on your
appointment as Commissioner of the
B. I. A.

I know a lot of Seneca's join me
in wishing you the best of luck in
the future.

You are no doubt wondering where we
have met, when and who I am.

I had the pleasure of meeting you in
New York a year or so ago with Louis
Breece. I am with the P. H. A. looking
after the Seneca Nation as one of my
projects. Very fine people.

Once again the Best of Luck and as they
say in Seneca - dah - nay - ho.

Hope to have the pleasure of meeting
you again in the near future.

Sincerely
John Keller

RALPH J. RIVERS
ALASKA

MEMBER:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN:
NATIONAL PARKS AND
RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE

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

April 14, 1966

APR 18 1966
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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bennett:

In the absence of Mr. Rivers, who is in Alaska, I
wish to congratulate you on being confirmed by the
Senate to be the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Don Greeley

Donald R. Greeley
Administrative Assistant to
Ralph J. Rivers, M. C.

100
Congressional

Timberwolf Up

Milligan Manor

Lake Metigoshe

Bottineau, N. Dak. 58318

April 14, 1966

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on the appointment and sincere wishes for a little congressional cooperation. I am enclosing a ten point program I outlined when I was Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. A little of this has been implemented by the present government.

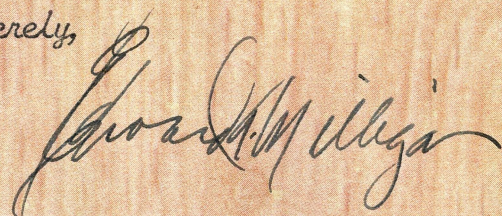
On Indians choosing their projects, the Title Five Program on Turtle Mountain Reservation is my pride and joy. It justifies the entire program, but Ft. Totten can't get off the ground.

Frankly, I feel an all-out attack at Ft. Totten using the existing agencies could solve the problem. A factory, privately owned, one which would employ whites as well as Indians, fully subsidized by the government until it could be self-sustaining and profitable would work miracles.

John Hart and I are responsible for the Jewel Bearing Plant at Rolla. This is a type of project that would fit Ft. Totten. Some industry essential in defence where items assembled are not bulky and transportation a minimum problem.

I hope to make contact with innumerable Senators and Congressmen in both parties to give you support.

Sincerely,





AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

INCORPORATED

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COLIN W. BELL
Executive Secretary

April 14, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

On behalf of the American Indian Program of the American Friends Service Committee, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and to wish you well in your very difficult and challenging new job. Several AFSC programs have benefitted in the past from your cooperation and helpful consideration. If there is anything we can do to help make your task of improving federal services to American Indians easier, please do not hesitate to call on us. I am sure you will, in turn, be hearing from us on occasion.

We share the hopes of American Indians across the country that the years ahead will bring increased prosperity and opportunity for them. We look forward to working in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help turn their hope into reality.

Sincerely,

Pam Coe
National Representative
American Indian Program

PC:rk

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

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Mesquite Texas,
Apr 14-66.

Mr. Robert La Follette Bennett.
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
Washington D.C.
Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is with great pleasure I read of the appointment
The American Indians have all my life been very dear
to me, and I have had many a good fight over them.
I wrote a very warm letter for the Dallas Morning news
on Civil Rights and asking how it applied to Indians.

I went on to state that it seemed to me, the negroes
were being farmed, and people should remember a few
pioneers came to these shores and in a few years, they
were swarming here and eventually the country was taken
away piece by piece from the original owners who were
put on odd parcels of land with an overseer and it
is still that way. It is a poor rule that won't work for all.
So was there ever law that said not to sell liquor to the
negroes? but there was one for Indians, The Indians
were white settlers. but it was to put fear into them
the white race. burned their own race for witchcraft
the early days. I let a newspaper woman read it and
advised against sending it to the news. As she thought the
news might burn me out. It was quite an
act. Comparing the high intelligence of the Indians
building, in religion to the negroes who were cannibals
less than 300 years ago.

- 2 -

I wait for the Indians the same civil rights, the
same freedoms, My Marine son fought side by side
with an Indian from Oregon and a better buddy he
he now had when I lived in Panama on the canal
years ago, one of the finest friends my husband and
I had was an Indian from N. Y. State. I fought
for the Indians for many years. And when I was with
the Government as a Laboratory & X-Ray Technician. I
tried my best to get a mobile unit. Such as a lab in
a trailer & one to live in and go out on the Reservations
to live and see if I couldn't help the health of the
Indians. I have a letter from the Health Dept. saying
it couldn't be done as the Indians were not under
the N.I. H. but it was a very worthy idea. I hope
I haven't taken up too much of your time in
reading this. but I'm for you 100 percent.

Sincerely yours,

Julia R. Wese

11811 Elam Rd

Mesquite Texas

STATE OF ALASKA

WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BOX 2051 - Juneau

~~BOX 2051 - JUNE 20 1966~~

April 15, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

It is a special pleasure to know a person of your caliber and capabilities who is assuming the vast responsibilities of such an important position and service to the Indian people and to the Nation. I'm sure you will do a good job.

100 I'm enclosing some clippings from the local newspaper that you may enjoy reading. Also, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the part you played in getting me appointed to the position of Director of the Alaska State Rural Development Agency. Your opinion carried a lot of weight I'm sure. It is a pretty tough pressure type job but I'm grateful for the opportunity. Thanks again.

Please accept my best wishes for your continuing success.

Ransom F. Dick

Ransom F. Dick, Director
Rural Development Agency

RFD:jb

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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ROBERT L BENNETT COMMISSIONER, INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

NG

THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MILITARY SEA TRANSPORT UNION JOIN
WITH THE UNLICENSED CREW OF THE USNV NORTH STAR THREE IN CONGRATULAT
C YOU ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AS JUNO AREA DIRECTOR FOR THE BUREAU WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU
ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF YOUR HIGH OFFICE AND
ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE DESTINY OF OUR INDIAN BROTHERS IS IN
CAPABLE HANDS

JOSEPH J LEAL SECY TREAS MILITARY SEA TRANSPORT UNION.

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RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 15 4 32 PM '66
FAX N

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I had hoped to see you when I was in the office Friday afternoon of last week, but, understandably, your time was taken up.

Just, I wanted to add my congratulations to the many I am sure you have received upon your selection for the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. It is an honor which you have justly earned. It will not

As easy as the position
imposes great responsibility,
but you can handle it!

Again, Congratulations.

Secondly, I wanted to thank
you for recommending me
for the Distinguished Service
Award. It was a great
honor, and I appreciate
deeply the evaluation of
my services which prompted
you and others to recommend
me for the Distinguished
Award. That was the
important part! I

thoroughly enjoyed my
years with the Bureau,
and I am grateful for this
high recognition.

It was nice to visit the
Washington office staff
again. Sorry I was not
able to see Mrs. Bennett.
Please give her my
greetings.

I left Washington Saturday
and visited the Deans
in Alabama on my way
back. They are very
comfortably located

in a new home near
Boaz.

Thank you again. Good
wishes ever, and good
luck.

Sincerely,

Olin D. Brown

Juneau, Alaska
April 15, 1966

THE AMERINDIAN

AMERICAN INDIAN REVIEW

April 15, 1966

1263 WEST PRATT BLVD. #909 + CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60626

Now in the
14th year
of publication

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

Dear Bob:

Now that you are "official" I would like to tell you again how delighted I am that you are the choice. You not only have my congratulations, but my deepest compassion for you are in a most challenging and difficult situation. I know that you are equal to the challenge but situations such as this can often be extremely frustrating.

I am planning to feature your appointment as a front page story with picture. If you can have a recent picture sent me, it will be appreciated, or one "in conference," or whatever.

Also, I would like to make this somewhat of an interview story. Will you put down some things that you especially want said - and I will shape the questions to fit. I see that the National Indian Youth Council is already on a scalping party. I do not like that group; there may be something you will want to say in answer to them without mentioning them by name.

I hope that we can book you now for the Indian Achievement Award dinner which will be on Saturday, September 24th. Naturally, we do not know who will win at this early date - but I think that you should be the major speaker.

Another thing - your name now appears on page 2 of Amerindian as a member of the Advisory Board. Now that you are Commissioner is it permissible for this name to appear?

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Marian E. Gridley
Editor

G:em



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125 EAST 50TH STREET • NEW YORK 22, N. Y. • PLAZA 2-5270

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April 15, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Needless to say the whole Bruce Clan rejoiced in the news that you are the new "long waited for" Indian Commissioner. We offer you our most sincere and wholehearted congratulations. At last those in power have recognized that maybe one of our own can set the pace for what needs to be done. I hope that every recognized Indian will get behind you and cooperate. We are very fortunate in having someone with your knowledge, background and experience assume this responsibility.

Good luck to you and if I can be helpful, please let me know. All best wishes for your success.

Very truly yours,

Louis

Louis R. Bruce, Jr.
Executive Director

1rb/en

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 18 11 04 AM '66

A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, OKLA., CHAIRMAN
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
GALE W. MCGEE, WYO.
DANIEL B. BREWSTER, MD.
VANCE HARTKE, IND.
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, N. DAK.
DONALD RUSSELL, S.C.
FRANK CARLSON, KANSAS
HIRAM L. FONG, HAWAII
J. CALEB BOGGS, DEL.
MILWARD L. SIMPSON, WYO.

JOHN M. BURZIO, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID MINTON, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

April 14, 1966

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

APR 18 1 37 PM '66

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

Dear Bob:

I want to offer my congratulations upon your confirmation by the Senate as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sharing your interest in the Indian citizens of the United States, I look forward to a continuation of the good working relationship with your organization that I have had with the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the past years.

In closing, Bob, I hasten to add that my office stands ready to assist you should the occasion arise when we may be of service.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Quentin N. Burdick

QNB:mrmm

Congressional

ADMINISTRATIVELY RESTRICTED:

711 Southeast 13th
Pryor, Oklahoma
April 17, 1966

Dear Bob:

The Secretary of the Interior is to be commended for his choice for a Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Those of us who have known and worked with you through the years are justly proud of your accomplishments. The road from Fort Duchesne to Washington has not been an easy one and you have earned the recognition. Insofar as I know you are the only person to come up through the ranks to be made commissioner. I also believe you are the only person of Indian decent graduated to the position.

The task ahead will not be an easy one. The Bureau is due for a complete reorganization and change. Things will be expected of you that have never been requested of any other commissioner. I am happy to state that you are qualified to meet the challenge.

If there is anything I can do to assist in motivating your program and moving the Indians forward do not hesitate to give me a call.

When you come to Oklahoma be sure to let me know so we can get together for a visit. Regards to Lucile and the family.

Sincerely yours,

Roy Adams
Roy Adams

1555 Depew street,
Denver 14, Colo.,
April 17, 1966.

Hon. Robert LaFollette Bennett,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner:

Today in my Denver Post I read of the convention in Santa Fe, N.M. You, Mr. Commissioner, have a man size job in effecting beneficial change in the affairs of our Indian fellowmen.

In years gone by I was, as a young man, a teacher of Sioux children far out on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Many of the Indian problems of that day remain with us.

I think the Indian (American) is much a product of the environment in which his white brethren have cast him. I lived among Indians for almost ten years. I taught the children and grandchildren and the great grandchildren of Sitting Bull himself at Day School 6, some 25 miles northwest of the Pine Ridge Agency.

I am encouraged by the name your parents gave you:

Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin and Senator George Norris of Nebraska were the TWO outstanding statesmen of my time. And I was born in 1887 making me now 78 years old.

I was in the Kansas City Convention as a reporter and heard the Wisconsin delegation on the final rollcall announce:

"Wisconsin casts its 22 votes for George W. Norris of Nebraska."

Hoover of course was nominated. But Bob LaFollette and Norris represented a peculiar brand of statesmen that were far above party. They were, in my opinion, the only real honest-to-God statesmen in all my 78 years of living.

You are indeed honored by your parents in bearing the name "Robert LaFollette".

In writing you I am glad to announce to you that I do not want anything at your hands. I am too old for political or bureaucratic ambitions but in my final years if I can lend my moral support to the betterment of the Indians I know of no better way to make my exit from this material universe of ours.

I do wish you well, Mr. Commissioner, in your undertaking and I know well some of the obstacles you face. But I also know the Indian is inherently as capable on the average as his white contemporaries. What we need to do is to "motivate" him in some way so he'll "reach out" so to speak and take hold of it.

This, I believe, is the crux of the entire problem and an adequate discussion of it requires much more than can be condensed in a letter for the attain it will require trial and error in maybe a half dozen different directions and/or from different angles.

My very best wishes, Mr. Commissioner.

Sincerely yours,



Lewis A. Lincoln

Janet W. Griffiths
1301 Vermont Ave. NW, #703
Washington, D. C. 20005

April 20, 1966

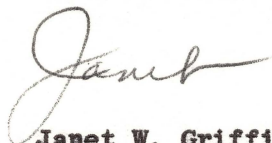
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue NW.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Congratulations and the best of luck as Commissioner!
This honor could not have happened to a more deserving
person than you. You will probably run for Congress
next!

If you ever hear from or see a certain Mr. Louis R. Bruce,
ask him to give me a ring.

Sincerely yours,



Janet W. Griffiths



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

APR 22 1966

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1966

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1951 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

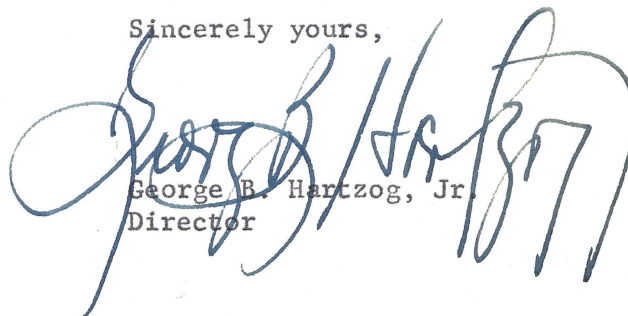
Dear Mr. Bennett:

My warm congratulations upon your appointment
and recent confirmation as Commissioner of the
Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The National Park Service has had long and
productive working relationships with your fine
organization. We look forward with a great deal
of pleasure to continuing these programs of mutual
interest in the future. Please let me know of
any way in which we may serve you.

With warmest personal regards and every good wish,
I am

Sincerely yours,



George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director

Mrs. John Joseph Kirk
111 Placita de Oro
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

April 20, 1966.

Commissioner Robt. Bennett,
B. I. A. Washington.

My dear Bob:
You know how pleased
I am that your nomination
is confirmed & you are now
in position to accomplish
many of your long planned
goals ^{for + with} our Indian
people. You have my firm
support, with my complete
faith in your ability to
succeed at the difficult tasks
(over)

ahead. Let me know if & when
I may be helpful.

Last week I yearned to
attend some of the meetings
here - but was ill with severe
sinus infection - am just today
back at my job. I enjoy
my work in State Div. of BEO,
(Office of the Governor) - we're
planning our annual Governor's
Conference - - remember last year
(when I was planning our first Governor's conference)
I met you at your employment
meeting at Desert Skis in Albu. -

When N.C.A. I met here in
Santa Fe during the 1940's, I made
a speech at one of their sessions -
topic "Reorganization of B.O.A." -
Wish I could have heard the
latest recommendations.

Marion Andrews has many
nice things to say about your

Mrs. John Joseph Kirk
111 Placita de Oro
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

lovely wife - I look forward
to meeting her when you
& she get out this way
together.

Meanwhile, all my best
wishes for your utmost
success - and I hope I
can be useful - my "good
offices" are yours in
any & every possible way
— I'm reminded of the
several days tour of the
Parker Dam area in
Arizona, on which you were

my good guide and mentor,
so long ago.

May God bless and
guide your way -

Sincerely yours -
Ruth

Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
1105 Mission Road
April 20, 1966

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Bob:

Now that the Senate Committee has unanimously confirmed your appointment and while so doing attempted to publicly whitewash its hands of any failures of the Bureau, I wish to join the long line of your friends in offering my sincere congratulations. If the Bureau is ever to succeed, I can think of no one better qualified and dedicated than you for its direction. I occasionally think back some 30 years ago when we were advised to "write 'em more but tell 'em less".

Please be assured of our continued cooperation and loyalty. Margie is enjoying her retirement in good health and likewise sends her best wishes. I hope that you will have an opportunity to visit us in Anadarko in the not too distant future.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blynn".

APR 25 1966

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA



VERMILLION

57069

April 21, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

First of all, please accept my congratulations on your new position. I am sure the officials concerned chose wisely.

The committee on arrangements for our Annual Conference on Indian Affairs has asked me to invite you to attend and be one of our speakers. The Conference will take place May 5, 6, and 7. The theme this year is to be "Indian Community Action Programs and their Impact" in relation to Indian reservations.

There will be a dinner meeting on the evening of Friday, May 6, and this would be the most appropriate time for you to deliver an address. In this way you would not have to attend the full Conference, if you did not choose to do so.

If you are unable to come, the committee asked me to suggest that you designate someone like Bob Pennington to take your place. As you know, Bob, too, came from this area and might enjoy returning.

I am asking Mr. Tony Luscombe, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Indian Studies, to call you by telephone after you receive this letter to facilitate making the arrangements for the Conference. We can meet a speaker either in Sioux Falls or Sioux City, if it is desired to do so.

I hope you will be able to come, for all of us would enjoy renewing our association with you. Kind regards.

Yours very truly,

Elbert W. Harrington
Elbert W. Harrington, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

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EWH:ak
cc/ Dr. James Howard
Pres. Weeks

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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First **NATIONAL**
OF ABERDEEN **BANK**

AFFILIATED WITH NORTHWEST BANCORPORATION



MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Telephone 845-3651

W. DAN HEUPEL
Vice President and Manager

April 22, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett, Personal
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bennetts:

The enclosed clipping was taken from the McLaughlin Messenger, McLaughlin, South Dakota and it is nice to see that you have such a congenial revival, particularly with Ben Reifel and also our Senator, Karl Mundt.

I have been thinking of writing you congratulating you on the appointment to the Office of Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner which is a remarkable citation and responsibility for you.

At this time, it is a pleasure to think that we have known you during your stay in South Dakota and it personally gives me hopes. Considerable work remains unfinished in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and your position in itself I think, presents a challenge to you.

I personally wish you will sustain in your efforts to alleviate numerous problems existing and that providence will be kind to you and be helpful to you in your attempt to help the many needy Indians on the respective reservations.

I am very familiar with the program and needs on the Standing Rock Sioux and the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservations. You, likewise, are thoroughly familiar with their needs and will be in a position to be helpful.

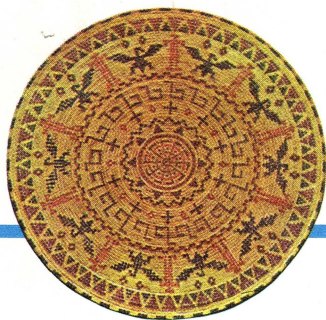
We hope we can be of help to you in your services in the future.

Sincerely,


W. Dan Heupel
Vice Pres. & Mgr.

WDH/po

Encl: 1



AGUA CALIENTE
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

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April 22, 1966

Commissioner Robert Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

G. A. O. Report on Termination

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

At the outset please allow me to congratulate you on being confirmed by the Senate as the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Your reputation among the Indian people is such that we can only anticipate a constructive and cooperative career. You therefore have our very best wishes.

In receiving many of the reports by the Press concerning your appearance before the Senate Interior Committee, it has become quite clear that some of the Senators are extremely interested in termination. This of course is not surprising, but the tenor of it is somewhat alarming. Last September Deputy Commissioner, John Crow, informed several of our tribal delegates who were then visiting Washington, that a report had been received from the Government Accounting Office strongly recommending that immediate steps be taken to terminate Federal supervision over our Reservation. In light of the Senate's emphasis upon termination, I would like to request that you please send a copy of said G. A. O. report so that the members of my Tribe might at least be alerted to the fate someone has planned for them.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund P. Siva

Edmund P. Siva
Chairman

cc: Leonard Hill, Area Director - Sacramento
Paul Hand

APR 27 9 41 AM '66

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

JOHN F. BRYDE, S. J., PH. D.
Superintendent

WILFRED M. MALLON, S. J., PH. D.
Supervisor of Instruction

HOLY ROSARY INDIAN MISSION

The Pine Ridge Educational Society, Inc.

Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

APR 27 1966

150

April 24, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

It was with great pleasure that I read about your recent appointment as Commissioner. I surely want to congratulate you most sincerely and wish you every success in this high position.

I hope that you will be visiting our reservation in the not too distant future and that we will get a chance to renew old friendships.

We will keep a piano dusted off and ready for instant use.

Good luck, and may God bless you and yours always.

Sincerely yours,

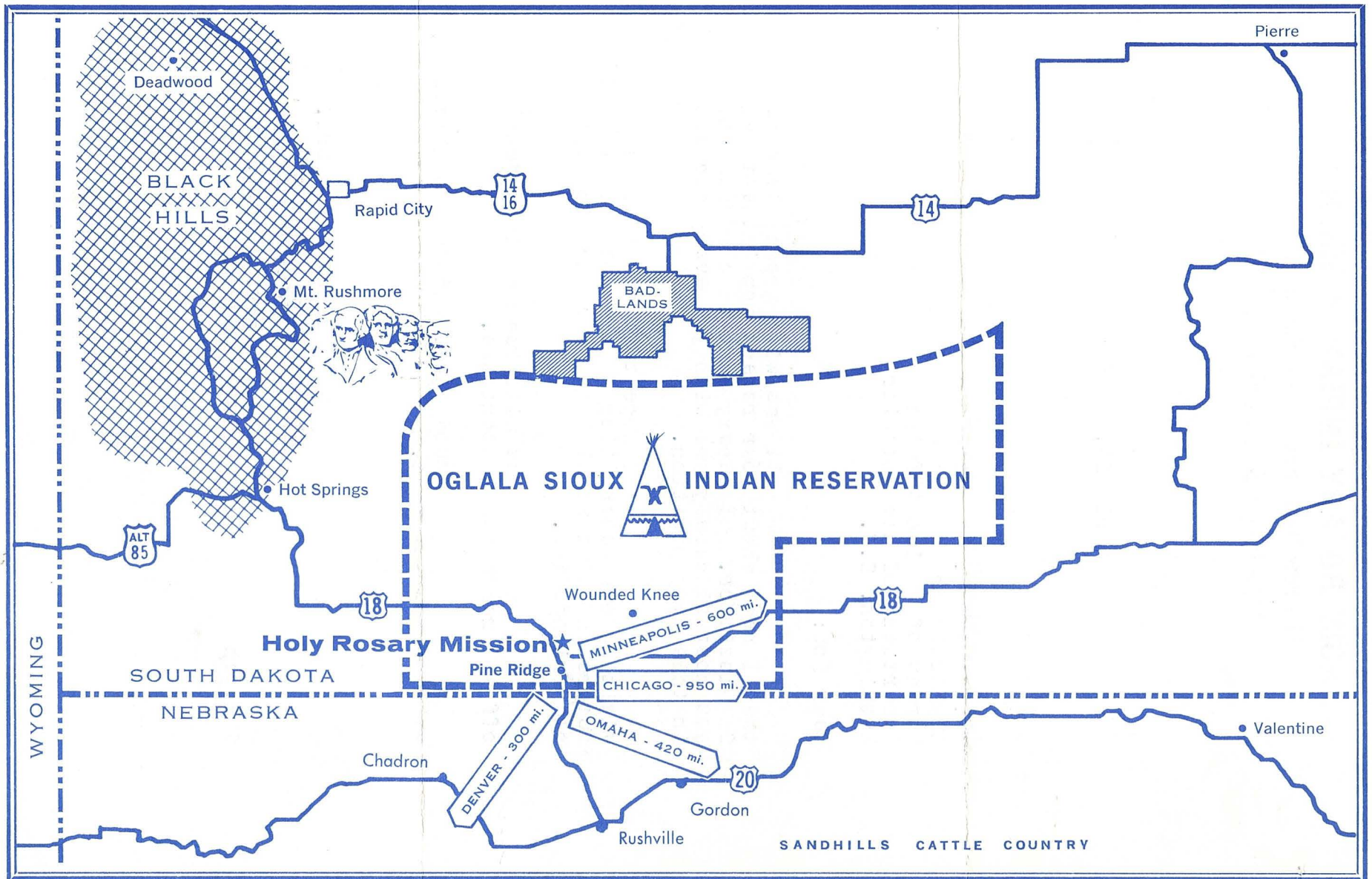
Rev. John F. Bryde, S.J., Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

JFB:meh

Red Cloud's Indian School

APR 27 9 12 AM '66

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WASHINGTON, D.C.



ALASKA STEAMSHIP COMPANY



SUITE 703
1026 17TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
TELEPHONE: 737-5942

April 25, 1966

Mr. John Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations on your appointment and all good luck to you.

Some time at your convenience I would like to discuss our operations to Alaska, particularly the Bering Sea area with a possible hope of helping you in the operation of the NORTH STAR III.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry W. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name.

Henry W. Clark
Vice President

SERVING ALASKA SINCE 1895

ALASKA STEAMSHIP COMPANY



PIER 42
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98134

April 26, 1966

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rene

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

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Congratulations to you on your recent new appointment to the post of Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We have read with interest the executive report of the committee relating to the nomination and can surely appreciate the problems which face you with respect to the future of the Bureau. There have been many times when our company has been in a position to assist the bureau in matters of water transportation and we stand ready to lend our vast experience to your solution of budgetary ills in whichever manner is open to us.

Very truly yours,

James F. O'Sullivan
Alaska Division Manager

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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SERVING ALASKA SINCE 1895

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401 West Main
Anadarko, Oklahoma
April 25, 1966

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your new title and job. You've come a long way since you were IIM Clerk at U&O. I'm really happy and proud of your accomplishments and to know that an Indian finally made it to the top.

I am writing this as a personal letter as I feel I know you well enough to do it. I wrote a letter to you before the Santa Fe meeting but held up mailing it until the Area Director and Asst. AD got back in hopes that we might learn something of the new policy. The Area Director went on vacation and hasn't returned and the Asst. gave some information to the Staff in our regular meeting but nothing much of what can be expected in policy etc.

I have gathered from newspaper articles that the lack of any terminal program was one of the things the Senate Sub-committee was critical of. It followed that some kind of termination can be expected in the new look and policy. I have often wonderedd in my 11 years here why we were holding on to some of these tribes in Oklahoma but we were under orders as I understand it to make no mention of termination. There are some tribes here which can be terminated tomorrow and it would not work any hardship on the members. The only trouble is that the Indian blood has been depleted until you don't know whether you are in a meeting of Swedes instead of Indians. The only difficulty is that I don't think we will ever be able to get a tribe to agree to termination if put to a vote. I find that the less Indian blood people have the more they are determined to remain Indian.

I can give you the facts about these Indians here and which ones can be terminated, and should be. I believe a time table can be made to take care of all 23 tribes under this office with all but five of them terminated in a few years--not over 7 years. Five of the tribes will take longer.

I have not discussed this with anyone at the Area Office and don't know how the Area Director feels about it. I believe he would agree with most of what I state above.

If there is to be any termination program I feel that I can be of help in our Oklahoma Indians and that is for those on the East side also especially those under the Miami Agency which was my home agency before termination of the Ottawas. I will have my 30 years in September and probably could retire then but I feel that I can still be of service and want to continue a few years. Any termination program will not win any awards but if it is to be then we should begin somewhere and Oklahoma appears to be the most likely place as far as I can see.

If there is to be any terminal programs in the new policy I believe I can be of use in such a program even though the persons in it would be unpopular it has to come sometime. Some of our Western tribes are 50 years off yet, maybe longer but others aren't.

I don't want to get in trouble for talking out of turn but want you to know that I am willing to help if there is any anticipated termination program in view. Maybe the fact that my tribe has been terminated and Eva's mixed blood Utes are terminated and I nearly have it made as far as retirement is concerned, could have some bearing on my feeling in regard to termination. I do feel though that the Sub-committee does have a legitimate gripe when I know of tribes still under the BIA who are just as ready for termination as the Ottawas were. We were ready but I can frankly say that if the question had been put to the vote of tribal members, I would have vote against termination because I still had trust land and was one of the few members who did have. In fact my Aunt, my Uncle and myself had over half of the Ottawa lands still in trust when terminated. Tribal members of my tribe benefitted greatly and we probably got more benefits under the terminal program than we ever would have by remaining under the BIA. So everything worked out really nice for the tribe in the long run. It really didn't bother me either. I did just like any other Indian--I sold my land and bought a new car.

When I get started I don't know when to quit. Sue is married and lives in Littleton, Colorado where her husband is employed with the Plant Management Branch as an Engineer. They are doing real good. My other girl Tonia is a Sophomore in High School this year. Right now I hope to keep working until she finishes High School as she has about \$20,000 of her Ute money in trust and will be able to go to the college of her choice without any help from me.

I know you are real busy and I wish you nothing but the best as Commissioner and hope that I can be of some help in making your administration the best,

I hope you will consider this as a personal letter of a friend to a friend and not an official one because I may be way out of line in mentioning what I have and if so I don't want to get an official rebuff or anything like that. ~~xx~~ Unless I hear from you about it, I won't ever mention the subject again because I know it might not be the intention of the BIA to have such a program.

As ever,

Norman H. Holmer
Norman

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON D.C. 20413

APR 26 1966

160

Office of the Commissioner

APR 25 1966

Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
19th and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20240

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 26 11 15 AM '66

Dear Bob:

I have too long delayed extending my congratulations on your confirmation as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I do so now, most heartily.

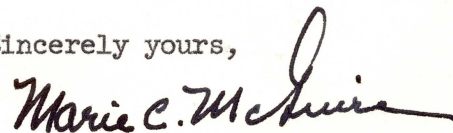
I would very much like to meet with you one day to review the status of the housing program on the reservations and some of the problems being encountered at this stage of development.

In the conventional rental program 540 dwellings have been completed and occupied; 750 are under construction and 2,620 are in different stages of development. In the mutual-help program, under BIA supervision, there have been 20 dwellings completed and occupied, 254 under construction and 1,617 in planning on 52 reservations. In addition, there are 1,072 dwellings in application in process, of which 685 are for mutual-help.

Difficulties now being encountered include increasing costs due to isolation and over-design; the need for additional help in the preparatory documentation; the need to redirect some of our approaches that are not responsive to situations on the reservations; and improvement of inter-agency relationships that are in some spots, to say the least, weak.

I would hope that the two of us might meet and together see if we cannot move the program more rapidly and achieve our common goal of building good housing on the reservations.

Sincerely yours,



Marie C. McGuire
Commissioner

APR 26 1966
~~100~~

KARL MENNINGER, M.D.

TOPEKA, KANSAS

April 26, 1966

MM2
RB-
Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Indian Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

As a long time friend of the American Indians,
with many personal acquaintances in the N.C.A.I. and in
the Hopi, Navajo and Apache nations, I want to pledge you
my support in your new and most difficult task.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Menninger, M.D.

KM:dr



APR 29 1966

[Handwritten signature]

State of Minnesota
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

JOHN B. BUCKANAGA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Room 309 - State Capitol
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

Phone: 221-2009
April 26, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

201
The Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission wishes to extend its heartiest congratulations to you for your nomination and selection as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission is comprised of six legislative members from the House and Senate. Ex-officio members from state government including the Governor. This Commission also includes Mr. Roger Jourdain, Chairman of the Red Lake Tribe and Mr. Peter DuFault, President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Mr. Dean Blue representing the three southern Sioux tribes of Minnesota. Our Commission has recently been created by State Legislature to coordinate Federal and State activities affecting the Indian citizens. At the present time, our research has indicated that there is a need for legislative action to allow maximum administration and services by the State of Minnesota. Our Commission is concerned in all aspects of programs and problems affecting the Indians in Minnesota.

Thus far, we have established good rapport and relationships with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Mr. Glenn Landbloom, Area Director, Minneapolis Area Office.

My personal experience in the past twelve years has been in the field of education in an Indian community, in private enterprise relating to the Indian population also serving as Tribal Chairman and Tribal Secretary of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for five years. I have spent five years with the U. S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health and recently assumed this position. Therefore, with this experience and knowledge of problems affecting the Indian population in Minnesota I am in a position to recommend solutions to our state offices and also work closely with agencies serving the Indian population.

ROGER A. JOURDAIN, Chairman, DEAN BLUE, Vice-Chairman, MRS. MARION WATSON, Secretary, PETER DuFAULT, JUDGE DAVID R. LESLIE, MRS. AUDREY PARISH; Senators: HARVEYDALE MARUSKA, RICHARD J. PARISH, RAPHAEL F. SALMORE; Representatives: FRANK H. DeGROAT, LEONARD DICKINSON, CURTIS B. WARNKE.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
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Page 2

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

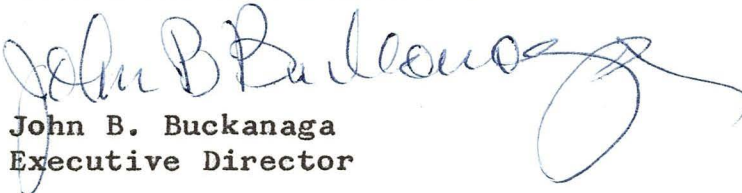
April 26, 1966

We sincerely hope that your administration can and will streamline the existing programs and policies so as to include the Indian leadership in future services. I personally believe in my travels throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan that the Tribal Leaders are capable and responsible leaders. I am sure that you will agree with me in this regard.

May you have success in your ventures as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sincerely,

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John B. Buckanaga", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John B. Buckanaga
Executive Director

JBB:dn

HUGH R. JONES
CHAIRMAN
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WELFARE

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
ALBANY

GEORGE K. WYMAN
COMMISSIONER



KINDLY REPLY TO:

AREA 1 OFFICE
GENERAL W. J. DONOVAN
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
125 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203

April 26, 1966

APR 28 1 40 PM '66

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

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

I want to congratulate you on your recent appointment and wish you great success as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I, personally, have been a firm believer in helping Indians to help themselves. Given the same opportunities, resources, rights, privileges, and responsibilities as non-Indians, there is no doubt that the Indians in general will rise to the occasion and improve their own circumstances in an astoundingly short time.

Although I am retiring this month, I shall always retain a sincere interest in the Indians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Wayne".

(Miss) Helen A. Wayne
Supervisor
Indian Affairs

HAW:ph

APR 28 1966

~~100~~

132 ?

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 28 3 16 PM '66

April 26, 1966

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

Dear Mr Bennett :

As a "wattered down" Cherokee: I want to say how very happy to have and Indian in a very important position in Indian Affairs.

Not many people here in California know what squalor or poverty living is-but it is a way of life for so many of our Indians and it is my sincere wish that you and we Indians will now be able to help shape our own destiny.

100
Our destiny really is with Education for our Children and Teens. And just as important is a hope and belief in ourselves as Indians. For I have heard all my life "No current is too swift and no mountain too tall if one is a Cherokee". My little tune, which I hope someone will play for you, does have a message of hope.

We do have an active American Indian Society in San Francisco and we would be most happy to have you visit us.

I do offer my help in anyway and do wish the very best to you in you new position.

Sincerely,

Cherry M Smith
(Mrs Houston)

Mrs Houston Smith
1851 Randall Road
San Mateo, California



The Ute Indian Tribe

Federal Chartered Corp.
Uintah and Ouray Agency

FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH

April 26, 1966

Governing Body

UINTAH AND OURAY TRIBAL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

FRANCIS WYASKET, CHAIRMAN
THOMAS G. APPAH, VICE-CHAIRMAN
FRANK R. ARROWCHIS, MEMBER
FRANCIS MCKINLEY, MEMBER
HOWELL D. APPAWOO, MEMBER
MAXIE E. CHAPOOSE, MEMBER

Administrative Officers

FRANCIS WYASKET
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
THOMAS G. APPAH
SUPERINTENDENT, MINING
MARION HARRISON
ACCOUNTANT-TREASURER
R. O. CURRY
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
MAXIE CHAPOOSE
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT
HENRY J. REYNOLDS
OUTDOOR RECREATION
ROSS IORG
SUPERVISOR, MAINTENANCE
HOMEY SECAKUKU
EMPLOYMENT

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

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

On behalf of the Ute Indians on the Uintah & Ouray Reservation I want to congratulate you on your appointment as a Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We wish you success in the office you have just been appointed to and hope you represent the Indian nation well in the years to come.

One other reason for this letter is to inquire if it would be possible for you to come out this way and meet with the Ute Indian people at the General Council held on May 30, 1966 at 10:00 a.m. in Fort Duchesne. If it is impossible for you to make it please let us know. Again I say congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Wyasket
Tribal Chairman

P.S. It is not every day that I can get someone to deliver my letters personally. I took advantage of Tom Appahs going there.

PW:jaa

*I've been down with flu so I'm unable to
go at this time. tw*

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE

Consolidated Ute Agency

IGNACIO, COLORADO

Phone 3221

April 26, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

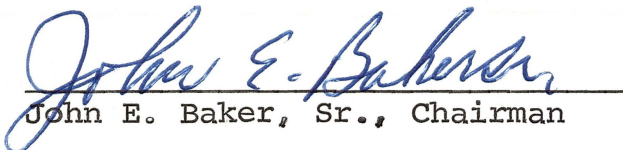
We the Council of the Southern Ute Tribe are happy and proud to learn that you were nominated by President Johnson for the highly responsible post of Indian Commissioner. Further, we were happy to learn that the nomination was confirmed by the Senate on April 13th.

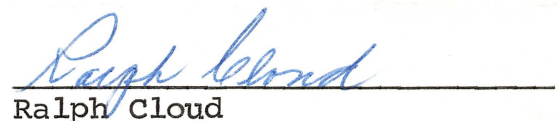
As the governing body of the Southern Ute Tribe we have full confidence in your ability as Indian Commissioner to help our Tribe become more adept at handling and understanding all aspects of future enterprises and programing. We applaud your press statements.

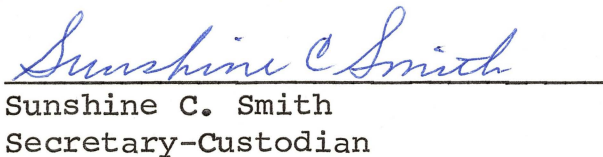
The Southern Ute Tribal Council consider it an honor to bestow upon you an Honorary Membership into the Southern Ute Tribe.

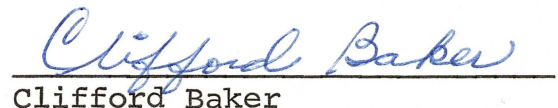
We are looking forward to many visits with you which will result in a very close and harmonious relationship.

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL
SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION

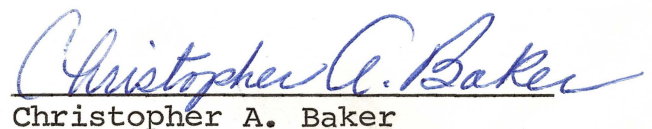

John E. Baker, Sr., Chairman


Ralph Cloud


Sunshine C. Smith
Secretary-Custodian


Clifford Baker


Martha B. Evensen


Christopher A. Baker

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE BOOKSHOP
NEW LONDON, CONN. 06320

APR 27 1966
106

Telephone: 203 / 443-0025

Robert D. Hale, Mgr.

April 26, 1966

Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of The Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

A very short note to congratulate you on your appointment and to wish you well. As a student of history and a pale faced American I have long felt a sense of shame for what my ancestors did to the Indian nations. It seems to me that even with all the conversation and action in the area of civil rights today we tend to ignore a whole body of people whose rights were violated repeatedly.

If there is anything a simple citizen can do, or a group of citizens, please call on me and on us. I am sure there are many who feel as I do.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Hale

APR 29 1966

100
1922

1093 Reed Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303
April 26, 1966

Dear Robert,

The news accounts of your designation as Commissioner make pleasant reading. I'm sure that your family and all your friends throughout the country are particularly happy for you at this time. I remember how proud your mother was for your successes at Haskell.

Your goal to help the Indians to do more to shape their own destiny is one that many people of all races will support.

I have not kept in close touch with any of the Oneida people. But, through our work in the local church, my wife and I have a slight acquaintance with some of the members of the Oneida Methodist Church and with their pastor, the Reverend Fred Thomas, who is doing a fine job there.

We pray God's blessing on you and your family as you enter into these new responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Alton L Cardinal

Alton L. Cardinal

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 2 1 57 PM '66

April 26, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This is a congratulatory note - I was indeed glad to hear of your recent appointment and thought I would tell you so.

201
You perhaps do not remember me, but I am sure that you were with your mother up at the Martin Orchards in Sturgeon Bay for several summers. If I am wrong, please correct me. We lived on the orchard - my dad was foreman.

I had several good friends among your people at that time and I, and my folks, too, thought of your mother with much affection.

I am very glad for you and your family, and I hope that everything goes the way you would like it too. Again, congratulations.

Sincerely

Marie Dee LaFond
(Formerly Marie LaVassor)

Marie Dee LaFond

We are now at Two Rivers, Wisconsin
2110-A Jefferson Street

ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD

KLUKWAN CAMP NO. 8

KLUKWAN, ALASKA

April 26. 1966

APR 29 1966
156 JMB

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington D. C.

Robert L. Bennett;

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Members of the Klukwan Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood would like to congratulate you on your new position as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We are confident the we have a man capable of the position , and most of all to be an Indian.

And we must congratulate you on being the first Indian to hold this position within a hundred years.

We feel that should we be faced with difficulty at anytime, we have a capable man to help us with our problem's.

Wishing you the best for the comming summer season.

We remain,

A.N.S. President, Beth Kesko.

A.N.B. President, Dick Patch.

A.N.B. CorS. Sec. Joe Patch.

cc file

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 29 9 14 AM '66

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CLASS OF SERVICE

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unless its deferred char-
acter 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

651A EDT APR 27 66 PA027 BA054 PRA215

JR 143

PR JUA136 NL PD JUNEAU ALASKA 26

ROBERT L BENNETT

6015 LONDON LANE BETHESDA MD

JUNEAU AREA STAFF CONGRATULATES ONAPPOINTMENT AS
COMMISSIONER. FIELD PERSONNEL FULLY BEHIND POLICIES.
MISS YOU AT AFR MEETINGS. MONA AND EARLINE
REPRESENTING WIVES SAY DITTO TO CLEOTA.

OWEN D MORKEN STEVE SMITH TOM PILLIFANT JOHN GORDON
KEN CRITES BOB MCLEIN LARRY WELCH LLOYD WATKINS
CHARLES RICHMOND WALLY CRAIG HAROLD GRONROOS.

ADD

PZ 812A MAIL

808A RI 657-8264

RI

THE RADIO OFFICERS' UNION

of the
COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS UNION
AFL-CIO

Headquarters:
SUITE 1568, 1440 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Lackawanna 4-0268

Oakland, California
April 27, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of Commerce
Bureau of Indian Affairs
First Street at Madison
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Bennett:

100
It was by no means an unexpected pleasure to hear of your promotion to Commissioner of Indian Affairs but we still congratulate you. You and you alone are responsible for this promotion, you have earned it many times over but promotions sometimes have to wait because there is a good man in that "promotional" position that just isn't quite ready to move up or go out to "pasture" as we used to say about our old horses on the Ranch where I grew up.

We sincerely hope this will "the promotion" not keep you from attending regular "get-to-gathers" up there and that you will be most happy with your work.

Sincerely yours,

Lester F. Parnell

Lester F. Parnell

West Coast Representative
RADIO OFFICERS UNION, AFL-CIO
1212 BROADWAY, ROOM 504
OAKLAND 12, CALIFORNIA
PHONE: 832-1339

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 2 3 39 PM '66

S. W. ROSS LANGDON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 27 1966

HOME ADDRESS
1510 44TH ST., N. W.
FE 3-2382

Dear Bob,

Congratulations and heartiest wishes for a long and successful tenure as Commissioner.

My delay in writing is because of an episode about 10 years ago. A Harvard classmate won the Republican nomination for a Congressional seat in Maine which the Republicans had held from time immemorial. So after the primary I wrote congratulating him upon becoming a congressman. Frank Coffin the Democrat beat him in the fall.

I was interested this morning on The Today show to hear Sen Harris (Okla) state that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had no training manual. Nancy Dickerson interviewing him said: you mean the 22000 employees just go to work without knowing what they are working towards. I seem to recall that in 1953 Ted Taylor(?) had several volumes completed of an internal manual.

By the newspaper accounts termination has now come around again. I am very curious as to how it has worked with the Klamath & the Menominee, the bills for which you & I worked on.

I am semi-retired - doing a little consulting work. If you need a consultant I might be interested.

Incidentally "Punch" a toy burro which you & the rest of the Program Division gave me when I left in '53 is still a prized possession and has delighted innumerable children over the years.

Sincerely

Ross Langdon

COLUMBIA GULF TRANSMISSION COMPANY



April 27, 1966

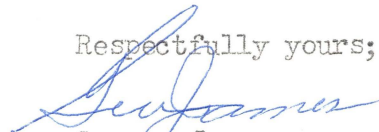
Dear Bob:

I guess this will come as a surprise to you and you may not remember me as many moons have passed since we were at Haskell, but I read in the paper of your appointment and I wanted to congratulate you.

I am a superintendent for the Columbia Gulf Trans. Co. here at Inverness, Mississippi and if you ever get down this way, come by and we will talk over thirty years or more ago.

Again I want to congratulate you and wish you all the luck, I now you will make a "ja-boon" commissioner.

Respectfully yours;


George James

cc:file

Rt. # 1, Box 86
Inverness, Mississippi

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



APR 29 1966

100

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

CHEROKEE NATION

April 27, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Just a note to tell you how pleased I was when I learned that you had been elevated to the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior.

Having had an opportunity to work with you and to become acquainted with you, I know you have the welfare of the Indians at heart and will do an excellent job to better the condition of all Indians in the United States. I know many of the tasks ahead of you will be very trying. If you feel that I can be of help to you at any time, please do not hesitate to let me know, and I will do all that is within my power to assist you.

With congratulations, personal regards, and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Bill

WWK:AD

APR 29 9 05 AM '66

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

APR 29 1966

to [signature]

Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

April 27, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Permit me to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am fully aware of the tremendous amount of responsibility which goes along with your position, but with God's guiding hand, you will have a successful administration. Good luck.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Wesley
Walter Wesley

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 29 1 06 PM '66

KARL MENNINGER, M.D.
TOPEKA, KANSAS

APR 29 1966

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April 27, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Yesterday I wrote to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner, and last night read in SMOKE SIGNALS for April 15 that the confirmation of your appointment is dependent on your agreement to a policy of termination of federal supervision.

Please reassure me that this is not true, for I regard termination as a terrible evil.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Menninger, M.D.

KM:dr

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



LLA150 (21)AA209 KD117

K SBA026 PD PINERIDGE SDAK 27 1013A MST

1966 APR 27 PM 2 19

DEPT OF INTERIOR BUREAU INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHDC

MR ROBERT BENNETT IN BEHALF OF MYSELF AND OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
I AM SENDING YOU SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT
AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BEST WISHES FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL
FUTURE

JOHNSON HOLY ROCK PRESIDENT OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

(21).

1966 APR 27 PM 2 34

FAX N

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

APR 27 1966

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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Your swearing-in today as Commissioner of Indian Affairs is a recognition of the talents you possess, your dedication to the betterment of Indians throughout the country, and your devotion to your country. Congratulations!

This event is just as important to all of the people of our country. President Johnson and his Administration have labored diligently to better the social and economic conditions of deprived people in every section of the nation. Our government is providing and will continue to provide, under your direction, the impetus necessary for assisting the underprivileged, of which the American Indians are a substantial part.

The respect, the ability, and the experience you bring to this office will contribute heavily to the goals the Indians themselves seek in the total framework of our American democracy. The President, Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall, and all of us in the Administration welcome you to this very important assignment.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey
Hubert H. Humphrey

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

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



LLA022 0A089

O SDA032 NL PD SAN DIEGO CALIF 27

COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ROBERT L BENNETT WASHDC

AM THRILLED TO HEAR OF YOUR APPOINTMENT CONGRATULATIONS FROM
YOUR OLD TRUMPET PLAYING FRIEND

DR CHARLES MITCHELL.

1966 APR 28 AM 7 26

FAX N

100

APR 28 7 41 AM '66

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

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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

LLC204 (45)AA228 KA254

K LWA058 NL PD LAWRENCE KANS 28

ROBERT L BENNETT

llw End care Guard 1951 Const are

COMMISSIONER OF BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BEHALF OF THE HASKELL STUDENTS ON YOUR
APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER. WE STUDENTS ARE VERY PROUD TO
HAVE A FELLOW HASKELLSONIAN IN SUCH A PROMINENT POSITION YOU
HAVE SET AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. BEST WISHES ON
YOUR NEW JOB

THE HASKELL STUDENT COUNCIL

(43).

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TELEGRAM

W. F. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

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1966 APR 28 PM 4 25

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ROBERT BENNETT

Elv care Guard 1951 constanc

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. IT WAS WITH REGRET THAT I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND YOUR SWEARING IN CEREMONY BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT JICARILLA APACHE TRIBE STANDS BEHIND YOU IN THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT OF YOURS. HOPING TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I AM MOST SINCERELY YOURS

CHARLIE VIGIL CHAIRMAN JICARILLA APACHE TRIBE

(13).

102

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"ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE"

April 28, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I would like to add my congratulations on your appointment which has great significance for Alaska. Your experience with the Alaska Native problems makes it possible for you to understand and apply different standards to regulations and programs that so often, geared to lower states, do not apply in Alaska.

My very best wishes for what I feel will be an interesting and rewarding tenure not only for yourself but, more importantly for Alaska, for the beneficiaries.

Yours very truly,

Edith R. Bullock
Edith R. Bullock

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Haskell Institute
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

April 28, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The students and staff members of Haskell Institute join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to you on the occasion of your appointment to the highest position in Indian Affairs. Your selection, I am sure, will serve as a true inspiration to all Indian people throughout the United States.

As you embark on a study and a plan for Indian education for the future, please be assured that educational employees at Haskell, as well as throughout the Bureau, are flexible and stand ready to participate. Any innovations or new ideas which will accelerate the increasing of skills of Indian people will be welcomed by all of us.

Please revisit Haskell when you can.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Tommaney
Thomas Tommaney
Superintendent

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Company B, 709th Military Police Battalion
APO New York, New York, 09039

28 April 1966

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 2 1966
1 34 PM '66
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The Honorable Robert L. Bennet, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
United States Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulation to you for being designated and sworn in to one of the highest offices in the United States Department of the Interior.

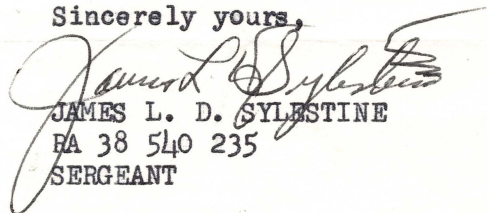
I do not know you personally, but after reading the article about you and your philosophy I was very grateful that the President of the United States has wisely chosen a man of sound philosophy in the work toward the aborigines of America.

Your high appointment and your philosophy to me is an answer to an article that I wrote some two (2) years ago in the INDIAN VOICES analyzing the problem and need of the American Indians toward the "Self Help." This article was written at the time with the words of our late President John F. Kennedy uppermost in my mind:

"Ask not what the government can do for you,
ask what you can do for your government."

Thus I wish you a successful program in your new office, and may God give you a continued strength, courage and wisdom to attain that goal for your compatriots.

Sincerely yours,


JAMES L. D. SYLESTINE
BA 38 540 235
SERGEANT

(Alabama tribe of Indian)

WILLIAM R. WOOD
PRESIDENT



MAY 2 1966

10 AM

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COLLEGE, ALASKA

April 28, 1966

MAY 2 10 13 AM '66

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

201

Congratulations upon your appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs! This is a splendid recognition of your exceptional ability and record of achievement. All of us in Alaska are proud to be able to say "We knew him when he was one of us".

Mrs. Wood joins me in extending our warmest regards to you and Mrs. Bennett. If there is any way in which the University of Alaska may be able to assist you in your work, particularly as it is related to the people of Alaska, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Wm R. Wood

William R. Wood
President

WRW/kb

RMH
Wok Form 57

1022 Ash Avenue
Tempe, Arizona
April 28, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennet, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
New Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

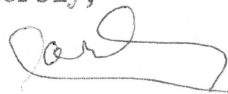
Dear Bob,

Congratulations, Bob. Or should I say, "Commiserations".

I wouldn't trade places with you. But I would like to help you. I resigned from my position as instructor and Field Coordinator of the Vista Training Program at Arizona State University. It is not for me. I would rather work with Indians. This resignation is effective May 15 but I am available now.

I will appreciate hearing from you soon, Bob.

Sincerely,



Carl Whitman Jr.

ALASKA STEAMSHIP COMPANY



SUITE 703
1026 17TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
TELEPHONE: 737-5942

April 28, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations on your appointment and all good luck to you.

Some time at your convenience I would like to discuss our operations to Alaska, particularly the Bering Sea area with a possible hope of helping you in the operation of the NORTH STAR III.

Sincerely yours,

Henry W. Clark
Vice President

SERVING ALASKA SINCE 1895

APR 29 1966
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RWS

APR 29 9 58 AM '66
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

201

Comm. of B.I.A.
Washington, D.C.

Seymour, Wm, R.
April 28-66

Dear Mr Bennett:

I would like to personally congratulate you on your new high position. It is indeed an honor and wonderful for you to be chosen for this position, altho I realize its great responsibility. We the Anidas are very proud of you. I am sure the Tribal Executive Comm. have sent you a letter or telegram of congratulation on behalf of the Tribe, I know they have plans for your reception whenever you come to ^{visit} Anida.

I suppose you ^{are} wondering who is writing to you now, I am Irene Mearns, former chairman of the tribe, only woman to serve as chairman of the Anida Tribe, I was even called "chief" by ^{the} newspapers. I met you in Washington D.C. about 3 years ago. We now have a man back as chairman, Herbert Hill who succeeded me. I am still very interested and active in the Anida Community affairs and the Tribal business.

You might be interested to know the
Ojibwa Tribe is in the process of adopting
or rejecting of a proposed revision of
our old constitution and by-laws. I was
in favor of some changes but now
I am not so satisfied with the new one
but perhaps I am just one of those hard
to satisfy, there was an election held
in Dec. 1945 but did not pass and the
present Ex. Comm. is requesting for
another election, but date has not been
set as yet.

You must be familiar with the
Housing program or project under P.H.A.
out here, it has finally come to pass
and is now actually under construction.
I am very happy to see this. The
Housing Authority was organized by
Ex. Comm., at the time I was chairman
of the Tribe.

We the Ojibwa have not as yet
set up any programs under the
Economic Opportunity Act or Poverty
Program, but perhaps something good
will take place, I am serving on
committee now, trying to work out

something on Head Start program, I
am in hopes that this will be approved
and funded, the program if approved
is to start June 27th to Aug. 27th. I
guess I could go on and on of our problems
but here but I had better come to a close
and again I want to say that we as a
Tribe are so proud of you and we realize
that you have sincerely worked hard
and long and well deserve this
accomplishment and as for myself
I want to say that it gives me
a feeling of comfort to know that
some one like you who has the
sincere concern at heart of the American
Indian is now the commissioner of
the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I
am wishing you & your family the best
of everything. May God bless you.

Sincerely
Irene Neace
Dequana, W. Va.
R. 3.



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ATHENS, TENNESSEE 37614

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April 28, 1966

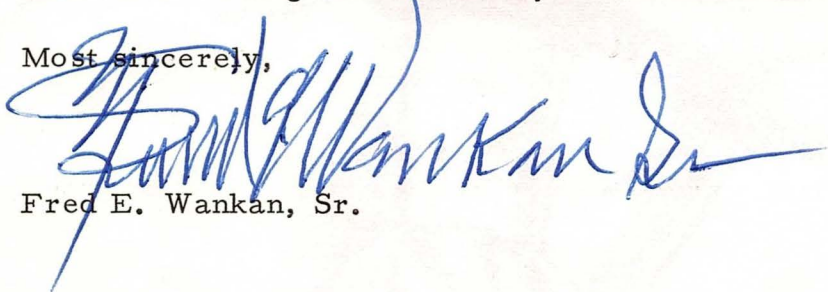
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Honorable Robert LaFollet Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your appointment as Commissioner of this very important bureau. It is my hope you being of Indian descent will take action to educate the first Americans out of the blighting influence of the reservation. We are doing a lot to take care of the people who were brought here against their will but not enough for the people we took the land away from against their will. So, we need to feed these great peoples, the Indian tribes, into the mid-stream of our national life.

I will be watching with interest your administration of this bureau.

Most sincerely,


Fred E. Wankan, Sr.

FEW/am

cc: Honorable Stewart Udall

Senator Henry Jackson

"WE PICTURE THE SOUTH"

MAY 2 1966
100

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 2 2 03 PM '66

HR-10

April 28, 1905

Honorable Robert La Follette
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. La Follette:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your
Commissioner of this very important bureau. It is my hope you
Indian descent will take action to correct the mistakes of the
blighting influence of the reservation. It is a long and hard
the people who were brought here against their will but not
people we have today. I am sure that the people of the
these great things into the hands of the people.

I will be watching with interest the administration of this bureau.

Most sincerely,

Frederick E. Wankam

FEW:sms

cc: Honorable G. B. Ullah

Senator Henry Jackson

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

51 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

MAY 2

1966

DUDLEY DOWELL
PRESIDENT

April 28, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This morning's New York Times contains news that is most pleasing to many Americans who are interested in the welfare of the American Indian and I hasten to extend my congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It must be a source of a great deal of satisfaction to be the first Indian to hold this important position in 97 years, and to have this recognition in a matter of such prominence and importance.

Sincerely yours,

Dudley Dowell

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

Frank Marzitello
20 Cator Avenue 07305
Jersey City, New Jersey

April 28, 1966.

THE HON. Robert Lafollette BENNETT
UNITED STATES INDIAN COMMISSIONER
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, DEP'T. OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Just a note to extend to You our Congratulations and Best Wishes on Your Appointment by the President as the new Indian Commissioner. You can feel sure that we hold You in high esteem, and I'm sure that the Country does also, to be the first Indian to head the Indian Affairs Bureau in 97 years and second in its history. Much Success to You to raise the American Indian to the status He is entitled to.

Mr. Bennett, as a favor, could You please send me a letter or photograph from Your new Office so that I could keep it as a souvenir? I would appreciate it very much and make it a welcome addition to the many great and prominent Americans I have acquired through the years thus far. Thank You very much.

Wishing You and Your Family and Staff our warmest regards and best wishes for a Healthy, Successful, and Happy Year, this Year, and many, many years to come, I am,

*Faithfully Yours,
Frank Marzitello*

Congratulations



100

April 29-1966

MAY 2 1966
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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Friend,

Only a note to congratulate you on your tremendous task. May I hope you can readily find available the "Can-Do" personnell who will work "with" you — not just "for" you.

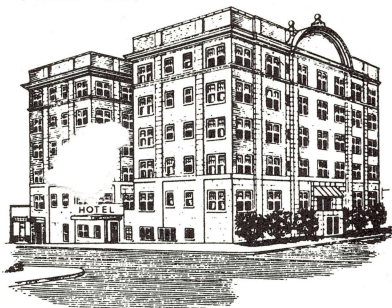
My personal explanation on reading the article was: "Finally!"

Sincerely,

Mrs Edna Gene Hatfield
1718 Lulu St
Trenton Mo 64683

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Jacksonville, Florida

April 29, 1966

MAY 3 1966

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Honorable Robert L. Bennett,
U. S. Government, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have read with interest of your appointment as Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I wish to extend my hearty congratulations.

1001
Since the enactment of the Civil Rights Law, I have been prone to feel that while there has been so much agitation that the negro was not getting his rights, what has our Government done to protect and procure rights for the Indians? Even though I am a white man, I have always had great admiration for the Indian Nation, as I have always felt that they are a proud and noble race of people. From my observation and information gained through reading, I am led to believe that they have been herded off into some remote corner of our Nation and more or less left to shift for themselves. Naturally, incentive and initiative are lost when conditions of these kinds exist. If we are going to enact and enforce equal rights laws for one race, I feel that it should be applied to all races, and should be made practical for the Indian Nation as well as for others.

In your present assignment, I wish you every success in securing a "fair break" for the Indians of our Nation - after all, they are the original Americans and should be entitled to every consideration that may be afforded them.

Cordially yours,

Bill Nolting
William Nolting
Manager

wn

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 3 8 14 AM '66

Chief Sunrise

515 Commodore - Park View Apts.
COLLINGSWOOD 6, NEW JERSEY

Phone: Ulysses 4-3356

April 29, 1966

Dear Bob:

Just a note to tell you, how wonderful it was to see and visit with you, after these many years.

When ever you are in this area, please call us, we love to have stay with us. I promise "no dog".

I know you have an awesome responsibility in your new position, but I also know you have all the ingreience to meet the challenge. and God bless you.

Your friend
Peuben

P.S. As we use to say at dear Hankell, when I come to Washington how about taking me to the "Shack".

PO Box 601
Fontana, California 92335
29 April 1966

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

Dear Bob:

I don't know when I've been more proud and pleased to write CONGRATULATIONS to anyone as I am to send this note to you. My sincere good wishes to you as you tackle a job I feel confident you will do justice to. I know you have a fine background; you know the field problems, certainly, and your interest in this assignment is genuine, so all of us will be on your side pitching for you !

Having been away from the Indian Service for so many years I do not know what questions to ask or hardly what comments to make. I suppose you will hear from the usual crackpots -- perhaps many of the old ones who used to hound John Collier and Mr. Zimmerman (in my day) are no long able to give you many headaches. Perhaps they have mellowed with age?

I talked with Doug on the phone rather recently and he was delighted with your appointment. The last time I chatted with you was in Phoenix at the NCAI Meeting and I have the same job that I had then, Feature Editor of Aerospace Safety Magazine, the official safety publication of the Air Force. I work at Norton AFB in San Bernardino, and other than visiting with a few Indians, I know very little about the Indian Service's expanded program. But I'm sure it's effective. Today someone asked me how many years of civil service I've got, and I had to stop and add 'em up. Golly, I had forgotten how many and how old I really am. I do enjoy my work and shall stay busy for a while yet. (I ought to add, "unless Civil Service decides to shove me out.") I am 58 now so maybe I'll try to stay put until I reach 60--unless, of course, the Air Force makes up my mind for me, to get out ! I shall be watching and listening, with interest, your accomplishments and hope you will stay well. I know you have much to offer, Bob.

Again, congratulations and sincere wishes to you. If you ever have an errand I can do for you, please let me know. The California Advisory Committee on Indian Affairs writes often and invites me to meetings but then they are held in Sacramento, a bit of ways up the road from here. But, if you want to do an errand for you, I shall try.

Sincerely

Amelia
Amelia Skye Askew

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MAY 6 1966
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996

29 April 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Mr. Bennett:

100/

Congratulations upon your selection as Commissioner; from observation of past performances, your appointment is merited. I hope that it will be possible some day to stop being a logistician and get back to the construction business, and in some way be helpful to you in doing your important work.

Sincerely,

K. T. SAWYER
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics

Ex District Engineer, Alaska
1960-1964

MAY 2 1966
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KTB

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BROOKLYN, N.Y. APR 29, 1966.

HONORABLE MR. ROBERT L. BENNETT.

DEAR MR. BENNETT:

I WAS PLEASED TO READ YESTERDAY
YOU WERE SWORN IN BY PRESIDENT
JOHNSON AS COMMISSIONER OF BUREAU
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS; LET ME WISH YOU
GOOD HEALTH TO SERVE OUR GOVERNMENT,
I AM CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITY TO
SERVE THIS POST, I WOULD LIKE TO BE
HONORED TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER AND
ADD TO MY 1966 COLLECTION, SINCE THIS
IS MY HOBBY FOR THE 8TH YEAR AT THIS
HOSPITAL, ALL MY GOOD WISHES TO
YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU,

I. GRAND

% JCD HOSPITAL

86 E. 49TH ST.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11203

WARD PHA.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ., CHAIRMAN

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ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
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WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.
JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.
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GALE W. MCGEE, WYO.
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ROMAN L. HRUSKA, NEBR.
GORDON ALLOTT, COLO.
NORRIS COTTON, N.H.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

April 29, 1966

MAY 4 1966
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MAY 4 12 19 PM '66

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THOMAS J. SCOTT, CHIEF CLERK
WM. W. WOODRUFF, ASST. CHIEF CLERK

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

As Senator Bartlett was leaving Washington yesterday morning he asked me to have prepared for insertion in the Congressional Record copies of the congratulatory messages sent to you upon being named Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

100
Thank you for sending them to the Senator. Also, please accept my congratulations on your appointment.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jack Cornman

Jack Cornman
Staff Assistant to
Senator E. L. Bartlett

Congressional

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH



ERNEST L. WILKINSON, PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 30, 1966

1. RB
Honorable Robert F. Bennett
Commissioner, Indian Affairs
C bet. 18th & 19th NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have been intending for some time to be in Washington, D. C. to congratulate you in person over your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but since it now appears that I will not be there, I am writing this note to express my heartiest congratulations on your appointment.

As one who represented the Northern and Southern Utes in long litigation against the United States, I remember your years of service at both of the reservations of these Indians, and have followed also your career since that time through my Washington law office, with which I am associated.

After having spent a great many years of my life in prosecuting claims of Indians, I am now trying to contribute to their wellbeing by setting up a large program for Indian students at the Brigham Young University.

If sometime you happen to be coming this way, we would appreciate, by all means, your letting us know ahead of time so that we could have you come to the University and see and speak to the many Indian tribes we have represented here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ernest L. Wilkinson".
Ernest L. Wilkinson

ELW:vm

A. L. KRESS
180 SPRINGDALE ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 30 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington
DC

Dear Mr. Bennett

I have read with interest of your late appointment as the new Commissioner. My congratulations and best wishes.

Its about time this administration gave some attention to Indian affairs. Our long indifference and neglect is truly shocking.

Four years ago I began to help Navaho boys and girls by buying them clothes. I am helping a fine Navaho girl thru nursing school. So I have some understanding of the situation.

More power to you. Just put your program in high gear and go full steam ahead.

Sincerely yours

A. L. Kress

A. L. Kress

WAP-042713 WASHINGTON BUREAU
NEW COMI. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON: President Johnson congratulates Robert L. Bennett after presiding over Bennett's swearing in as Commissioner of Indian Affairs at a White House ceremony today. Bennett, a member of the Oneida Indian Tribe in Northern Wisconsin, is the first Indian to head the Bureau in 97 years. Left to Right: Robert W. Bennett, 14; David Bennett, 15; JoAnne Bennett, 18; Interior Secy Stewart Udall; Bennett; Mrs. Bennett; Johnson; and Mrs. Johnson.

LOCS, MGS

427/66

UPI PHOOT