

1041 Princeton, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mex.
May 1, 1966.

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

Dear Bob:

Let me add my congratulations to the many you are now receiving as our recently appointed Comm. of Indian Affairs. It is certainly a wonderful achievement, and makes us all the more proud of our heritage.

I want to thank you for helping my brother Pierce, with a transfer to Alaska. I especially appreciate the

above, for I realize you are a busy man.

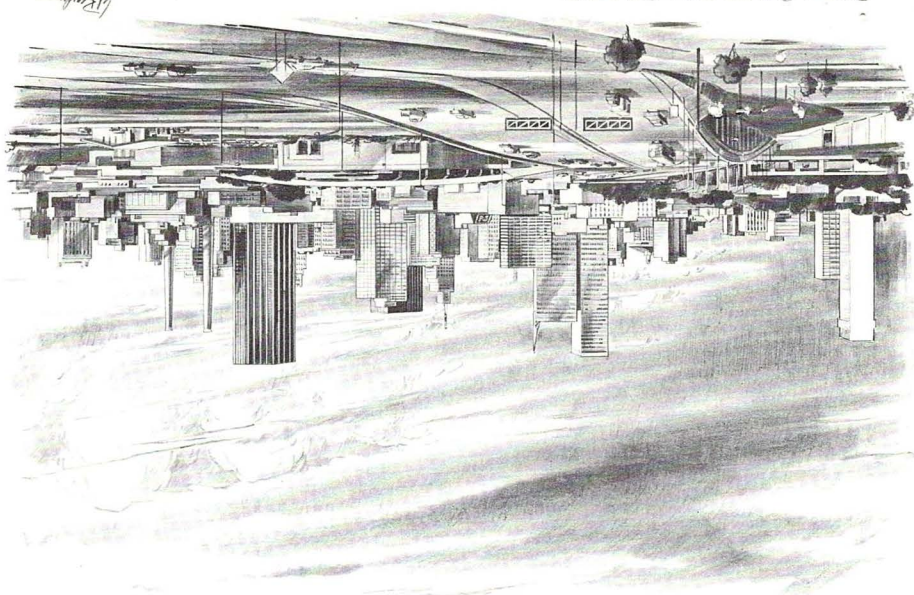
With every good wish for your
success.

I am one of Pierce's sisters. there
are three of us.

Sincerely,

Lois Metopen Cuellar.

DALLAS SKYLINE FROM STEMMONS



DALLAS — A city of beauty, industry and culture. Population: Dallas County, latest estimate 1,165,200. Manufacturing, distribution, financial and communication center. Founded 1841 by John Neely Bryan.

3812 Lemon Ave
Dallas, Tex.
5/21/66

Dear Bob,

Greetings from Dallas! I'm
delighted & proud to hear you
are now our new Chief.

I sincerely say, and with
confidence, you will give
it your best.

I've been in Dallas a
year. My coworker and
friend Ola Beckett convinced
me Dallas was a beautiful
place, so I left San Francisco
after 20 years. Enjoying the
change.

I've read many of
your writings with interest.

Good luck and my best
wishes.

Most sincerely
Mae Platero Engel

Bob - Congratulations! I thought you would like to have a copy of this. The Oneida (Clyde Cornelius's are outnumbered here.) Rachel

A B E R D E E N I N D I A N T R I B E

Sioux Chippewa Choctaw Creek Seminole Nez Perce

Sac & Fox Kiowa Arikara Navajo Tewa

No. 1 Cherokee Chemehuva

Oneida

May 1966

Courtesy of: LOUIS T. TOLLEFSON MEMORIAL FUND

20 - 11th Ave. N.W.
Aberdeen, S. Dak.

FIRST POW-WOW

Mrs. Louis Tollefson, Mistress of Ceremonies, welcomed the Aberdeen residents of American Indian ancestry met together for the first time at a dinner at the Holiday Inn on April 18, 1966. Mrs. Gerarda Ellis, Kansas City, and formerly of Fort Berthold, told about an American Indian Club in her city. A charcoal etching by Andy Laverdure, 12, St. Ann's Indian Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota, was shown. Attention was called to the book, "The Art of American Indian Cooking," by Yeffe Kimball and Jean Anderson. Mrs. A. E. Picotte displayed articles of Sioux pottery, Chippewa birchbark crafts, and Arikara beadwork from the Division of Indian Health Employees Scholarship Fund. (Incidentally, it is reported that some birchbark bird houses have been received and are available. How about articles from the other tribes?) Ad Hoc Committee for the dinner were: Reservations for Rations: Mrs. Richard Davis, Miss Verbena Johnson, Miss Twila Wilson, Jerry Rousseau. Keepers of the Door: Mrs. J. B. Knudson, Chairman, Miss Twila Wilson, Mrs. Louella Burnette. Entertainment by Rousseau.

After the hostess had spent considerable time learning how to say a few words in Nez Perce, it was disappointing not to see our Nez Perce friend, Eugene Wilson, at the dinner. (He was called out of town but said that he would try and make it to the picnic on the 15th of May. He is bringing his favorite bean sandwiches.)

PLAN TO COME TO THE FAMILY PICNIC AT WYLIE PARK SHELTER ON MAY 15th, BEGINNING AT NOON. BRING YOUR FRIENDS, COME ANYTIME AND EAT WHENEVER YOU WISH. EACH ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING HIS OWN RATIONS AND BEVERAGE AND DISHES. IF YOU HAVE FAVORITE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, BRING THEM ALONG PLEASE. MAYBE WE HAVE SOME HIDDEN TALENT. ALSO PIN A NAME TAG ON - IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE FANCY. PROBABLY SOME OF THE COLLEGE STUDENTS WILL NEED TRANSPORTATION SO IF YOU CAN OFFER SOMEONE A RIDE IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. CONTACT JERRY ROUSSEAU (225-3550) REGARDING NORTHERN STATE STUDENTS AS THEY WILL INFORM HIM IF THEY NEED A RIDE. THERE ARE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, STEWART'S SCHOOL OF HAIRSTYLING, SCHOOL OF COMMERCE, PRESENTATION COLLEGE, PRESENTATION SCHOOL OF NURSING (St. Luke's Hospital). YOU MAY CONTACT THESE PLACES FOR NAMES OF STUDENTS. IF ANYONE IS NOT CONTACTED AND NEEDS A RIDE, PLEASE CALL 225-2233, after 5:00 p.m. LEAVE YOUR WORRIES AT HOME AND COME PREPARED TO RELAX AND BE YOURSELF. NSC STUDENTS WILL SPEARHEAD ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

TV - PERSONALITY - James Gordon, Cherokee; will appear on the Square Dancing Club presentation on Channel 9, Saturday, May 7th - 10:00 p.m.

NEED YOUR LAWN RAKED, WINDOWS WASHED, GARAGE CLEANED, ETC? CALL THE YMCA. MEL ROUSSEAU, LEADER OF THE JUNIOR HIGH CLUB, EXPLAINED HOW THE CLUB IS TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS SO THEY CAN MAKE A TRIP TO AN INDIAN RESERVATION THIS SUMMER.

SOME OF THE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE RECENT YOUTH CONFERENCE AT NORTHERN STATE COLLEGE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO EITHER VISIT SOMEONE IN ABERDEEN, OR FIND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT SO THEY CAN SAVE MONEY FOR CLOTHES AND INCIDENTALS BEFORE STARTING COLLEGE. FOR SOME THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME IN AN OFF-RESERVATION COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE REGISTRATION DESK AT THE WYLIE PARK SHELTER ON SUNDAY, May 15th.

THERE WILL BE A SUGGESTION BOX AT THE SHELTER ALSO FOR ANY CONTRIBUTIONS AS TO HOW WE CAN GET THE "ABERDEEN INDIAN TRIBE" GOING DOWN THE RIGHT PATH FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP AMONG OURSELVES AND OTHERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS ITEMS THEY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

LOUIS T. TOLLEFSON MEMORIAL FUND

Louis T. Tollefson, my husband who passed away on September 11, 1962, was Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, State Department of Employment Security. He spent 25 years with the Employment Service. During this time he acquired friends wherever he went as he was that kind of a person. He was complimented by being asked to run for President of the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security. He had requested that if I ever thought of establishing a Memorial Fund in his name it should be for the benefit of Indian people - particularly Indian youth interested in Art and Music. Therefore, I have decided that using some of the money in the Fund for the purpose of activating the Aberdeen Indian Tribe is in keeping with this philosophy.

Rachel Tollefson

MAY 5 1966

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

5-1-66

Dear Sir:

I congratulate you for the honor given you in being appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As a white member of one of our numerous minority groups my sympathy has always been predominantly with the original Americans.

It seems that only those who can form powerful voting blocks have been recipients of "justice" in our democracy.

Therefore, it was delightful to discover that a minority member has made the grade on his very own capabilities. My best wishes for your continued success.

Most sincerely
DR. JOHN A. STEVENSON
1911 RIVER ROAD
CAMDEN 5, N. J.

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 5 1 12 PM '66

1. RB-

Stinson Beach, Calif.
May 1, 1966

MAY 6 1966
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Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner,
Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

I have been intending for some time to write and congratulate you on your new position. I really know of no one who knows better the problems, and who is imaginative enough to try to solve them.

When I read that the President had asked you to come up with a new approach and a real solution, I was reminded that when I became a citizen I wrote your predecessor telling him what I thought might work, and though I cannot find a copy of the letter, I shall pass it on to you for whatever good it may be.

I think there should be legislation putting a date twenty five years hence as an absolute termination of all Federal responsibility for Indians. Accompanying this must be massive programs to bring it about, educationally, economically and psychologically. Probably the last is the most important.

At first there would undoubtedly be real resistance, but I think the Indian is a realist, and if he thought such legislation irrevocable he could face the situation, especially for his children. Advantages of such a plan would be a focus of attention on the self-realization of the young, provision for the care of the old on the reservations (25 years should care for this) and, most important, the retirement of all Bureau personnel not in sympathy by the time termination would come about.

This should cost a lot of money, but a lot is spent now and much of it as you know not effectively. Therefore the Commissioner should be given considerable freedom as well as great responsibility.

Anyway-- there you have it for what good it is. I hope you will be happy in your job. I am enjoying retirement and putting my efforts on conservation of natural resources-- rather than people. But they are for the people.

With all best wishes,

Aleta Brownlee
Aleta Brownlee

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 6 10 10 AM '66

291

Lake Shore Dr.
Center Harbor, New Hampshire
May 1, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

CONGRATULATIONS / I was thrilled to
learn that you had become Commissioner of B I A.
I am sure better days are ahead for "us Indians".

Yours sincerely,

George E. Hendrix
George E. Hendrix

Hon. Robert S. Bennett
Commissioner Of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Department Of The Interior
Washington, D.C.

May 1st, 1966

MAY 4 1966

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MAY 4 2 01 PM '66

INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Bob:

100 First, I want to recongratulate you on your appointment and I know you will be successful and I sincerely hope that you have every opportunity to fulfill your dreams in Indian Affairs.

I know how busy you must be so I will try to make this short and to the point.

I hope that you will give great consideration to the problems that face the tribes and their tribal governments, as there are great gaps in the present laws that govern these functions.

There is a great need for uniform laws that control the tribal council elections. I say this because of the knowledge of having dealt with many different tribes and their elections.

There is a great need for simply "conflict of Interest" laws and I am sure you know why these laws are needed. The tribal officers have

2/ become "Big Business" and these conflicts of Interest could and do lead to corruption of Tribal officials and councilmen

There is an even greater need for "Responsibility" Laws that truly make Tribal officials responsible for their acts or the acts they may cause without having to account for their acts to any one.

During the last 5 years I have seen many cases where the Tribal Council officials have violated their own laws and then there is no recourse for the people they represent. As a person who has always stood for "Right", I believe that this can only be stopped by federal law that is enacted so that the people or even individuals have a channel to take action in or authorization to enter federal court to test these types of cases.

I believe that the Bureau needs a new method of approach towards the field of Tribal organizations and this could be done with your personal direction. I believe you need personnel who have had actual experience in this field, so that under your direction they could properly fulfill the void that now exists and has for some time as you know.

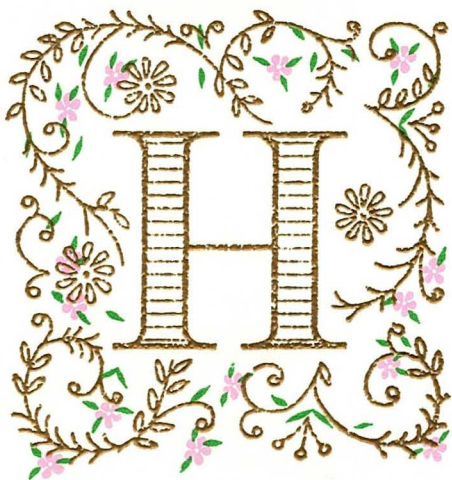
3/ I wrote a letter to the Indian Senate Committee concerning these matters and another to Assistant Secretary Arden and I would appreciate it if you would read the one directed to the Assist. Secretary. It needs your personal attention. The one to the Senate can be found with Senator McHovern.

I am deeply concerned about the way O.E.O. is being attacked in the field and I believe it should have immediate attention, otherwise some of the tribes are going to kick out this O.E.O. that could be of great benefit if it was properly administered, without politics being deeply entrenched in its operation.

I have been thinking a great deal about you and your new job lately and I know what you are facing! I know you are completely capable of handling the mess you accepted, but watch your back because I've heard a lot of talk.

If at any time you believe I can help in any way, please feel free to call upon me, because I have always said that there was only two men in the B.I.A. that I would help and that is you and Graham Holmes. I would serve under you two at any time or any place.

I know you will give it your best and personally I have told hundred not to be afraid of "termination" because Bennett is in there. My Best Bob Sincerely your
Bob P



Good Luck to you
Mrs. Chas. J. Hatten

MAY 2 1966

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RDB

MAY 2 2 26 PM '66

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Mr. Bennett, I just had to
drop you a note, I'm so pleased
about your new job. All the
luck to you, you see I
am part Indian (Cherokee)
of which I am very proud.
I have a very good friend
in Washington, D.C. Congressman
Ken Heckler (R. Va.) If he
can ever help you call
on him as he is a fine person.

RMB 1966

100
1455 S. Fifth
Pocatello, Idaho

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

Dear Sir:

001
Congratulations on your appointment. You will do a fine job, I am sure, and a better job than anyone could who has not lived in the special circumstances that surround an Indian's life. No one can learn through impersonal media the intangible's that surround the actual living and doing nor realize all the little things that make up what appears to be on the surface. The Indians have been handicapped too long by circumstances in using their own great abilities and intelligence to improve their lives. and have happier, better lives.

Sincerely,

Sarah McNeel

Sarah McNeel

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 2 1 43 PM '66

3532 Gerard Av South
Minneapolis, Minn.
55408

May 2, 1966

Dear Bob,

Just a note to wish you
a lot of success in your
unenviable position. It is not
an easy job to please Indians,
Congress and all your other
critics. However knowing you
I'm sure you'll do a terrific
job.

Again our best wishes to
you.

Sincerely

Florence Potter (Riggs)

P.S. We adopted three little Indians
-- two boys and a girl.



SCHWARZ & VAN HOEFEN
A R C H I T E C T S
1620 CHEMICAL BUILDING
SAINT LOUIS, MO. 63101

MAY 4 1966

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May 2, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is gratifying to know we now have a "native son" heading the Bureau.

Heartiest congratulations.

Most sincerely yours,

::

Hari Van Hoefen
Cherokee Census Number 2467

HVH:LEM

cc: Hon. W. L. Hungate
House of Representatives

Arthur F. Schwarz, A.I.A.

Jack Rausch, A.I.A.

R. T. Henmi, A.I.A.

P. C. Kehres, A.I.A.

C. S. Hutt, A.I.A.

Hari Van Hoefen, F.A.I.A.

W. E. Campbell, A.I.A.

Heinz E. Zobel, A.I.A.

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & Co.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

736 "G" STREET

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

May 2, 1966

MAY 4 1966
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Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 4 10 19 AM '66

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please accept our congratulations on your recent appointment as Commissioner. Through our work with the Tyoneks we have been in a position to appreciate the fine work you have done in Alaska.

On our next trip to Washington, we hope to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.

Neil F. Casson

Neil F. Casson, Partner

NFC:DV



MAY 3 1966

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Dewalt Mechlin Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
Chicago, Illinois

Address Mrs. Walter R. Jeffrey
9568 Prospect Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60643

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

Dear Commissioner:

Having been nominated as the new Chairman or Representative for Indian Affairs for the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, I wish to extend to you my best wishes for success in your endeavors for the American Indian.

Perhaps it would be possible for you to put my name on your mailing list for interesting developments which I may report to our chapter.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred H. Jeffrey

Mrs. Walter R. Jeffrey

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 3 2 11 PM '66

201

Mrs. Veronica Parr
1332 East Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

May 3, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate you upon your appointment to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and my best wishes are extended to you for success in this endeavor.

Your task will not be an easy one, nor can there be an immediate working out of the miseries that plague your people. Their present hardships have been years in the making, and the correction of existing bad conditions will probably not be overcome in a single generation. However, it is encouraging that at least a leader has been chosen who is an American Indian and therefore more likely to understand the problems of his people. Although help may build up slowly in the beginning, the promise of relief should lighten the hearts of your people, and give you the fortitude necessary to face up to the difficult problems ahead.

I rejoice that President Johnson has pledged support of your work, and that the Senate Interior Committee has become stirred to act more vigorously and with deeper concern for the welfare of these neglected individuals.

You may be sure that I will continue to support Arrow. My contributions may not be big ones, but I hope I can contribute regularly at each year's end. I would like to see the Indians become rehabilitated and enjoying the many opportunities for better health, education, and the higher standard of living that is generally prevalent in our country.

Sincerely yours,
Veronica Vogel Parr.



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

EDWARD C. HINCKLEY
COMMISSIONER

May 3, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

First of all, congratulations - if that's the right word - on your appointment. Believe me, I am very interested and sympathetic with the challenges you face and your initial statements regarding how you hope to meet them.

Secondly, let me express my sincere thanks for the presence of Mr. Mason Barr at a meeting to discuss potential housing programs for the Maine Indians held on April 20th. Because of Mr. Barr's expertise in the area of Indian Self-Help housing, he was able to contribute more than any of the officials present, including those from the New York PHA office whose experiences with Indians had been limited to Seneca Low-Rent programs.

Finally, let me offer what I can in the way of recompense for your Mr. Barr's assistance by reporting that on April 26th, I addressed some 35 graduate students of the Harvard Graduate School of Education regarding teaching opportunities and challenges in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Of course, this talk was too late in the year for effective recruitment as most students have already committed themselves to job-placements. However, I have already promised to return to Harvard for the same purpose early next fall before all students are committed. In spite of the lateness of this presentation in the school year, there was at least one girl who is definitely planning to apply for a Bureau position following the talk and several others who may apply sometime subsequent to their initial job placements.

I had previously sent Mr. Richard Wheeler, the Assistant Director of Placement for the Ed school, the material that I collected from Miss Brinkley while I was in Washington and that sent me by Miss Givens in the Gallup Area Office. I think I was able to be honest about the problems that could be encountered working with

MAY 10 1966

Handwritten signature

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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Handwritten number 201

May 3, 1966

Indians and still be attracting insofar as challenges and rewards are concerned. Whatever the effect of my talk on the students, it was a very enjoyable experience for me and one which I look forward to repeating next fall.

I want you to know that I was not responsible for either the title or the designation of my position in the enclosed listing in the "Harvard Student Calendar" but I thought you would be amused by both.

Thank you very much again for your help to date - I expect I will be in contact with you and your staff more often than you might wish.

Sincerely,



Edward C. Hinckley
Commissioner

ECH:ec

Enc.

cc: Miss Edna Givens, Gallup, N.M.
Miss Elwanda Brinkley, BIA, Washington
Mr. Richard Wheeler, Harvard College

MAY 6 1966

Box 11

Brownsville, Ohio

May 3, 1966

100 RMM

MAY 6 9 15 AM '66

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

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It was with deep pride and great joy that we heard of your appointment as Commissioner. My seven young Oneidas joined me in many a toast (in Kool-aid, of course) to you and this historic achievement.

My husband, while he lived, preached to all who would listen that the greatest hope for our people lay in the development of Indian leaders and the awakening of their potential for statesmanship. Since he has been gone this has been my constant theme in many lectures.

I know that human nature being what it is there will be disappointments for you in the knowledge that you can't please all the people all of the time. But I also know full well that being an Oneida you will keep faith. We will pray constantly that God will bless and

guide you in all your endeavors -

Please accept our heartiest congratulations
and good wishes -

Yours very truly

Mrs. Harry Nicholas and family -

The people of Ohio are deeply interested in Indian
affairs and I would appreciate any information
that will help to inform them of your problems
and your aims -

C. H.

144 Bremer Street
Fayetteville, N.C.
May 3, 1966

MAY 9 1966

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Commissioner of Indian Affairs:
Dept of Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

I congratulate you on your new appointment. I understand that you are a registered Oneida. I know you have the cooperation of the Indians. I know that we as a people have made strides forward during my life time.

1-100B
You will be the impetus for some changes for the better. We have a sporter who writes for the Fayetteville Observer who constantly calls the Indian a third class citizen. Who would do away with Reservations and has many other reforms in mind. I have not as yet decided whether he is friend or foe.

I am a registered Seneca from Western New York. I am living in Fayetteville, North Carolina. I am writing a novel concerning the early educating of the Indian. I hope it gets in print, I expect Houghton Mifflin of Boston to publish it.

Good luck to you and the huge task you are undertaking.

Cordially,

Cleaver Doctor

MAY 9 10 59 AM '66

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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May 3-1966
P.O. Box 491-
Bishop, Calif.
93514

Robert Lafolette Bennett
Indian Commissioner
The Capital Building
Washington, D. C.

MAY 10 1966

TO J. B.

Dear Robert Bennett: (Red-man)

This day--has given us great joy and made it a glad occasion when we read and heard of the President of the United-States swearing you in as Indian Commissioner!

May you always walk in dignity/ justice and beauty for your country and the People!

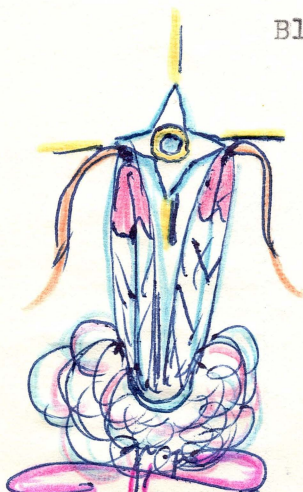
This day:--The Creator* has smiled upon us! And may you bring forth respect for our land and lakes and streams that all people can look up to you in honor, respect and loyalty/ and make this land of ours proud!

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May Divine-Providence guide you in all you do for the Indian-People and revitalize the Indian Bureau within the Interior Department. Stopping the Forces* that are holding us in bondage, taking Indian Rights and Lands for un-necessary projects--when there is State and Federal Land that can be used just as well for these purpose! Help keep our lakes, fishing-rights and streams Safe*.

Blessings unto you and yours in Dignity, Justice and Beauty!

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Bill (G. W.) Spencer)
(Part Cherokee)

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Spencer



Walk-In-Beauty & Dignity!

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 10 9 33 AM '66

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. McFARLANE~~
~~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

LLC308 OB279 LG462

L AYA610 NL PD ALBUQUERQUE NMEX 3

ROBERT L BENNETT COMMISSIONER 1951 CONST AVE NW

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WASHDC *Ind Sec/Secord*

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING APPROVED. OUR SINCERE BEST WISHES

TO YOU IN THE JOB AHEAD OF YOU

CHARLES AND CHINDY PRUNER.

66 MAY 3 PM 10 16

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

MAY 4 8 12 AM '66

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Juneau, Alaska

May 4, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I've been so intrigued clipping the papers for stories about your appointment, and thinking of the changes you wanted and now can make as Commissioner, that I suddenly realized I hadn't yet written to congratulate you. So--CONGRATULATIONS!!

As Cleota can guess, my congratulations are tinged with a touch of condolence. As glad as I am that you are the Commissioner, I can't help thinking of the pace at which you'll probably be going the next few years. (Free advice to Cleota enclosed.)

I borrowed Mr. Morken's copy of the hearings on your appointment that he brought back and I was overwhelmed when I read them.

Good luck, and remember you have a lot of friends up here backing you up as Commissioner.

Sincerely

Paul Blake

P. S. Tell your daughter I missed her dancing in this year's Rotary Show!

Juneau, Alaska 5-4

Dear Cleota:

You must be bursting with pride in your husband!

Remember my parting shot when you left - "make him slow down". and your answer "how"? That stopped me cold for some time but I finally have a suggestion.

Once a month take your husband off on a long week-end away from the job, away from the telephone, away from the office mail. Leave Friday after 5:00 and stay away until Monday morning. I try to operate on the theory that we can always take time for what we really want, or need, to do.

We're not in the new building yet but when we move I'll have to get up earlier (ugh) as it no longer will be a hop-skip to work. This just doesn't work out according to my "old age" plan of sleeping later in the morning. Of course, there's an obvious solution-go to bed earlier. But I don't.

Thank goodness for the peace and quiet now that the Legislature has gone home. Between the ambitious young speaker of the house and the alcoholic president of the senate-it was quite a session this year. Now the campaign fun has started. And I'm all for Hal Evry's tactics. When he runs a candidate-and wins-he makes him stay out of sight--no speeches, no debates, no doorbell ringing== just a catchy slogan for the candidate like: Stop the Parking Meter Racket - Three Cheers for Pat Milligan. etc. etc. It would be a welcome change, wouldn't it? And so to work.

Sincerely,

Gene Blake



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Consolidated Ute Agency
P. O. Box 315
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

MAY 10 1966

[Handwritten signature]

May 4, 1966

MAY 9 2 56 PM '66

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

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

Dear Bob:

Our heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We wish you every success for an outstanding administration under your leadership.

We pledge our full-hearted support in executing your policy, not only to the letter of the law, but in spirit and intent as well. You can count on my stout support in all of your endeavors as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Yours for a successful administration,

[Handwritten signature]

MAY 11 1966

160

STATE OF ALASKA

WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 2380

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

440 FIFTH AVE. — ANCHORAGE 99501

May 5, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

I read where you finally made it! I believe it was in a news letter or in some release that someone attended your swearing in ceremony. I thought that the Senate, in their wisdom, would act faster than they did, but at any rate, you made it to the top and we are all the better for it.

160
Your letter of April 11 mentioned that Cleota wondered if I flunked my last test. On November 14 of last year I was eligible to take early retirement with Alaska Coastal Airlines and when Mr. Al Courtney mentioned that I might qualify for this job, I thought it would be an easy way to get some administrative background and quit pushing throttles for a while.

After living in Southeastern Alaska for twenty years it is a welcome change to fly a desk rather than a Goose, especially in the "Go Go" town of Anchorage. Maxine and the children have taken to Anchorage as a duck takes to water and surprisingly enough the two boys have received better scholastic ratings since attending Anchorage schools. However, please tell Cleota that I still have my license and will be taking my annual physical next month to keep my pilot rating, so that if our upcoming election is not favorable I can return to Southeastern Alaska in about the same capacity as when I left.

Maxine and I again wish to congratulate you in your attaining this high government position, and if we were to be in a position to give an affirmative vote, you would certainly have it. I hope to visit Washington sometime after July 1 in the capacity of Commissioner of Air Commerce, if the Governor appoints me to this new position. I will have some work to do with the Civil Aeronautics Board but will accept your invitation to play the piano at your house for my supper.

Kindest regards to you and Cleota.

Very truly yours,

Quentin
Quentin L. De Boer, Acting Ex. Dir.
ALASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



NORTH TO THE FUTURE IN 1967!

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 10 12 01 PM '66

P.O. Box 168

Wingdale N.Y. 12594.

5/6/66

MAY 10 1966

MAY 10 1 43 PM '66

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

Mr. Robert L. Bennett:

Dear Commissioner,

It gives me great pleasure
to read that one of our brothers
has been given a high position
in our government by the
greatest President we have
ever had.

My congratulations to
you.

Yours Truly

William V. Kelly

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

MAY 10 8 46 AM '66

MAY 10 1966

TO RMA

RD #1 Ferry Road
Daylstown Pa
5/6/66

Dear Sir:

I was very happy to read of your appointment as Commissioner of the Indian Bureau. May I wish for you much success in protecting the rights of our Indian citizens as well as extending to them all the programs for providing a satisfactory life for them.

Very truly yours
(Kusa) Layle Rane

MAY 10 1966

MITCHELL M. BERKUN
77 FOOTE STREET
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06517

Handwritten signature

6 May 1966

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

Dear Mr Bennett:

Although we met once when I taught at the University of Alaska, I do not expect you to remember me. Yet I was involved in questions of housing and education for the Native population of Alaska, and I was delighted to hear of your appointment as Commissioner.

BB
I feel much more optimistic now for fair and intelligent treatment of the problems of our indigenous American fellow-citizens. Congratulations to you, Sir, on your new responsibility; please accept my best wishes for your success.

Any time that you might like to hear more of my views on the need for integrated educational experience, I shall be happy to expound on them. It was my conclusion as a Psychologist that the use of small "neighborhood" schools must be balanced with the use of boarding institutions in which there is social access to urbanized families. Education ought to include acculturation to the mainstreams of American life.

Once again, may I say that it was good news to read of your appointment in Washington.

Sincerely yours

Mitch Berkun

Mitchell Berkun Ph D

MAY 10 2 19 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 6, 1966

Dear Commissioner:

This sounds so formal and hope, from one friend to another, that we still can call you "Bob" as you have been known to both of us for so many, many years. We were certainly elated to hear of your appointment and don't worry, we people out in the field were certainly "batting" for you when we first heard that your name was being considered for this position. Congratulations and I know that you will make a fine Commissioner.

I have enclosed a few articles that appeared in the Phoenix newspaper which I am passing on to you. No doubt, you probably have received many copies of these but if so, just throw these out.

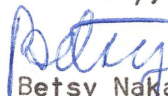
We were hoping that when you were in the Santa Fe and Navajo areas, you would be able to come to Phoenix but I guess you were too busy and were unable to do so. I bet you really had "homecoming" week at Window Rock where I am sure you knew many, many people. I know there are many here in Phoenix that know you as I have had many calls at the school from people who had worked with you at the Veterans Office, wanting to know your current address. It was during your days with the V.A. office that I got acquainted with you when you used to come to the school to check on Indian veterans. Whatever you do, if you are ever out west and especially to Phoenix, be sure and come by to say hello. The last time I saw you was at Inter-mountain during the summer workshop. I did meet your wife at the Guidance Workshop that we had in Phoenix several years ago when you were stationed in Alaska, I believe.

I must get this off to you but both Shig and I are very happy that you were selected to this very important position and wish you all the luck in the world. Take care of your health and let's hear from you when time permits.

(Phoenix Indian School)

By the way, in our administration building we have a space now for a picture of the new Commissioner. Is there a possibility that the Indian Bureau will be sending out a photo of you to replace the former Commissioner's picture? We certainly like to be placed on the mailing list if this is to be.

Sincerely,



Betsy Nakashima
1801 W. Northview Avenue

May 7, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Just received a copy of the New York Times, International edition of April 30th and saw the enclosed clipping.

Want to wish you every success in this very important assignment and know that you will come through with flying colors.

I have completed my four years in Tunisia and in Feb. last I came down here to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on a 90 day TDY assignment. Will be returning to Tunis on the 17th of this month and then will leave for the good old USA on the 22nd of June on home leave and transfer.

Will be looking forward to seeing you while in Washington and remember that if there is anything that I might do for you in any way I want you to know that it would be a pleasure.

Wishing you every success as Commissioner.

Sincerely yours,

Tom.

Thomas M. Reid



U. S. INFORMATION SERVICE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MAY 16 1966
100

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

MAY 16 1 57 PM '66

Tehran, Iran
May 7, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations to both you and the Bureau for your appointment to head the Bureau. I thought you might be interested in the enclosed article that appeared in one of the two English daily newspapers, the Tehran Journal. The most recent issue of the USIS-produced quarterly in Persian, Marzhaye Now, has a cover picture in color of an American Indian, and a story on Indian Art. I am enclosing a copy of the publication together with a copy of the English text of the story on Indian art that was translated into Persian. The publication has a circulation of 22,000 throughout Iran. Several months ago we had an exhibit of Indian paintings by Indians on exhibit at the Tehran binational center, the Iran-America Society; and the display was of great interest to our Iranian friends.

100
My main reason for writing to you is of a personal nature. I have recently received a solicitation for funds from the "American Indian Fund of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc." I should very much appreciate your office's comments on this organization. Particularly, is it one that is doing an effective service for the Indians? A second major consideration, in view of the President's "Great Society" program, is such an organization as the Fund a necessary or useful one?

Perhaps my being a native of Colorado (where we shall return this summer on home leave) is the primary reason for my interest in Indian affairs. In a Divisional paper for sociology on "Festivals as a Social Institution" for my M.A. degree from the University of Chicago, I incorporated a study I did on the Shalako Festival after a visit to the Zuni reservation in the winter of 1940-41. Since then in my twenty years service with the Government's information and cultural program overseas I have observed a considerable amount of interest of non-Americans in American Indians, and our Agency supplied material is well received. Here in Iran this government

has the nomadic tribes (pages 19 & 20) they would like to settle; and there is a thought that the story of the American Indian might provide lessons, with some practices not to be emulated, that could conceivably have a bearing here.

It is gratifying to know that an Indian is now heading the Bureau. I know I share the hopes of many for your success.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stanley R. Chartrand".

Stanley R. Chartrand
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer

Enclosures: As stated

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

MAY 11 1966

100

Philadelphia, Miss.
May 8, 1966

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

MAY 10 - 3 51 PM '66

Commissioner Benton,
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.
Dear Commissioner

100 Please allow me a perfect stranger to you, to offer my my sincerest Congratulations and Best Wishes upon you being selected Commissioner. A step that I have long advocated. It is a step in the right direction, that is the Indian to govern his own affairs.

I have been a friend
and advisor to the Indian
all my life.

Commissioner, some people
might say that my interest
in Indians is selfish. Because
my wife is a staff Nurse
with H. C. W., division of ^{Indian} Health.
But I assure ^{you} that is
not the case, I was for them
before I married, then she was
out of the service 17 years. My
interest in them never waned, which
my record will bear me out.

We have a very loyal
group here, and as far as I
know or can tell, all
employees, are interested

in the Indian trying to
help or better him self.

Commissioner, I have already
taken up too much of
your valuable time, so please
forgive me.

Wishing you every success
that you might undertake. I am

Yours very truly

Otto Cooper
#12 Crockett ave.
Philadelphia, Miss

39350

Cottage Lawn House, 435 Main Street, Built 1849

MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated March 29, 1900

ONEIDA, NEW YORK

May 9, 1964

MAY 11 1966

T. J. Bennett

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

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 11 11 32 AM '66

Dear Sir:-

On behalf of the members of the Madison County Historical Society, Oneida, New York, I would like to congratulate you on your new appointment. Our members are very much interested in the Indians, as you know, this is the home of the Oneida Indians, and we still have Indians living in this area. Chief Rockwell, of the Oneidas, was a member and spoke several times to our society. We hope you will be able to improve their lot.

I would like to add a personal note, I have always been concerned about the Indians, locally, and elsewhere. The Women of the Episcopal Church in Oneida, send several boxes to the Church Store in Mobridge, South Dakota, each year. I am also interested to note that you are a Bennett, did your people come from the East, either New York or New England, our ancestors came from New England to New York State; I think from New Hampshire our great, great Grandfather, John Bennett, came. The Indians used to come and sleep in front of the fireplace of my great Grandfather's tavern at Bennetts Arms, near Oneida.

Cottage Lawn House, 435 Main Street, Built 1849

MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated March 29, 1900

ONEIDA, NEW YORK

Please accept our best wishes for your good work
in helping the Indians to help themselves. That
is the American way of doing things, and let
us hope it may continue to be that way.

Cordially yours,

Dorothy E. Bennett

418 Seneca ST.

Oneida, New York 13421



The State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ROOM 148 NORTH, CAPITOL

MADISON 53702

ANGUS B. ROTHWELL
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM C. KAHL
DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

ARCHIE A. BUCHMILLER, ASSISTANT
W. LYLE EBERHART, ASSISTANT
ALAN W. KINGSTON, ASSISTANT
JOHN W. MELCHER, ASSISTANT
HENRY A. OLSON, ASSISTANT
ROBERT C. VAN RAALTE, ASSISTANT

May 9, 1966

MAY 11 1966
100

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

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 11 11 25 AM '66

Dear Mr. Benett:

The enclosed letter was mailed to this department and opened by mistake. We believe that it should have been directed to Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Kingston
Assistant Superintendent

E. N. Embertson

E. N. Embertson
Supervisor of Indian Education

LO

Enclosure Letter from
Fred Bruette, 2931 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53208

MAY 1966

may 7 - 1966

My dear Brother Mr Bennett

I am a old chippewa who
served in navy 33 years

but still a proud
indian as much as I and
my parents went through
in our days. I have

indian History 370 years
and Tin Type pictures about
300 years or more. I know

many young indians here
18 to 30 years old. They
are proud to have you
represent the indians

our tribes are Ojibwa,
chippewa, Menomonee,
Stock Bridge, apache,
winnebago, Cree and
other Tribes.

I do not know your address
but hope this letter reaches
you so I can have my many
indian friends write you
a letter of pride & Honor

I can write it with their
names on it. This letter is
from Fred Brette & Son Bob.
Snow - corn - Bender - Madosh
La Flambeaux - Kakatosh
La Forge and others indians

very truly your indian
friends

Fred Brette

2931 W. Juliet St
Milwaukee Wis

53208
Richard Hodge in St.

I read ~~Richard~~ Hodge in St.
Bay gazette I was born in
Marinette / great power to our
Brother



The State of Wisconsin

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MADISON

53702

WARREN P. KNOWLES

GOVERNOR

May 9, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

As I promised, I am forwarding the remarks Governor Knowles prepared for your Testimonial Dinner. I appreciated the opportunity to meet you and your sister and was thrilled with the wonderful affair in your honor.

I join with the Governor in wishing you every success in your important position. I shall convey to the Governor your recommendations in regard to the Winnebago Indians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roth S. Schleck".

Roth S. Schleck
Chief Administrative Assistant

fia

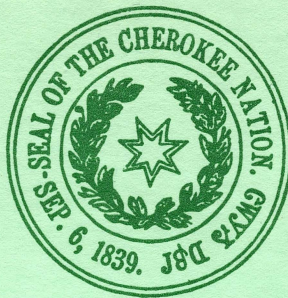
Enclosure

QUALLA INDIAN BOUNDARY PROJECTS
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

P. O. Box 427
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA 28719

TELEPHONE: 497-2071

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20506



SAVANNAH BIGWITCH, PROJECT DIRECTOR
JOSEPH G. HIPPS, ASST. PROJECT DIRECTOR
TOM BECK, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

COMPONENT DIRECTORS:

PEARL HAYES, FAMILY CENTERED MULTI-

DISCIPLINE

GENE WILLIAMSON, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION
WILLIAM A. MOLES, PHYSICAL FITNESS
ELIZABETH B. CROWE, HOMEMAKERS CORPS

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JARRETT B. BLYTHE, PRINCIPAL CHIEF
ALVIN E. SMITH, VICE-CHIEF
JOHN A. CROWE, EXECUTIVE ADVISER

May 9, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Qualla Indian Boundary Projects, CAP., wishes to extend to you congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. And look forward to a better administration. You have our heartest support.

Please find enclosed articles of information on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, this we believe will better acquaint you with the problems we face.

However, thru the efforts of the Tribal Council and many interest individuals of the Community the purpose of this program is to combat the conditions of poverty now existing on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

This Community Action Program will attack the problem of poverty in two ways. First the program will provide for participation by residents in the poverty situation by the employment of all the personnel needed to carry out the program, with the exception of few professional positions that will necessitate employing persons not living on or obtainable from the reservation.

We would very much like for you to come to our reservation to see for yourself, all these things. And also, honor us with your presence.

I remain respectfully,

Savannah Bigwitch
Savannah Bigwitch
Project Director

SB:sc
Enclosure:

MAY 18 1966
160
RDB

MAY 16 12 07 PM '66
WASHINGTON, D.C.

5655 Chaparral Rd
Las Vegas, Nevada
May 10, 1966

Dear Bob:-

Congratulations! Again & Again:-

There are many things on my mind that you will consider. These will come in a formal letter dealing with Indian problems.

You guessed it at Ignacio the day you were leaving. We graduated Haskell in '29 you, your sister and I. You see I carried my Indian name out East. (Mass) because the people treated the Indian fairly, that is on equal ground. I never knew of discrimination until after some 20 yrs. I returned West of the Mississippi River.

I received my B.S. at Springfield College (Mass.) and my Ed.M. at Oklahoma. I need some 5 hrs plus dissertation for Ed.D. I am not able to finish Doctor. My Ed.M. was in City School Administration. You see when I came to Ignacio, I was principal for 2 yrs in public school work.

I believe old man Nelson selected you to play piano, Praught sax, Eschot drums, Rhedd violin

2

Waweyatm claret, Matt, Keselkie trumpets, Hill/cello, I forget
who played trombone. I attended NMNU at Silver City, N.M.
and don't if I didn't meet your broad man who took
Nelson's place. He was a bold headed fellow, forget
his name. He sure bragged about the girl (exactly)
mission in Haskell supported. He even had a picture.
Pierce Meloxon is a trib. bossman of yours. He is
at Albuquerque. We attended Springfield together.

I often wonder about our classmates. Dorra/
Flaming was a carpenter with me under Hensberry.

I will send you some ideas because I was
under the reservation system most of my youth.

At present I have made no plans for
next Sept. I have mailed applications for
administrative positions.

I am proud ~~you~~ are in a position
to express yourself as an Indian. I will
respond so you might consider ideas I
might send as suggestions.

You are given the go! Stand firm
on good ideas you suggest thru experience
Go it go, your classmate 1929
Love Heart

MAY 13 1966

108

1. RB

2.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MADISON, WISCONSIN

BRONSON C. LA FOLLETTE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 10, 1966

MAY 13 9 45 AM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Belated congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I was sorry to have missed the recent reception in your honor in Oneida. As Vice Chairman of the Menominee Indian Study Commission I have a vital and continuing interest in promoting and protecting the welfare of the Indians of the State of Wisconsin.

If ever I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

Bronson C. La Follette
Attorney General

Mr. Robert La Follette Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

CORVALLIS, OREGON 97331

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Reply to: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
and ANTHROPOLOGY

MAY 16 1966

100

MAY 16 2 04 PM '66

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

1 RB
2
10 May 1966

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

Dear Bob:

001
It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate you on being appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I'm confident that you are dedicated to the people you must now serve, but it will not be easy to provide the protection of their rights or the material assistance required to guarantee that the Indian people may live among us with pride and security.

From my experience working with you in South Dakota, I know you have excellent qualifications and infinite patience, and perhaps, most essential, you are willing to listen to the people on the reservations. There are plenty of speakers in Washington who will offer advice in loud voices, but it is the faint cry of your people that must not be ignored.

If there is anything I can do, please let me know, and again my best wishes for your success and good fortune.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon D. Malan
Vernon D. Malan
Associate Professor
of Sociology

cjm

MAY 11, 1966

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

HON. ROBERT L. BENNETT
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON D.C.

DEAR SIR:

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW APPOINTMENT. YOU PROBABLY DO NOT REMEMBER ME BUT I THINK I MET YOU AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AMERICAN INDIAN CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1961.

I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU. I HAVE WORKED AMONG THE INDIANS ALL THE WAY FROM FLORIDA TO ALASKA OVER THE YEARS AS A LONE WOLF.

I HAVE JUST FINISHED 35 YEARS SERVICE WITH SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AND AM PLANNING ON RETIRING AT AGE 62. MY DESIRE IS TO HELP THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

IF YOU HAVE NOT READ MY BOOKS BROKEN PEACE PIPES & RED MEN OF FIRE LET ME KNOW.

SOME YEARS AGO I SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AMONG THE FLORIDA SEMINOLES & WROTE THE UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE INDIANS WHICH HAS NOW SOLD OVER 150,000 COPIES.

I AM ONE EIGHTH CHEROKEE (EASTERN) ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE (SMITH). WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU.

SINCERELY,

Irvin M. Peithmann
IRVIN M. PEITHMANN

CHICAGO INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB
2169 MILWAUKEE AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MAY 12 1966
100

Mr. Robert Bennett
United States Dept. of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We want to congratulate you on your new appointment. We know you thoroughly deserve it.

When ever you are going to be in our Vicinity, please let us know, We could have a dinner for you too. We are a not for profit club. This club is run by Indians only in chicago. All our officers are Oneida's at the present.

We are trying to set up a program to give Indian children a Higher education,.

We sure wanted to come to that dinner in Green Bay, but it was such a short notice. We didn't have time to make other arrangements.

Yours very truly,

CHICAGO INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB

Kaiser Webster
KAISER WEBSTER, PRESIDENT

P.S. WE would like to hear from you on anything pertaining to all Indians.

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 12 2 15 PM '66

1. PUB
May 12, 1966

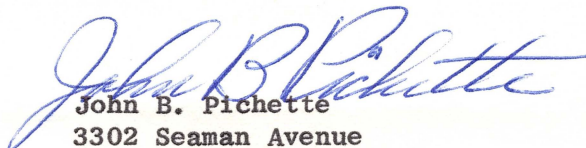
Mr. Robert Bennett, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I would like to take a moment of your time to wish you a belated but hearty congratulations on your recent appointment as Commissioner. Having met you personally, I feel that our Branch of Service is in good hands.

Although I am not a religious person, I pray that God will be with you in all your decisions in the future.

Sincerely yours,



John B. Pichette
3302 Seaman Avenue
El Monte, California

MAY 13 1966

100



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006

*Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA
President
227 East 44 Street
New York, New York 10017*

MAY 13 9 54 AM '66

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

May 12, 1966

1. PB

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The American Institute of Architects joins me in extending our heartiest congratulations on your appointment by the President to the Office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

With your leadership and your personal commitment to the problems of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, we have great confidence and great hope that much can be accomplished for Indian advancement.

We extend our assistance and look forward to working with you on problems of our mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Ketchum, Jr.

Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA

MK:ekb

Mrs. William T. Elsing

6545 N. 13th, Phoenix, Arizona

May 12, 1966

Dear Bob -

First of all, congratulations on
your appointment. You have
certainly made it far on the
bureaucratic ladder, and I am
very happy for you.
You may not remember me,
but I worked with the V.A. here
from 1948 to 1951, in VR+E,
Training Facilities Section. Guess
you know Dr. Davis died a
number of years ago.
One day, at my desk. Edmer

Mrs. William T. Eling

6545 N. 13th, Phoenix, Arizona

Janet and I were doing some proofreading and when my phone rang, and a voice said "you're disturbing me". I looked up, and there you stood, about 3 feet from us, at another phone, and grinning all over your face. Hope you have retained your sense of humor. It's a great attribute.

His old gal retired from Internal Revenue Service in August, 1963, and so glad to be out of the rat race. Bill is still in

attorney here, and although we
ain't gettin' rich, I guess
we want stone, in spite of
the meagreness of what I call
my "relief" checks.

My sincerest wishes for your
continued success.

Ferol Elving

Box 241
College, Alaska
May 13, 1966

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

MAY 16 1966

100 ~~100~~ MAY 16 9 50 AM '66

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This is a little late but I do want to congratulate you on your new position. I am very happy that you have made it to the top place in your department and feel there will be a lot of changes taking place in Bureau Policy & Procedure.

We are glad you were able to spend time in Alaska to become familiar with the problems here before moving up.

Good luck.

Sincerely

Sandy Jensen

1. ~~RB~~ ~~MB~~
2. ~~Draft~~

P.O. Box 374
Seattle, Wash. 98111
May 14, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Bureau
of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C. - 20226

Dear Sir:-

First, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as our new Commissioner.

Upon visiting the Agency yesterday (Yakima) ^{TOPPENISH,} Wash., & checking as to why my mother-in-law only receives \$2.50 per yr. from an uncle's allotment, we learned it's because there's 36 individuals on 144 acres of grazing land. Because only recently in Seattle we learned about TILRA (Tribal Indian Land Rights Assn) - (Nat'l Executive Director A.A. Hopkins Dukes) in speeches made by Mr. Dukes, I am writing to ask you to please help the Indians to obtain a piece of land as outlined, so we've heard, in the Treaties. It is believed Mr. Dukes would be a real asset to any future Conference you might hold with council members. This is a suggestion at a time when you are undoubtedly lining up co-workers to assist you. The address of TILRA, Seattle area, is Box 6694 West Seattle Station, Seattle, Wash. 98116. Mr. George Pierre, State Representative 34th District, Seattle also spoke at the above meetings.

My son is 19 yrs old, an only child, & my husband is a deceased WW#2 veteran. My son is receiving a scholarship from the Yakima Indian Agency at Toppenish as he is attending first yr. of college. It would be appreciated if Indian youth could be allowed to finish school without having to enter the Armed Forces before completion. They do need a permanent deferment until they have received enough education to fit them for a profession.

Enclosed are a few clippings for your information which also includes the Fishing Rights problems here. When I recall my past reading of the life of Chief Joseph & his death from a broken heart & the bulk of facts about the Indian in "Hear Me My Chiefs" I sincerely believe a lot more could & should be done for our people.

Thank you for reading this letter & the articles, & I wish you every future success. May our Lord grant you wisdom in making decisions & may your work, although arduous, be a joy because you'll be helping others, some of whom are in the depths of poverty.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Helen Bertran
P.O. Box 374
Seattle, Wash. 98111

ENCLS.

P.S. The sale of public lands should be frozen because of Indian claims

MAY 19 1966

100

Rural Route #2
Sterling, Colorado.
May. 14, 1966.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I was overjoyed to hear of your recent appointment to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I wish to offer my congratulations and the best of luck in the future. Although I'm no Indian, my life seems very close to them and I sincerely hope your efforts towards their common welfare will be greatly improved. I feel positive that the Bureau, under your direction, will step forward and really try to solve the Indian's problems, which are so numerous. Please present programs that will inspire them with creativity so that they might once more walk the rugged road to true victory in their hearts. It is now in your hands, and I pray God that He will help and bless you in your work among our magnificent Indian.

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MAY 19 1 20 PM '66

Respectfully

Tim Koberding

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

MAY 17 1966

ARVID MILLER
PRESIDENT
BOWLER, WISCONSIN

REV. MITCHELL WHITERABBIT
VICE PRESIDENT
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

NORBERT HILL
SECRETARY - TREASURER
ONEIDA, WISCONSIN

May 14, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

It goes without saying that you have my heartiest
congratulations and best wishes in all of the affairs
of your new appointment.

In the rush of your recent visit, which we so greatly
enjoyed, I may have neglected to convey to you my
sincere congratulations and our feelings of elation
in your appointment.

Also, let me thank you again for coming here to be with
us and to say how much we appreciated your taking this
time from your busy schedule.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert S. Hill

Norbert S. Hill, Chairman
Oneida Tribal Council

NSH:ml

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MAY 17 11 01 AM '66

The Ft. Berthold Council of Congregational - Christian Churches

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MRS. H. W. CASE, SEC'Y-TREAS. 121 SIOUX AVENUE BISMARCK, N. DAK.

MAY 24 1966

150

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ED. S. TREAT, STATE MINISTER
BOX 1776 - FARGO, N. DAK.

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H. W. CASE, DIRECTOR
N. D. COMMUNITY RELATIONS
MINISTRY - 121 SIOUX AVE.
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

May 14 1966

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

Dear Bob:

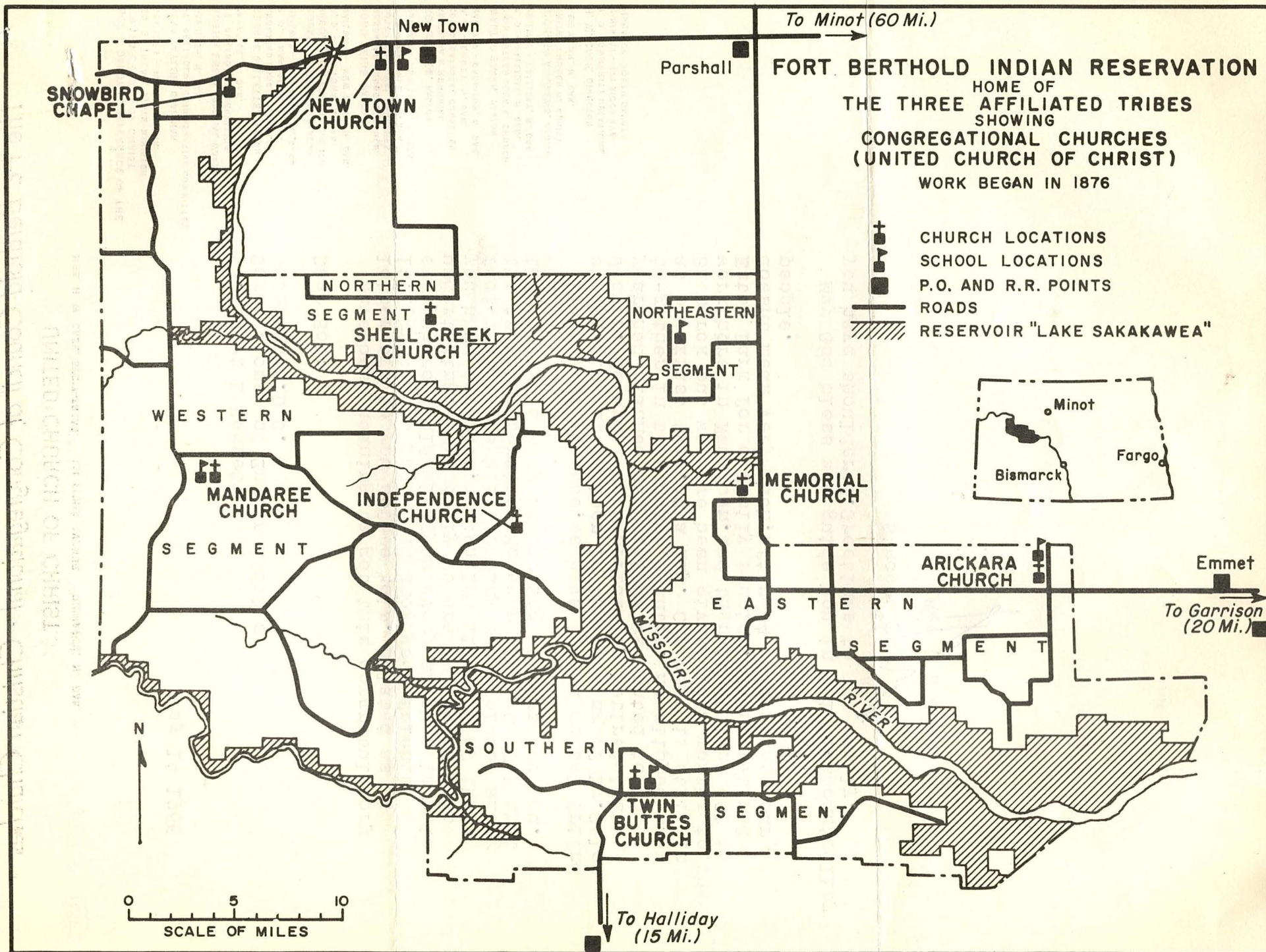
Have been meaning to get this congratulatory letter off to you before this. Belated as it is, I know that you would know your friends everywhere would wish you every success in this undertaking. Personally we are delighted that you have accepted, though I am mindful of the fact that there will be many rough places along the trail of service. However also mindful that there will be many supporting prayers for you.

Since your absence, we have lost a mutual friend of the highest caliber in the passing of Dr. Galen Weaver. He and I were officially retired last year, had planned many things we wanted to do together in the Indian country. He slipped away at breakfast time, of a day. Our home is still in Bismarck but we have been giving four months to the work here in New Town, and then it will be off to Estes Park for a family reunion. Being retired doesn't mean very much, after 44 years among our people.

May God bless and guide you in this responsibility you have shouldered. Greetings to the family.

Sincerely,

Rev H W Case



MAY 16 1966

100/100

109 Lathrop Hall
University of Alaska
College, Alaska
May 14, 1966

99735
MAY 18 10 43 AM '66
RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

100
The Tanana Chiefs would like to congratulate you on your new position with the Interior Department, and we all feel that the president made a good choice. We were especially pleased to hear of a change in the policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of letting the lower levels have more voice in the decisions of the bureau. Having once been at that level yourself i'm sure you realize the difficulty of reaching to the men in higher positions of the department.

Mr. Bennett, if there is anything that we as an organization can do to help you out with your new endeavors please feel free to notify me at any time.

Sincerely,

John C. Sackett

John C. Sackett, President
TANANA CHIEFS

SENECA NATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

25 MAIN STREET SALAMANCA, NEW YORK 14779
TELEPHONE SALAMANCA 407

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24 Penn Avenue
Salamanca, N.Y.
May 15, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

1 MB
I have been most pleased in your recent appointment as our new Commissioner. I extend heartiest congratulations. Little did I dream back in the days of 1929-31 that I was studying with the future Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Wonder what "WT" and Miss Hilton would have thought of the idea?

My own days with the Bureau extended only to seven years, resigning in Chicago during those hectic days of 1943. I believe quite a number of my friends are still in the Office in D. C. I was fortunate to be here to help with the problems of my people created by the construction of the Kinzua dam. Its been nothing but "dam" problems during the last seven years. However, I feel the Senecas are coming into a new and brighter future.

I was informed that you will be present at the ground breaking ceremony for the First Seneca Industrial Development scheduled for Friday, May 20th. I will most certainly be there and will hope to get re-acquainted with a former Haskellite, and classmate.

Again, my congratulations,

Sincerely

Merrill Bowen, Sr.

MAY 18 1966

100

Syracuse N.Y.
May 16, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Allow me to congratulate
you on your new field of service.

This I feel is in part an
answer to prayer.

100
A100
Your outstanding record of
achievements is very fitting to a
Leader of our people.

How long I have prayed to
God to point out one of our people
who has a love and understanding
of our problems and to be able
to lift us out of the situation.

I too am an Onieda Indian
of New York and although I have
received most of my education
among the white people, my main
concern has always been for
my people.

My line of interest for our
people has been and is their

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Spiritual development.

If these qualities are reconized, and given good guidance, It is my belief that our people will in turn see their need and will desire the best things for their lives and also their children.

Thanking you sincerely for your attention and may God Lead you with wisdom.

In Christ
Mrs. Margaret Wheelock

Proverbs 9:10



MAY 18 1966

100

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48903

GEORGE ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

May 16, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

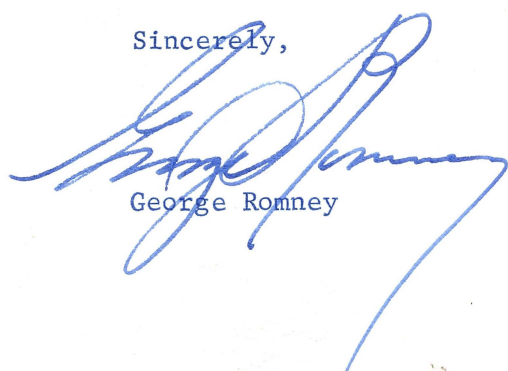
Congratulations on your appointment as the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I wish you every success in your new venture, and in your efforts to bring the Indian people back into the mainstream of American life.

We in the State of Michigan have long recognized the problems of Indian citizens, and in June of 1964, I appointed a Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs to study these problems. I am enclosing a copy of the Commission's report which was completed last December.

The 1965 session of the Legislature established a permanent Statutory Commission on Indian Affairs. The new Commission, which is being placed within the Department of Social Services, will serve to focus attention on Indian problems and will seek to coordinate the efforts of appropriate state agencies in dealing with these problems. I am also enclosing a copy of the press release announcing appointments to this new Indian Affairs Commission.

Again, I wish you all success in your new position and if I can be of any help to you in the future, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


George Romney

Encl.





SAINT AUGUSTINE'S CENTER
4718 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640

telephone - 728-6244

MAY 19 1966

101
1000912

REV. FATHER PETER J. POWELL, DIRECTOR

May 17, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett,

We join with a host of friends all over the country who send warmest congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As you may know, our casework program has been expanded during these past months through a grant from O.E.O. The enclosed annual report will give you an indication of the breadth of St. Augustine's work. The study of Federally relocated Indians in Chicago on page 22f will, I believe, be of specific interest to you.

Father Lindsey and I shall continue to remember you at Mass.

Cordially,

Father Peter Powell

Father Peter Powell
Director

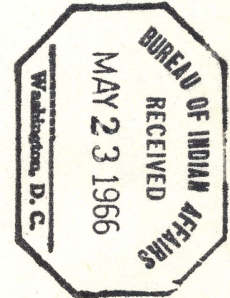
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MAY 23 1966

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Dayton, Montana
May 18, 1966



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

Dear Mr. Bennet:

Congratulations on your appointment to Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

During my employment at the Aberdeen Area Office, while you were assistant area director, I recall your practical interest in Indian problems. I have been noting with much interest the request for changes in solutions to a better life for the Indian people. I retired in August 1964 from the Aberdeen Area Office after 31 years of Indian Service. However, I would like to be considered for future short term employment on a non-competitive basis in this new program where my experience could best be used. 11

After returning to the Flathead, where I am a member, my interest in Indian affairs have been renewed from the observations I have made. I feel that my thinking during my years of service are more in accordance with the present administration than with prior ones.

100
It is my personal opinion that termination of the Flathead should again be considered. 11

Sincerely Yours,

Eugene L. Maillet
Eugene L. Maillet



northern section

CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - NORTHERN SECTION

4144 WINDING WAY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95841; TELE: 489-0107; 489-3819

May 20, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20042

Dear Mr. Bennett:

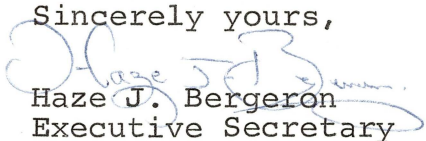
I have recently learned of your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs through the normal news channels and had intended to send along to you my congratulations.

Today, as I was being strapped into a barber chair here in Sacramento, I chanced out of one eye to view a TV panel show on which you were appearing and, so with deep feelings of nostalgia and some dint of Alaskan reflection, I am moved to offer my belated congratulations.

I was always most pleased with our working relationship while I was with the Alaska Education Association in Juneau and I had numerous occasions on which to reflect about your competencies as I viewed the now infamous debates between yourself and the vociferous Senator Peratrovich.

At any rate, accept my congratulations and convey my best wishes to your lovely wife.

Sincerely yours,


Haze J. Bergeron
Executive Secretary
CTA, Northern Section

hjb/pb

6700 Passmore Blvd.

Pico Rivera, Calif 90660

May 21, 1966

Mr. Frank Bennett
U.S. Department of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I was so glad to hear Dr. Henry Hedrick over the radio say you have been appointed to the post in regard to Indian Affairs which is as it should be, headed up by an Indian as you are familiar with the problems and have a real interest in them. It is a shameful thing that things have gone on as they have for so long. Now I feel we are beginning to get somewhere. God bless you and your people. We have to admire them for their patience and not resorting to violence as some are doing.

Sincerely yours
Gladys Schumacher

"With God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26

MAY 25 1966

May 21, 1966
5525 Oak St #16
Los Angeles, Calif
90042

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This is to congratulate you upon your
appointment as Head of the B. I. A.

I am not an Indian but have been
increasingly interested in the Indian American
and concerned over his plight.

May God give you wisdom and favour
in the tremendous task which lies ahead of you.
You are not alone in this undertaking. Even
as Moses was raised up to liberate his people
so may you be given Divine guidance and
strength.

Yours for the Indian American
Mable F. Filer

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MAY 25

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

MAY 27 1966
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WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 26 3 42 PM '66

Dear Commissioner:

It is with great pleasure that the officers, directors,
and members of AMERICAN INDIANS, INC. welcome you to your
new post. The appointment of an Indian and a man of your
reputation is both encouraging and satisfying.

100
The majority of our directors, myself included, are Indian
and sympathize with the monumental task before you. We hope
that your efforts, like ours, to assist the Indian people
in helping themselves, will eventually no longer be necce-
sary.

Perhaps we will be able to exchange views with you in the
near future. Again, may we wish you every success with
your new appointment.

Sincerely,



William J. Knockwood, President
American Indians, Inc.
22 Oakland Street

Newton, Massachusetts 02158

May 21st, 1966

Just For a Day

Oh Lord, if only for a day,
I can be really good,
Be always ready to obey
And do the things I should,
Just for a day.

I can be more like You,
Oh Lord, if only for a day,
If I can learn to walk Your way,
And do the things You'd do,
Just for a day.

Oh Lord, if only for a day,
I can take trials or fun
Or anything that comes, and say,
Not my will but Thine be done.
Just for a day.

Oh Lord, if only for a day,
I can do this. Oh then,
When each new morning comes, I'll
pray
For grace to persevere again,
Just for a day.

David
from

Sister M. Maria

Prayer for Grace

O my God and my All, in Thy goodness and mercy, grant that before I die I may regain all the graces which I have lost through my carelessness and folly.

Permit me to attain that degree of merit and perfection to which Thou dost desire to lead me, and which I have failed by my unfaithfulness to reach.

Mercifully grant also that others regain the graces which they have lost through my fault.

This I humbly beg through the merits of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Published with ecclesiastical approbation

CHRIST in CHRISTmas Activities
2620 N. 12th St., P. O. Box 3545
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin

AN ACT OF CONTRITION

Forgive me my sins, O Lord, forgive me my sins; the sins of my youth, the sins of my age, the sins of my soul, the sins of my body; my idle sins, my serious voluntary sins, the sins I know, the sins I do not know; the sins I have concealed so long, and which are now hidden from my memory.

I am truly sorry for every sin, mortal and venial, for all the sins of my childhood up to the present hour.

I know my sins have wounded Thy tender Heart, O my Savior, let me be freed from the bonds of evil through the most bitter passion of my Redeemer. Amen.

O my Jesus, forget and forgive what I have been. Amen.

PRESENTATION SISTERS
ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL
Bridgewater, South Dakota 57319

May 24, 1966

MAY 27 1966
100

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Last week I was delighted to see you on colored T.V.
We were visiting in a home and happened to see the program.

100 You probably don't remember me but I had David
in Grade five at Sacred Heart in Aberdeen. After that
year you went to Alaska and I often wished I had his
address and would love to have heard of his school days
in ^{the} far north.

He will be leaving here Sunday as I go on Retreat at
Presentation Heights - then ten weeks of summer school at
Northern. I hope to graduate August 12, after taking oaks
in July.

Mrs. Brown comes to see us each summer and has
said David wrote to Tom so I will certainly tell her

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of seeing you on T.V. I enjoyed the program but especially because I knew the answer before the others did!

My heart is with the Indian people and hope you are able to help them in your work there so they will get a fairer deal than they have in the past.

With prayers for you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister M. Moira

P.S.

Sister Gonzaga has already told me how interested she has been in your older boys, where are they now?

Sister taught one or more of them at Sacred Heart. She is teaching College at the Heights now.

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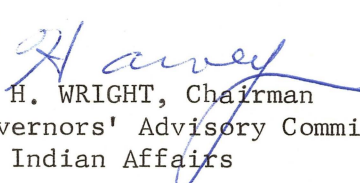
May 25, 1966

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

Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I know that you probably have one of the most difficult jobs in the Federal government. I do know that you have the necessary education, experience and training in the field of Indian Affairs to make the wheels go. I am merely writing this letter, Bob, to congratulate you, wish you well and to let you know that you can expect full cooperation from the State of Oregon in your effort to raise the social, educational and economical standards of our Indian people.

Sincerely yours,


A. H. WRIGHT, Chairman
Governors' Advisory Committee
on Indian Affairs

AHW:jh

Box 137
Concord, California

Dear Mr. Bennett

I take this opportunity of expressing my congratulations on your assignment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I'm sure you are deserving of the assignment and are capable of assisting the reservation Indians in finding his place in the White Man's Society.

With Thomas Tommings as Asst. of Haskell Institute I'm sure it was a most desirable assignment and with one who understands the Indians Educational Problems.

I'm sending you a booklet of my Meritorious Service Award from the General Services Administration.

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MAY 25 1 31 PM '66

It was a pleasant surprise after 28 years of service. I was with this agency only four years. Incidentally, some of the families from the Hoopa Reservation received these trailers.

I'm looking forward to meeting you Bob and I'm expecting better and more advantageous improvements for our blood brothers. If I can ever be of service would be honored at your request. I have my own ideas how the Reservation Indian can be prepared for his place in urban areas.

P.S. Give Fred Massey and the other H.I. Alumni my regard.
JG

Respectfully yours
Geo. J. Coffey
Seniors - Haskell Institute
Class of 37



BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

May 27, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

My hearty congratulations to you as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and good wishes for a new period of progress in American Indian independence at a pace which Indians are willing and able to accept.

Please send me any material which might be available regarding the proposed new Indian legislation intended to "unhobble" tribes in developing their own future.

Sincerely yours,

G. Shubert Frye
G. Shubert Frye
Associate for Indian Ministries

lm

cc: John C. Matthew

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18905 73rd Avenue N. E.
Bothell, Washington 98011
28 May 1966

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 31 9 45 AM '66

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Just as I was preparing to send you a reprint of my Bering Strait settlement and subsistence paper from Arctic Anthropology, I heard that you were leaving Alaska, and I did not want to send third class mail until I was sure of your new location. Now your address is no mystery.

I wish to congratulate you on your new position. I am sure that it will be a challenging job, and very time-consuming. I hope, however, that you won't be too tied up to see us briefly when we are in Washington between June 12 and 26. I shall be working on post-1900 manuscript material in the National Archives, and my husband is going to confer with the law firm handling the Cowlitz case, scheduled for October. This will be his fourteenth case as an expert witness, having appeared for more than thirty tribes. I would very much like you to meet each other.

I shall give your office a ring after we arrive in Washington. We probably will be staying variously at a hotel or with members of the Wilkinson, Cagun, and Barker firm, though the Weissbrodts' are handling the Cowlitz case.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Verne F. Ray

Mrs. Verne F. Ray

P. S. I'm sending the settlement paper under separate cover, as well as the Kauwerak article, as promised.

Mrs. Marie F. Ford

May 31, 1966

307 Edgewater Apts., Charleston, West Virginia 25301

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

Dear Sir:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your appointment and to wish you a most successful tenure of office.

The shameful manner in which your people have been treated by my people has always been a source of distress to me and I sincerely hope that you may be able to rectify much of it.

Very truly yours,

Marie F. Ford,