

JUN 6 1966

101-4000
A

Browning, Montana
June 2, 1966

JUN 6 11 46 AM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Commissioner:

Well I am writing to-day and was glad you took place of Mr. Nash, and now our Indian Reservation might chance since you took over the Office.

And I do hope you do lot for my Blackfeet tribe since you in the Office, and the Blackfeet Tribe they are against the stone wall for the ten years.

At one time the Blackfeet tribe are rich Indians and since we have the Wheeler Howard Act. the Blackfeet Tribe went down the hill.

And ever sine we have the bars in our town and some of men and women went to hell over drinking.

So while back the men they go out side the Reservation to work and now you can't get to work they wanted to do is to stay in bars and drink, and now you can't even the men to go out work to-day.

So the reason while I am writing to you so if could get the Blackfeet Tribe on their feet again.

And I have been in Washington D.C. about three or four time trying trying my tribe on their feet again.

Sincerely yours,

James White Calf & Son,

Mrs. George La Breche
512 South 27th Street
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

June 3, 1966

Dear Mr. Bennett;-

Just to express my pleasure of your appointment as administrator of the Indian Reservation., am sure the natives of the reservation will be tthrilled for they are your people. I think the reservation is such a beautiful place, I have always tried to go up there at least once a year in the Fall, the landscape with its colored leaves is so beautiful and of course the Wolf will always will be at Natures best. You know of course that your biggest problem will be liquor for what is the use of jobs if the money is spent for liquor and not improving their own conditions without help I am far from being a Carrie Nation but I can't see children suffer from the lack of food due to their drinking and coming home drunk and beating their children . I am sure they could get much more outside help if this condition did not exist. The milk program at the schools is the salvation of the younger children . One of the local Catholic churches take clothes up there to the St. Anthony Congregation Spring and Fall ,other towns do the same so clothes aren't a problem, the real problem is money for food and not liquor. I am not a Democrat but think President Johnson selecting your for this post is the best thing he has done since he has been in. After you get adjusted I wish you would go to the St. Anthony school at Neopit and talk to Sister Charles Marie, she is a wonderful person and very intelligent, she has been there for several years and is principal of the church school there, she is so loyal to the Indians and bet she would actually fight for any of them who were wrongfully accused of a misdemeanor . I was ucky enough to see you on the Ed Sullivan show in the audience and also on the "To Tell the Truth" program, to me you look as tho you can handle the problem up there well, I know who Philleo Nash is for we lived on the same street in Wisconsin Rapids Best of everything to you and your job and I hope I will live long enough to see a big improvement in conditions but don't commercialize enough to spoil its beauty.

very truly

Mrs. Bessie Albee Labreche
512 So. 27th.St.
Manitowoc, wisconsin

JUN 10 1966

100

2204 No. 38 Lane
Omaha, Neb. 68111
June 7, 1966

Friend Bob,

Just a few lines to
congratulate you on your
recent appointment. I am
an old school mate from
Haskell '34. I am from
Rosebud Sioux Reservation
left there in '42 worked
So. Dak
here for Fairmont Foods Co.
for 24 yrs. plan to retire
soon. Saw you + Mrs on T.V.
the other nite and looked
very good.

My wife Matilda Clifford
also attended Haskell '34
did your wife attend
Haskell?

My nephew Latis Valandra
is Tribal chairman at
Rosebud also sends his

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

JUN 10 10 43 AM '66

congratulation and would
like you up for a visit.

We all hope you success
and are behind you in
all your endeavors as
Commissioner.

Your Friend
Fred F. Valandria,



JUN 13 1966
100

Reginald and Gladys LAUBIN

• dancers and lecturers • featuring the arts of the american indian

ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 4, MOOSE, JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING:

83012

June 9, 1966

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUN 13 9 55 AM '66

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

Dear Bob:

It is a long time since we saw you at the NCAI meeting in Washington, when all of us "Indians" stayed in the old Iranian Embassy, owned by the League for Free Palestine, and prepared to set up ARROW. Although we haven't seen you since, it has been a pleasure to hear about you through friends and we have been interested in watching your advancement in the Indian Service.

It made our hearts sing to hear that you are now right at the top, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and we send our warm congratulations. We realize it is a tough and thankless job. Nevertheless our wishes are sincere and we "Sioux" have to hand it to you Iroquois, - for only Iroquois, so far, have ever been Commissioners, - Ely Parker, a Seneca, and now you, we are happy to say, - an Oneida.

We feel that we have been progressing too, when a young Indian leader, like Ada Deer, made the arrangements to bring us to the famous Tyrone Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. It was such a success that she and other Indian leaders invited us to present concerts of our Ancient Indian Dances, followed by seminars, at Wisconsin State University and Bemidji College in conjunction with Indian youth conferences. After our concert at the Indian symposium at Beloit College the anthropologists said we "brought glory to their department which spread through-out the entire campus." We especially enjoyed giving seminars, following concerts at Rice, Washington, Iowa State and Kansas State Universities, in art, music, dance, drama, anthropology, sociology, - even literature and architecture.

Every summer we present weekly concerts on Friday evenings at Jackson Lake Lodge in the Explorers Room and usually we have standing room only audiences. The only reason we continue with our programs is to help give a better picture of Indians, in contrast to the usual Wild West, rodeo and TV concept.

Incidentally, we just received a letter from our old friend

"ONE OF THE FINEST PROGRAMS I HAVE EVER BEEN PRIVILEGED TO ATTEND"

-- Walter Terry, Dance Editor, N.Y. Herald Tribune --

Bear Heart, who says he was a classmate of yours at Haskell. We met Bear Heart at the University of Oklahoma several years ago. The professors there told us that he was one of the most brilliant and intelligent students they ever had. He received his Master's degree in Education there. We understand he is now looking for a new position.

Our best wishes for continuing in your good work and on one of your field trips, if you get anywhere near Jackson Hole, we would be delighted to have you visit us at our home in Moose at the foot of the snowy Tetons. We are close to Wind River, Ft. Hall and other reservations. Indians often come to visit us. One time twenty-two Crow friends came to see us and they no sooner left than a family of Arapahos arrived.

Sincerely,

Reggie and Gladys
Reginald and Gladys Laubin

P.S.

Bear Heart's address is: Bear Heart
5655 Chaparral Road
Las Vegas, N. Mexico

"A PERFECTLY DELIGHTFUL EVENING"

-- John Martin, Dance Editor, The New York Times --

JUN 21 1966

100

JUN 21 9 41 AM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

342 Berkeley Pk. Blvd.
Berkeley, Calif.
June 15, 1966

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

To the Director:

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Hopefully you are the new Director although I have not been able to find out if your recommendation has been approved as final. If so please accept my very best wishes for your future work with our First Americans. This is the best news I have heard in years and I have new hope for our American Indians in many areas.

Yours truly,

Mrs Mary M. Holt
Mrs. Mary M. Holt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
FEDERAL REFORMATORY
EL RENO, OKLAHOMA

JUN 28 1966
157

June 27, 1966

JUN 28 2 09 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

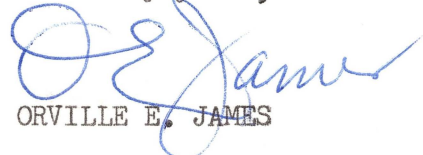
Dear Bob:

001
Just a note of congratulations to you from a couple of former Haskell students on your promotion. I attended Haskell 1930-32 (Commercial) and, of course, knew you as a Senior Commercial student while I was a Junior. My wife Mary (Marshall) did not graduate until 1936. It is unlikely that you would remember us, but if you think of it you might ask Dick Massey about us as we were with him out at Window Rock.

I have been with the Federal Prison Service since 1940 and am now stationed as an Associate Warden here at the Federal Reformatory in El Reno.

Rumors indicate that you may be in the Anadarko and El Reno areas during July. If this be true, I would enjoy visiting with you about the problems of our Indian People generally and more specifically about the welfare of the forty or so Indians in our institutional population who need assistance at the time of their release. You may enjoy visiting our Federal Reformatory here. If so, just let me know on institution phone (405) AN 2-4875 or my home phone (405) AN 2-1391.

Sincerely yours,


ORVILLE E. JAMES

OEJ:es

JUL 5 11 52 AM '66

June 28th
1966

Dear Mr. Bennett:-

I would like to congratulate
you on your recent appointment.

201
Your background indicates a
wise choice. The Indian people are indeed fortunate in acquiring leadership of such stature.

I hope that you will favor our
area with a visit in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

Eileen Brookman
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER

DR. RICHARD R. LETHERER

OPTOMETRIST

PHONE: 225-5534 — 205 CAPITOL BUILDING

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57401

July 14, 1966

Mr. Robert Bennett
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob,

Another congratulation letter is in order for you, but sent rather late.

They certainly know who to select for the top jobs in the B. I. A.

Sincere best wishes to you and your family from us Peons in South Dakota.

Sincerely yours,

Dick

RRL:ai

Richard Letherer, O.D.

Say Hi! To LBJ.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
c/o Choctaw Agency
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

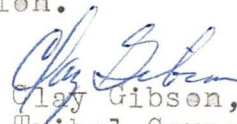
July 14, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians of Mississippi meet on July 12, 1966 in its regular meeting and passed a resolution of Appreciation to you for being the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs to honor us with a visit in May of 1966.

The Tribal Council authorized the Chairman, Mr. Clay Gibson who has been elected since your visit here to write this letter of appreciation.


Clay Gibson, Chairman
Tribal Council

cc: Mr. Virgil Harrington
Mr. James D. Hale
file

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented

to

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

for

being the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs to visit the Choctaw Agency and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians of Mississippi. The Commissioner addressed the Graduating Class of Choctaw Central on May 26, 1966 at the Choctaw Central High.

Clay Gibson

Clay Gibson, Chairman
Tribal Council
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Ind.
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Emmett York

Emmett York, Secretary
Tribal Council
Miss. Band of Choctaw Ind.
Phila., Mississippi

JUL 20 1966
100

2529 Chestnut Boulevard
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
July 17, 1966

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 20 10 16 AM '66

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

Dear Sir:

I read in an article in the AKRON BEACON JOURNAL that you have become head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I wish to congratulate you and hope you are more successful than your predecessors.

I am very interested in American Indians. It is my feeling that they have been neglected for too long. I correspond with a Jesuit priest who is at Red Cliff Indian Reservation in Red Cliff, Wisconsin.

Best of luck to you in your new job.

Very truly yours,

Fred J. Riccilli
Fred J. Riccilli

100
FJR:br

JUL 18 1966

100

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

JUL 18 10 39 AM '66

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of
Indian Affairs

Dear Sir:

We are so happy to see someone in office that is really interested in the affairs of the American Indians. We have always been interested and concerned because of the dishonest dealing the Govt. has dealt the Indian People. We are only part Blackfoot Indian, but we are most willing to do all possible to aid you in your efforts. Our prayers and our love is for you and yours - (What can we do to help you?)

Resp -
Mr. Mrs. Wayne Mannering
1105 Ann St. Independence
Missouri

ROBERT B. DUNCAN
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
AREA CODE 202- 225-6416

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mike
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
R. K. "MIKE" GRISWOLD

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 222A, POST OFFICE BUILDING
EUGENE, OREGON
AREA CODE 503: 342-5141, EXT. 375

July 21, 1966

AUG 12 1966

100
RKB

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior

Dear Mr. Bennett:

May I add my congratulations to the many others which have come your way upon your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Much work remains to be done in the field of Indian affairs and I am confident that under your leadership and through our joint efforts many desired accomplishments will be realized.

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUG 11 2 45 PM '66

Sincerely yours,

Bob Duncan

Robert B. Duncan
Member of Congress

RBD:rsc

Congressional

DeWitt
Gertrude McDaris Ruskin

Tall Timbers

2663 Fair Oaks Road

Decatur, Georgia

July 30, 1966

Princess Chewani
of the Cherokee
in North Carolina

Official Ambassador
of the Cherokee Nation
in Oklahoma

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. For many years I have worked to save Cherokee landmarks, to preserve the history and culture of this tribe of Indians. My work goes on constantly and I am completely dedicated to it.

Recently I was in charge of a gigantea tree-planting ceremony on the Capitol Grounds and am sending you a copy of the Congressional Record of May 25, 1966, which has to do with this event.

If I can be of any help to you in this part of the country, I would be honored to have you call upon me.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Chief W. W. Keeler and facts about the origination of the idea to get a Sequoyah Commemorative stamp issued. I have also asked for the support of Secretary Stewart Udall.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Chewani Ruskin
Gertrude Chewani Ruskin

Aug 3 2 23 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

AUG 16 1966
100

August 11, 1966

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

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUG 16 12 42 PM '66

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I was pleased to read a copy of the report you submitted to Senator Jackson of Washington, which was requested by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Your stated purposes and goals are commendable and I am eager for you to have the opportunity to enact these programs before we allow anyone else to enter the picture, such as the Partnership Exchange Program proposed by the Peace Corps.

Let me congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and for the honor of being designated "Indian of the Year". Best of luck to you in your new position.

With my cordial personal regards and very best wishes, I am

Yours most sincerely,

Julia Hansen
Julia Butler Hansen, M. C.

JBH:amc

100
Congressional

August 24, 1966

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

AUG 30 1966

100



1001
Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please accept my belated congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. You may remember me from Snyais where I was a teacher of English and later Girls Advisor at the Vocational School. At the present time I am with the Branch of Employment Assistance in Minneapolis in the capacity of Vocational Guidance Specialist, G.B.-11.

It has been a pleasure to learn of your advancements in recent years and I wish you the best of success in your new position as head of the Bureau. I know the Bureau is in good hands and am looking forward to better service to Indians and successful years ahead with you at the helm.

Sincerely yours,

Thelma M. Kohl

Mr. Herald

for reply

Mandan, N. Dakota

100-12th St. N. W

October 7, 1966

RMB

OCT 21 12 35 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Dear Mr. Bennett,

~~100 RMB~~
~~56~~ First of all, a belated congratulation on your appointment. Your life of dedication to the Indian problems are appreciated by this Indian. I hope and pray your term of office will be fruitful and fulfill many of your dreams.

Many of us also have dreams for the Indian race which will never be realized, but I feel should be expressed anyway. For instance, I believe that each reservation should have an old folks home or nursing home. It would not only help the old folks but provide employment for mothers and fathers and young girls for nurses aids, nurses, orderlies, cleaning women and janitors.

I believe that each reservation should have a "boarding" school for grades one through six to start them out on a solid foundation, bringing out their talents, teaching them discipline and how to get along with others. The drinking problem on every reservation is getting pretty terrific and hard on families with children. Getting them out of a bad environment would be a step forward in improving the situation. Concentrating on helping the little ones is good advice as the Bible predicts that "a child shall lead them", and we should heed it.

I believe that Indian children who are going to white schools should be given encouragement by helping them financially with their books and meal tickets. Also dental care is a help to their well-being.

I believe that in boarding schools white matrons should be eliminated. Too many are in there for the salary and not concentrating on being a second mother to the Indian students. I'm in favor of keeping on the dedicated ones - I'm sure there must be some.

In reference again to the Indian student in a white school. I have read in our papers about different counties receiving so much money from the Federal government because they have Indian students enrolled in their schools. Question - does it help the ^{"poor"} Indian student in paying for his books and meal tickets?

Last but not least, let's clean out corruption in all our tribal councils. God punishes the world with wars, etc because of the sins we do. How do the tribal councils expect success with their plans and projects when they have corruption in their government.

Again congratulations on your appointment even if you are an Oneida (my husband, also an Oneida hasn't let me hear the end of it.) Thank you again for taking the time to listen to my "gripes" and also suggestions.

God bless, protect and guide you in your work.

Pace Tecum,

Mrs. Edwin Schavandore

P.S. Do you know my brother, Carl Whitman Jr.?