

Dear Bob & Mrs. Bennett,

My thanks to you for helping make it easier for me to live through one of the greatest moments of my life. You kept it in a light mood for which I am lucky.

Not true of your better half however. Her first words were, "you're in for it!"

I appreciate having had the privilege of working with you and for you during my career in the B. I. A. I suppose it will weather these times and I hope the Indian people don't suffer too much because of them.

I credited you with a remarkable memory until I thought a bit and realized that our many mutual friends loaded you with many of your choice incidents that you recalled.

Like you said to us, Edna and I wish for you and Mrs. Bennett a long and happy retirement.

See you at the Spa! Sincerely
Luete.



THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This is to certify that

Mr. Robert L. Bennett

is a Founding Associate of this Society
and is entitled to all its privileges
of membership.

Date

1-1-70

Signed

Robert H. Fowler

President

The National Historical Society, with headquarters in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania,
is dedicated to stimulating interest in and preserving
the great heritage that is our American history.



KCET/WGBH

6922 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, California 90028

January 27, 1970

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank you so much for your appearance on the Jan. 25th "Advocates" show on the subject of federal policies on Indian affairs. We were very pleased by your articulate and experienced voice in testifying on behalf of my case for the continuation of the reservation system. Your comments were precisely to the point, and I felt you made them very well.

Again, thank you for all your help. May I remind you that we will be covering the expenses of your appearance--please send whatever receipts you have and we will be glad to see that they are covered.

Kindest personal regards--good luck at the University of New Mexico!

Sincerely,


Maxwell E. Greenberg

MEG/jw

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY



THE CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JUVENILE MURDERER

MARTIN A. FREY

CARS, CREDITORS, AND THE CODE:
THE DIVERSE INTERPRETATIONS OF SECTION 9-310

ARTHUR G. MURPHEY, JR.

NOTES

Tortious Inducement to Suicide: A Study of the Judicial Ostrich

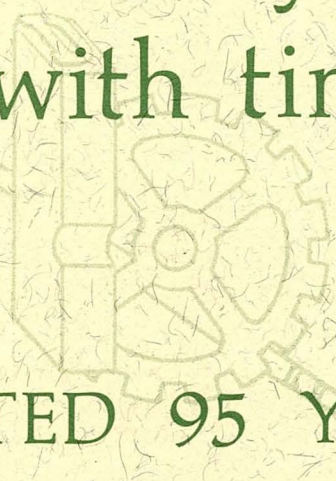
Gifts Under 2503(b): How to Value the Present Interest of an Income Beneficiary When the Trustee has Discretionary Investment Power

COMMENTS

BOOK REVIEW

Spring, 1970

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BOOK REVIEW

Custer Died for Your Sins. By Vine Deloria, Jr. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1969. Pp. 279. \$5.95.

Mr. Deloria has made an outstanding contribution with his writing to put the American Indian situation in perspective from an Indian point of view. All of us who are American Indians applaud this effort which brings into focus, as he indicates, what American Indians have been thinking or saying or both for a long time.

While Mr. Deloria dwells upon the apparent havoc wrought upon American Indian life by both governmental and private efforts, one must recognize also that these efforts provided an alternative for American Indian people when it was no longer possible for them to retain their institutions, for whatever reason. Neither should it be assumed from his descriptions that *everyone* acted from an ulterior motive, even though results of their actions may have been detrimental to American Indians as we now evaluate this period of history.

There are some areas which need further emphasis because I believe they had more of an impact on American Indians than one might gain from reading this work.

Demoralization did not take place to the same extent among the Tribes of the Southwest who were able to retain their estate in tribal status that it did among other tribes whose estate was divided among the individual members, which was an anathema to their very tribal existence. Tribes who retained their estate in tribal status have increased the size and value of their holdings while the opposite has been true of other Tribes. For this reason, one should not make comparisons between progress of different Indian peoples. Of course, the folly of the allotment system has since been documented.

Following the so-called Treaty period until the Merriam Report of 1928, which formed the basis for the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the entire effort of the Government with the popular support of the country, was "forced assimilation" of the American Indian people into the acceptable mold of that era. Mr. Deloria subscribes other motives but again the ideological concept was that we become one people—"their kind". Following the Indian Reorganization Act and since a change is taking place in this ideological concept, the American Indians are hopeful of finding their own destiny in a pluralistic society.

An even more important matter, in my opinion, is motivation of the American Indians for involvement in Indian affairs. Proponents of the community organization process quite often find themselves trapped in a situation where they have total involvement of American Indians without knowing precisely why the Indians are so involved. Not knowing, they quite often subscribe wrong motivations for this involvement. However, whatever their motivations are, they are the most logical in the minds of the involved American Indians. So, when you have an involved people, it is always helpful to know "why?"

The significant reason for lack of American Indian participation with the Blacks is one of difference in motivation. Blacks are motivated by their goal of equality while American Indians are not. American Indians feel that what they have as a people is better than what they would have as equals with the rest of society. Mr. Deloria refers to this as the "leave us alone" attitude of the American Indians.

There is considerable written about the young Indians who are emerging as leaders in the off-reservation areas. Because of customs and tradition, it will still be some time before this leadership is accepted to any great degree in the local Indian communities. How these young leaders conduct themselves will have a vital affect on their acceptance by the Indian community leadership. But, their impact cannot be minimized because the American Indian population is a very young population with 50% being under 17 years of age.

The effect of the 1968 Civil Rights Act on Indian Tribes will be serious and, in some areas, threaten the survival of Tribes. I agree with Mr. Deloria that civil rights are here to stay, but the implementation of the Civil Rights Act can either strengthen or destroy tribal governments. The threat is posed by eager civil rights enthusiasts who seek to impose upon tribal governments their own particular brand of civil rights without realizing the consequences of their action on tribalism. In many tribal situations, tribal interests or community interests transcend so-called individual civil rights to the extent necessary for tribal survival. This is acceptable to American Indians but not to some who are dedicated to save individuals from their Tribes.

I believe that Mr. Deloria should have written more detail about his recommended solution which, although having a great deal of merit, is oversimplified. After having written so many pages fixing blame, more should have been written about resolution of the problem by Indians. As an aside, it is recognized that fixing blame is everyone's "bag" these days. When I encountered this as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I

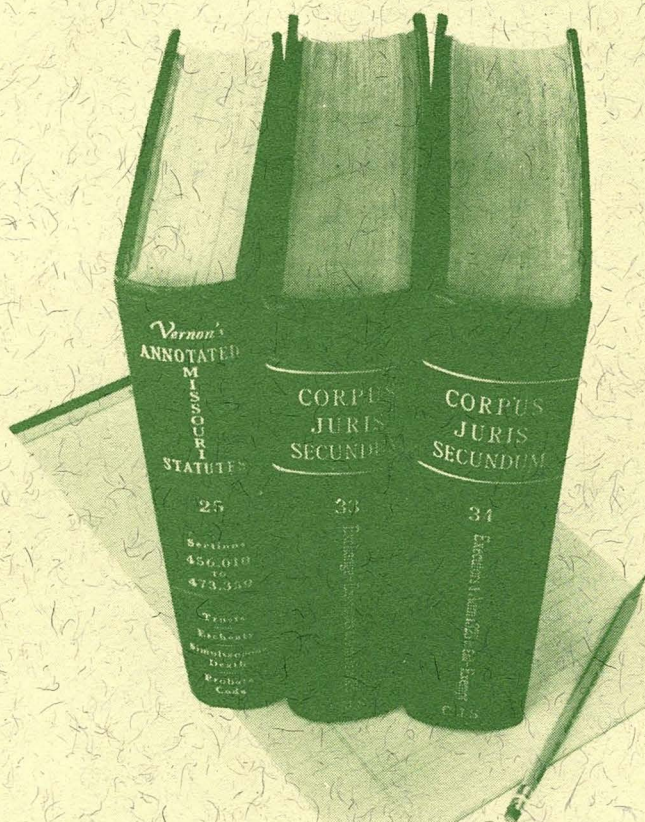
said, "O.K. I will take all of the blame. Now, where do we go from here?". This question was usually answered by silence. At least, Mr. Deloria does set a course and it may well be that he had in mind trying to establish an ideology for American Indians and did not wish this point to be diffused by bringing in details of methodology.

I recommend the reading of this book as a vital contribution to the contemporary national scene. I enjoyed Mr. Deloria's book very much as I have always enjoyed our discussions together. He remains my very good friend as well as my unconvinced critic.

Robert L. Bennett*

* Director, American Indian Law Center, University of New Mexico.

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WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Aberdeen Areal Employees Association provides the following:

"Any person who has retired from a position in the Aberdeen Area Office shall be eligible for Honorary Membership, without charge, provided he has been a member in good standing of the Association for three years immediately prior to retirement", and

WHEREAS, the distinguished recipient of this honor did not retire immediately following his three years in good standing, and

WHEREAS, said person went on to achieve the highest office any man (or woman) in the Bureau can achieve, as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, the employees of the Aberdeen Area Office hold in fond memory his presence among them, and

WHEREAS, he is a most outstanding alumni, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Aberdeen Areal Employees Association, by certified petition attached hereby declare Bob Bennett to be an Honorary Member of this Association for as long as the grass shall grow and the moon shall rise, the sun shall shine and the rivers shall flow, etc.

This resolution signed this 6th day of April, 1970, by the following employees:

(Post Scriptum: Honorary membership shall include all rights and privileges of membership for functions administered by the entertainment and sports committees.)

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John D. Brennan

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Charles L. Luskich

604 Wagon Train, S. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
July 9, 1970

Editor
The Albuquerque Tribune
701 Silver S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

I have been following your series on the American Indian with a great deal of interest. As the former Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I feel that a couple of things need to be said following your front-page editorial of July 8, 1970.

First of all, we who have worked in the Bureau of Indian Affairs accept our role as a visible target for all the human problems of the Indian people. There is no visible target for other groups of people in this country. It is a safe assumption that could the Bureau of Indian Affairs solve the human problems of the American Indians, with their ever changing goals, then we could solve the human problems of the world.

The Indian people do not want to be told what their problems are as they know what they are. They also would like to solve these problems themselves through their own leadership. They know they will need help in doing this but, for once, they would like to ask for this help and outline the conditions under which it should be given. It is accepted by the Indian people that they will continually be confronted with experts, who do not have the answer for the problems of their own society.

The Tribune plan for action is, of course, one that has been supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, by the Indian people and by me as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The plan has been opposed both continuously and vigorously by the Treasury Department and the Bureau of the Budget.

The effort to make more capital investment available to Indians supported very strongly by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, by the Indian people and by me as Commissioner of Indian Affairs has always been sabotaged by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs which has consistently attached an amendment to solve certain land problems of Indian people. This amendment is known to be obnoxious to the Indian people and the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The Indian people and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, therefore, refuse to accept the proposal of the Senate Committee, because the Indian people do not want to pay the price being exacted.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett



Robert Bennett



COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31902

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August 1970

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COUNTRY CAPTAIN
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USAIC, FT. BENNING. GA.
. . . Jim Woodruff, Jr.

INTRODUCTION. . . ROBERT L. BENNETT,
Director, American
Indian Law Center,
Law School, University
of New Mexico
. . . . Ridley Bell
Station Mgr.
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ENTERTAINMENT. . . FIRST AMERICANS
Fredye Marshall
Jack Jones

ROBERT DONNER, JR.
405 MINING EXCHANGE BUILDING
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80902

August 18, 1970

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Director
Indian Law Center
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Bob:

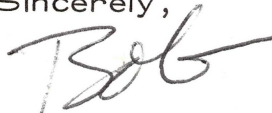
Enclosed are some snapshots taken in June when Joan and I attended the Albuquerque Pow-Wow with you. It was a visit that we enjoyed immensely and the pictures bring back many happy memories.

When you get a chance you might drop me a line and fill me in on any worthwhile projects which you have found. I hope we will have some good applications for the October meeting, and I would be delighted to visit any of them here in the West. I imagine the Sheridan affair was a lot of fun and I am wondering if you were able to attend the Gallup Pow-Wow.

A final report has come from the Four Corners Regional Rehabilitation Workshop Study, but I have not had a chance to go through it yet.

Joan joins me in sending our best regards to you and Mrs. Bennett.

Sincerely,



Robert Donner, Jr.

RDJr/dd
Encs.

6 Plainville Rd
80905

AROUND OUR POINT —

*People And Places***Indian Leader
Will Address
Students Here**

About 50 northern Wisconsin Indian youths, who spent the summer in an Upward Bound program at Stevens Point State University, will return to campus Saturday to hear from a member of their race who has become a nationally - recognized leader in Indian education.

M. Edward McGaa, assistant director of Indian education for the State of Minnesota, will speak at a 5 p.m. banquet in the DeBot Center.

Also at the reunion, which will last all day, will be group discussions on educational opportunities for Indians beyond high school and orientation for new members of Upward Bound.

Arrangements are being made by Miss Ada Deer and Ray DePerry, director and assistant director, respectively, of the University Program Recognizing Individual Determination through Education.

The students will be coming from the Wittenberg, Wisconsin Rapids, Green Bay, Ashland, Bayfield, Black River Falls, Hayward and Minocqua areas. They were at the university six weeks in part of June and July.

McGaa, who will also meet with the youths before his dinner speech, is a former legal specialist for the National Indian Leadership Training Program at Albuquerque, N. M. He served as a Marine fighter pilot in Vietnam and made 110 combat missions.

A native of the Pine Ridge Reservation, he is a 1960 graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and holds a law degree from the University of South Dakota.

A protector of Indian culture, McGaa has twice been pierced in the Sioux Sun Dance ceremony, a high honor accorded to few tribal members.

Stevens Point (Wis.) Daily Journal

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 1970

**Oneida Will Talk At SPSU
On Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

A Wisconsin native who rose to the top post in the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) during the Johnson Administration will speak Thursday, Dec. 10, in the public lecture and faculty seminar series at Stevens Point State University.

Former Commissioner Robert L. Bennett, an Oneida who was born on a reservation near Green Bay 58 years ago, will discuss the legal aspects of the BIA. His seminar will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and his lecture and question and answer session from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., both in the Mitchell Room of the University Center.

Bennett now is director of the American Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque.

After attending public and parochial schools in Wisconsin, he was graduated from the Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kan., and the Southeastern University School of Law.

Most of his adult life has been in service to the BIA both in the field and in administrative offices. He lost his commissionership four months after the Nixon Administration was operative. Before that, his work took him for assignments among the Ute in Utah, the Navaho in Arizona, the Dakotas in South Dakota, and the tribes of Alaska. During World War II he was in the U.S. Marine Corps,

**ROBERT BENNETT**

and after the truce he was in charge of training programs for Indian veterans.

Bennett is a consultant for the William H. Donner Foundation, Inc. of New York City and was instrumental in Stevens Point State's receipt of nearly \$30,000 grant last year to aid northern Wisconsin Indian youth.

He is a member of the board of Arrow, Inc., the National Advisory Council on Indian Youth, the American Legion, American Society for Public Administration, American Academy of Political and Social Science, American Association of Applied Anthropology and the National Congress of American Indians.

Married, he and his wife have six children.



INDIAN LEADER QUERIED

Robert Bennett, former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, answers questions at a press conference at the University Center here. (Staff Photo)

Militancy Not Working— Ex-Indian Commissioner

Militancy across the country is declining because it isn't bringing results, believes Robert Bennett, Albuquerque, N.M.

And that goes for Indian militancy, said Bennett, former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), who spoke at Stevens Point State University Thursday.

Bennett, himself an Oneida Indian who was born near Green Bay, said at a press conference that "Red Power" movements spring from urban Indian leadership and are not generally supported in Indian communities.

The takeover of the island of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay by Indians who said they wanted to use it for cultural and educational purposes was pooh-poohed by Bennett.

"I think Alcatraz serves to call attention to some of the Indian problems," said Bennett, "but the solutions will have to be found under our present political system."

Bennett, who was BIA commissioner for 3½ years, mostly in the Johnson administration, is now director of the American Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico.

At the press conference, a reporter for the university student newspaper, the Pointer, called the American Legion anti-Indian and asked Bennett why he belonged.

Bennett replied that he feels free to belong to any organization that he likes, whether he agrees fully with it or not. The Legion, he added, has supported several measures on behalf of Indians.

Another Pointer reporter asked whether the Indians could get a decent life without a revolution.

Indians are pretty badly outnumbered and would lose, replied Bennett, suggesting that this issue was settled a century or so ago.

He didn't mean just an Indian revolution, said the reporter, a general revolution.

There's still no assurance, said Bennett, that the Indians would be any better off after the revolution than before.

In answer to another question, Bennett said he didn't think the Bureau of Indian Affairs is perfect, but that Indians would get lost in the shuffle if its duties were transferred out of the Interior Department, as some have suggested, into the huge Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Replying to an Indian student at the university, he said the BIA could be abolished if the Indians wanted it that way. But they don't, he said, "because they know how to use the bureau."

The former commissioner said he sees the American Indian's biggest challenge today as preserving his culture amid

pressure from all sides. There was a time, he said, when everyone thought Indians should be assimilated into the white culture, but not anymore.

Federal "termination" of the Menominee Indian tribe in Wisconsin — putting it on its own — was definitely a short-range mistake, said Bennett. The long-range outcome, he added, is uncertain.

Bennett is not a Walter Hickel fan. He said he disagreed with Hickel's views on disposition of federal land in Alaska, contending the former interior secretary's plan would not have protected the Alaskan natives.

And he said Hickel was fired for political reasons — in the western states, where the Interior Department is a powerful factor, the Republicans suffered heavy losses in November.