

INDIAN TRUTH

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Founded December 15, 1882, by Herbert Welsh, Henry S. Pancoast, and others

Eighty-four years' non-partisan work for Indian civilization and citizenship

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and *Editor Indian Truth*

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THE TIME OF DECISION

ROBERT L. BENNETT*

What I would like to talk to you about for a little while this evening is the fact that there is a tremendous change going on in attitudes in this country about people. It kicked off with the Negroes in the South and as this change is coming about it is sweeping up the Puerto Ricans, the Spanish Americans, and will also sweep up into its vortex the Indian people. It is not conceivable that this tremendous force which has been brought to play in this country is going to stop when it reaches the reservation boundaries. So then we will all be swept up into this fervor which everybody has that every one in this country should be treated as equal. This of course means tremendous change in our attitude and relationship with the Indian people, and it puts responsibilities upon those of us and those of you who have responsibilities or work with Indian people to prepare for this day which is descending upon them.

Confidence in Indians

I took the job of Commissioner of Indian Affairs because of my faith and confidence that the Indian people can meet this change and I hope to provide them with the kind of leadership which will be helpful to them. It means placing upon Indian people high expectations. For many on the reservations this will be a new experience because generally high expectations have not been placed on them. However, it has been my experience when-

(Continued on Page 2)

(Address of Mr. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, somewhat abridged, as recorded at the Eighty-third Annual Meeting of the Indian Rights Association, April 26, 1966.)

THE PRESIDENTS' REMARKS AT BENNETT'S INDUCTION*

One of the hardest tasks that a President has is to find the right man for the right job at the right time, but when he succeeds, it is a source of great pride and satisfaction to him. I feel that pride and that satisfaction as we meet here in the historic East Room this morning . . .

My pleasure is redoubled by the fact that we have found this man from the ranks of our own Federal career civil servants. I may be a little partial to those who have served their country with diligence and dedication through the years, but I am in the process every day of ferreting out from the millions of people who serve their Government faithfully those who merit promotion and who deserve advancement.

I started out back in the early 1930's. I have been with the Government now 35 years. I may not have deserved all the promotions I have received, but you can't say that I haven't been promoted from time to time. I recognize it, I appreciate it, and I am grateful for the system that would permit it . . .

161 years have passed since that great President Thomas Jefferson charged his countrymen to treat the original inhabitants of our country "with the commiseration that history requires." President Jefferson pointed out that our European ancestors found the American Indian "occupying a country which left them no desire but to be undisturbed." That desire was thrust aside by history and Thomas Jefferson's pleas were ignored . . .

(Continued on Page 5)

* (Remarks, slightly abridged, of President Johnson at the Swearing-In of Commissioner Bennett, April 27 in the East Room of the White House.)

Bennett—

even this has been done that they have responded and I think the higher the expectations placed on them the greater will be their response. And in so doing they face the responsibility for the decisions of their everyday life and they will live with the consequences of those decisions . . .

I believe that there is ample opportunity administratively to give the Indian people the opportunity to make these decisions without placing them or their property in any jeopardy. It is one of the things that we want to work on first . . .

If it becomes necessary we have the opportunity to go to Congress also and ask for new laws and new legislation to provide Indian people with this opportunity.—The opportunity to have development of their resources, the opportunity to have a return from the resources all the while and at the same time giving the Indian people opportunity for growth and development in management.

There has been a tendency, I believe, to be too restrictive and possibly too conservative, to conserve for conservation's sake alone, without enough emphasis on the returns for the owners of the resources. We need to expand the opportunity to participate in the business community through long term leasing, and possibly means by which they can secure capital themselves to develop their resources rather than to have to depend upon long term development leases which bring very little return to the owners of this property.

Of course we have heard for many years about the heirship problem involving the allotted land of Indian people. I feel that one of the reasons why the problem has not been solved is because there has been an attempt to come up with one law solving the (heirship) problem which is satisfactory to everyone. I feel that this is an impossibility and I hope that we can work on a law which will give several alternatives for settling the problem and give the Indian tribes an opportunity to select that alternative which they wish to apply to their particular reservation . . .

Indian Claims Awards

One of the very serious matters for discussion now is the funds which are being paid by the government to Indian tribes in settlement of claims awards. Generally, these have followed a somewhat similar pattern with the general

legislation being the authorization of the use of these funds for any purpose desired by the Indian tribe and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. I feel that these authorizations have been too restrictive. I feel that there needs to be opportunity to get this money into the business community rather than have it repose in the treasury to draw interest at 4%. The reason I feel this way is so that they will have the opportunity to earn more money, that the availability of dividends from investment of this money will slow down the thrust of off-reservation Indians for per capita payments and for termination of the reservation . . . I certainly feel that having this money out in a local banking institution or investment house will give the Indian people a sense of pride and sense of belonging which they don't have when their money is retained by the government in the Federal treasury subject to withdrawal only upon the approval of some official of government. The availability of this money in the business community will make other funds accessible to Indian people for developmental purposes . . .

Accent on Education

In the field of education we are hopeful of bringing to the education program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs an outstanding educator. We are in our reorganization process upgrading the education program so that it will be headed by an assistant commissioner. Education and related activities amount to about 80% of our program, and all of the increases of funds that you read about and the increases in personnel are primarily for the building of schools and for the hiring of teachers and for other education-related personnel. We anticipate having to make schools available for seven thousand additional high school students by 1970 on the Navajo Reservation. This is the result of the accelerated elementary school construction program primarily on the Navajo Reservation and in Alaska. We still have high school children out of school in the state of Alaska. The rest accounts for about 20% of the funds and personnel in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Now as the Indian people face the future—this of course is to many of them a new experience—they're going to have to be brought face-to-face with reality, face-to-face confrontation with their neighbors in the counties and states in which they live. It is with

them that they must cast their lot, particularly as they begin to register to vote and take part in local politics. It is pleasant to note that for the first time we have Navajo people in the New Mexico state legislature and we have Indian people running for the state legislature of Arizona and I think these are giant steps forward. And this is termination, but it is termination in the way that we would like to see it.

I was amused recently because the small village of Tyonek in Alaska came into some funds and wanted to build an office building at Anchorage to lease to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They ran into some zoning ordinances in the City of Anchorage, Alaska. The village put a little pressure on the city fathers and got the ordinance changed so they could build the office building on the property they had acquired. And I was amused when one of the city fathers was quoted in the paper claiming that he didn't like to see the people using their economic power for political advantage.

So these are indications that Indian people are really coming into their own. I think they can face the future with confidence. Any argument about whether a person is for or against termination is really academic because every day, practically, we have Indian people who are terminating themselves in the best sense of the word, by getting college education, vocational training, getting good jobs, getting employment. This is the kind of termination we would like to see more of.

Wide Variety of Situations

There isn't any question but that the situation on many Indian reservations is such that it will be many, many years before their special relationship with the Federal government will be ended. I anticipate that as they face the future with confidence, with hope and with the full development of their capabilities that the time will come when Indian groups will be asking that this relationship be ended. I think there are many ways that this can be approached. Certainly, I don't think it's possible that the development of the resources and abilities to manage their resources, their ability to provide services and things of this kind can all come together at a given point and time. I believe that if the Indian people are fully capable of managing their own resources that they should have this opportunity, but if they are not capable or if the local and state subdivisions are not capable of provid-

ing all the services of education, health, etc., that these should be continued. Because of the laws that have been passed in the last two or three years, if you would analyze them, actually the non-Indians now are getting more services than the Indians. The National policy having been set, the Indian people should be able to participate as beneficiaries of this service many, many years probably after they take over the full responsibility for management of their own property and the management of their own affairs.

I might mention in our education problem there are two things that have come about that makes it very difficult for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to operate schools. One is this question that I mentioned earlier of integration and segregation. No matter how you try to explain it, we do operate segregated schools. This, of course, is becoming repugnant to the American people and to the National policy. We may have all kinds of reasons for doing it; isolation, special education problems, etc., which require us to operate these schools and we will probably continue to operate many schools for many years. The percentage and the number of Indian children in public schools is growing. We have felt that we could operate the education program because of special need of the Indian children and the inability of the local public schools to provide for their special needs. However, the local public school districts now have the opportunity through the Aid to Public Schools passed in 1965, and many school districts are going to receive millions of dollars, for special needs of impoverished children which in the Indian country are Indian children. So the local public schools now have the resources, if they will, to meet special needs of Indian children . . .

These are just capsules of some of the thinking which is now going on in Indian Affairs and has been inspired quite a bit by the comments and the attitudes of the Indian people themselves.

Robert A. Locke Declines Reelection

At the Annual Meeting, Leo T. Connor, on behalf of the Board of Directors, expressed appreciation for Mr. Locke's services, as follows:

It will soon be 50 years since the Incorporation of our Association. In this half century, we have been blessed

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with giants for our Presidents.

Herbert Welsh was our first President upon incorporation and served until 1927.

He was succeeded by Charles J. Rhoads who served until 1929 when President Hoover snatched him from our midst to make him his Commissioner of Indian Affairs. At that point, our late revered Jonathan M. Steere was elected to fill the position, and for the next 29 years, he guided the destinies of our Association with outstanding wisdom, courage and honor.

His death in 1958 shocked us to our roots.

But another giant quickly arose to fill the breach in the person of Robert A. Locke.

As announced, Mr. Locke has declined the nomination to serve another term. It is my happy task now to represent the Board in expressing our thanks to Mr. Locke as he relinquishes the reins of office.

During his 8 terms, Mr. Locke has served the Association with consummate skill and fidelity. All of us who served on the Board with him will attest to our constant admiration of his extraordinary ability. He brought to his position a most pleasant personality—identified by an ever-twinkling eye and an infectious smile—But he has also brought with him to his office the executive qualities necessary and appropriate to keep any organization at a high level of proficiency. And it goes without saying that he also brought to his office an ardent dedication and an energetic enthusiasm for the causes espoused by our Association.

By his extraordinary sense of—

what I call balance, he seemed very nimbly to offset not only conflicting view-points but also the conflicting personalities which fostered them. In a word, he created a consensus among contenders.

Moreover, Mr. Locke possessed in a remarkable degree a depth of perception coupled with a breadth of vision. The twin hallmarks of a fine executive! Mr. Locke was reluctant to reach decisions until all the facts were in, but once in, he had an uncanny facility in piercing them to the heart of the matter. And once the lines were drawn, he became a champion advocate for whatever proposition the facts dictated.

At our Board Meetings, Mr. Locke always presided with the dignity and grace that so significantly characterized his illustrious predecessors.

As our President, he was our official and chief spokesman. On his many trips to Washington he always conducted himself in a manner to bring great credit to our Association.

I could go on—for a long time.

But what I am trying to say is that we, the Officers and Board Members who have served with him through the years have had a genuine affection, a deep respect and a tremendous admiration for our retiring President. His departure from the Chair will result in (what we lawyers call) "irreparable damage" to the Association. We are thankful that he continues on the Board of Directors.

Our expression may be feeble and trite, but our sentiments are nevertheless very warm and most sincere. All the Board join me in saying:

A Million Thanks, Bob!

At Annual Meeting — (l to r) Jonathan M. Steere, Jr., Leo T. Connor, Commissioner Bennett, Robert A. Locke, Lawrence E. Lindley.

Hetzl Photo



The Presidents'—

In 1966, the year that is known as the most prosperous year that the United States of America ever enjoyed, Indians on reservations this year have the lowest standard of living in the entire United States.

I was observing some figures upstairs. I am going to deviate just a moment because it may be interesting to some of those who hear this argument about spending all the time . . . We could stand some of the upping in Indian housing, because I observed that a certain type of worker in this country, the industry he is in, gets a subsidy, and the amount of the total subsidy amounts to \$6500 per year per worker.

I observed the subsidy that we grant on loans. Some of them are 2 percent, some of them 3 percent, some of them 3½ percent, below the prime rate of 5½ percent . . .

I noticed some of our irrigation and reclamation amounts as high as \$6,000 or \$7,000 per family, \$100,000 sometimes on one farm.

I noticed the payments we had made over a period of years that were in the form of supplements. We are debating a very serious matter in the Senate today involving \$11 million, or \$600 for a poor family. We can send a man a farm check in certain areas of the country for \$180,000 for one farm, yet we really get worked up about a \$600 subsidy for a poor man who has already paid a fourth of his income for housing in one of our substandard housing areas.

On most of the reservations in this country, 90 percent of our Indians do not today have decent housing in the year of our greatest prosperity. If we can't do it now, when can we do it? On some reservations, large Indian families have annual incomes of less than \$2,000 per year. Indian family income today is less than one-quarter of the national average for the whole country. That is something we ought to be concerned about.

The reason we have this little swearing-in ceremony this morning is not only to honor Mr. Bennett, but to let the country know some of these facts. If the President won't tell the country, and you won't tell the country and Congress, well, we can't do anything about this 90 percent substandard housing and about incomes under \$2,000 a year.

Commissioner Bennett, your President thinks the time has come to put

the first Americans first on our agenda. We are going to give you that job this morning as soon as you are sworn in. From this hour forward, we are going to look to you to discharge that responsibility. I want you to put on your hat and go back over there to that Bureau and begin work today on the most comprehensive program for the advancement of the Indians that the Government of the United States has ever considered. I want it to be sound, realistic, progressive, venturesome, and farsighted.

I want the Secretary of the Interior to support you. I want Senator Anderson and Senator Jackson and the Members of the Congress here to pick that up and let's write it into the laws of this land so we can remove the blush of shame that comes to our cheeks when we look at what we have done to the first Americans in this country.

I want, during my Administration, the time that I am allotted, to put an end to substandard housing and to substandard programs. I am going to depend on you to tell me what needs to be done not only by your Bureau, but by the other Departments and agencies in this Government. I want to give you my pledge here this morning that if you fulfill this charge, you will have the full power of the institution of the Presidency of the United States behind you.

Leo T. Connor, Esq. Chosen to Head Association

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on May 4 (first after Annual Meeting) Leo T. Connor, Esquire, was elected President.

As a very young man Mr. Connor was elected to the Board of Directors in 1948. In years of service he is one of the senior members of the Board. He has taken an active part in all phases of the work of the Association and particularly in legal matters.

He has represented the Association on many occasions including testimony before committees of Congress, at annual meetings of the Indian Committee of the Federal Bar Association, at Governors' conferences of states having sizable Indian populations and at meetings of the Council on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Connor brings to the Association a keen and analytic mind, balanced judgment, warm understanding of human needs and a fine spirit of dedication.

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Appropriations for services to Indians provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and through the Division of Indian Health of the Public Health Health Service as passed by the House and the Senate are shown in the table below:

1966 Appropriation	1967 Budget Recommendation	1967 House Allowance	As Passed By Congress
	<i>Education and Welfare Services</i>		
\$107,048,000	\$115,296,000	\$114,475,000	\$115,061,300
	<i>Resources Management</i>		
43,365,000	44,611,000	44,086,000	44,886,000
	<i>Construction</i>		
35,151,000	57,164,000	55,325,000	56,848,000
	<i>Road Construction</i>		
17,445,000	16,754,000	16,754,000	16,889,000
	<i>General Administrative Expense</i>		
4,623,000	4,677,000	4,623,000	4,623,000
	<i>Indian Health Activities</i>		
67,191,000	73,448,000	73,448,000	73,671,000
	<i>Construction of Indian Health Facilities</i>		
14,096,000	14,422,000	13,000,000	13,928,000
	<i>Indian Claims Commission</i>		
347,000	438,000	382,000	382,000

A Reminder of Our Obligations

(Extracts from the address of Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs at the dedication of the Seneca Nation's new community building at Jimerstown, New York.)

Whenever it is my privilege to participate in a ceremony of this kind, I like to remind the people that the building—no matter how beautiful it may be—is only a physical structure. What is truly important is not its beauty nor the facilities it contains—but the use that is made of the building and the facilities.

Hence today, we should dedicate your new building to the service that will be rendered through it to the people of the Seneca Nation—service that will contribute to the further advancement of a great and proud people.

I am told that in the days gone by the Seneca, along with the other tribes of the Six Nations, held their councils in the Long House. Here the great questions of the day were threshed out and the elders of the tribe gave counsel. The Long House meant security and survival for the tribe, the place which served the tribe as the capital of a modern nation serves its people.

Today we see before us a fine new community building which will serve the Seneca of the Space Age as the Long House served the ancestors in

the past. Here in this new building there is a council chamber where the elders of the tribe may again give counsel as in days gone by. There is secondly a fine new cafeteria and kitchen which recall the feasts of long ago when the hunters returned laden with the spoils of the chase and the women brought the vegetable foods—corn, beans and squash—for the festival observances. Thirdly, there is an arts and crafts room where the traditional folk art of the Seneca craftsmen will be on display to remind the present generation of visitors and friends of the skills and genius of the tribe in making objects which honor the tribal achievement and its great chiefs...

One of the most impressive of the ancient rituals of the Seneca involved the rites of thanksgiving and rejoicing for the many benefits received by the Indians from the Great Spirit. In the spirit of thanksgiving almost all public festivals were conducted.

Let us today approach the new community house which has been built here in the same spirit of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the good gifts which have been showered upon mankind by the Creator. . .

You are taking steps today that can lead you into the mainstream of our economic life. This is not true of many of our Tribes who have not fared as well as you . . .

Let us hope a new and bright day is dawning for our first Americans—

that they all now will have the opportunity to enjoy a good life.

I believe that day has dawned for the Seneca Nation.

Mr. Haley referred to some of the industrial projects that are being planned for the Seneca Nation and to the economic benefits that are expected to be derived from them. He continued:

You are to be commended for the work that is being done through the Seneca Nation Educational Foundation. The investment of \$1.8 million you have made in this fund will reap substantial benefits for you in the education of your young people. The fact that you are now contributing directly to the college education of 62 Seneca students—40 attending colleges in New York State and 22 attending out of state schools—speaks well for this program. In addition to the college program, you have employed two part-time Guidance Counselors and sponsored a neighborhood youth program. You are wise to devote such attention to the education of your youth . . .

These are some of the many things you are doing for the further advancement of your people . . .

Let this new community building serve, then to remind the Senecas of their obligations to the cause of their forefathers, the security and maintenance of their homes and firesides for all future generations. We have in this structure a splendid opportunity to pass on to the younger generation the feelings of pride and thankfulness in being members of the Seneca tribe.

Association Supports Taos Pueblo Claim To Sacred Blue Lake Area

At its regular Board Meeting on May 4 it was unanimously voted that the "Association give its full support to the Indians of the Taos Pueblo in their efforts to secure the sacred Blue Lake area to themselves by trust title held for them by the Federal Government."

On May 18 Dr. Theodore B. Hetzel testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs for Indian Rights Association, the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Indian Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, in support of S. 3085 which would restore to the Taos Pueblo the

Blue Lake and about 50,000 acres of surrounding land.

As Dr. Hetzel said in introducing his testimony the Indian Rights Association "is concerned that Indians receive justice, rather than merely compensation for injustice." The body of Dr. Hetzel's testimony follows:

Religious Freedom Is The Issue

I have visited Taos Pueblo at least six times. In 1959 I spent all of a morning with the Governor and seven members of the pueblo council, at which time they explained to me the importance of the Blue Lake area to them, and I have talked with other Taos Indians on other occasions. I have no doubt about the fact that the ownership and control of the land described in S. 3085 is of supreme importance to the people of Taos Pueblo, and that this is a matter of the freedom of American citizens to worship God in their traditional way.

Severino Martinez, then the spokesman for the Council, told me through an interpreter: The Blue Lake "is like a dish, nourishing all this area. It was created by our creator. It is the heart of the life of the people of Taos." When the pueblo acquiesced to Federal assumption of title, it was the Indians' understanding that it was for the protection of the land and its resources, and not for absolute Federal control. As long as the use of the area is under the control of others than the Taos Indians, then their religious freedom can be infringed, as it has been in the past.

The Indian Claims Commission has ruled that the Blue Lake Area belongs to Taos Pueblo. Fortunately, no one else is in adverse possession or occupancy of the land. Fortunately also, no money payment for these approximately 50,000 acres is involved; it is simply the restitution of rightful ownership to the land. The restoration of this area to the Indians of Taos will be of inestimable importance to them, economically, socially, psychologically. But the most important reason for favorable action on S. 3085 is that this is a sacred religious area, it is land that Taos Indians have used from immemorial for religious purposes. Our forebears crossed the ocean to achieve religious freedom; let us not deny it to those who were already here.

Unviolated Nature Refreshes Our Spirits Too

It is wonderful to visit our National Parks and to think that all this beauty



Hetzel Photo

(l to r) Commissioner Bennett, Paul Bernal (Interpereter), John Reyna, Governor, Senator Anderson, Secretary Udall, Serverino Martinez, Former Governor.

belongs to us. But it is more important to our welfare and to that of posterity to realize that we belong to America as well as that America belongs to us. The Taos Indians know that they belong to this land, and the land belongs to them. To take the land from them would not only injure them economically and spiritually, it would injure the moral climate of the entire United States.

In "The Quiet Crisis," Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall writes: "In recent decades we have slowly come back to some of the truths that the Indians knew from the beginning: that unborn generations have a claim on the land equal to our own; that men need to learn from nature, to keep an ear to the earth, and to replenish their spirits in frequent contacts with animals and wild land. And most im-

portant of all, we are recovering a sense of reverence for the land."

Senator Clinton P. Anderson has said: "Wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich Nation, tending to our resources as we should—not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water."

President Johnson said recently on the subject of our relations with Indians: "Americans feel so deeply their responsibilities for old wrongs" . . . "their willingness to help so often outstrips their understanding of what will be helpful."

In this case it is perfectly clear what should be done in order to be helpful. S. 3085 should be passed.

INDIAN TRUTH

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THE INDIAN
RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
1505 RACE STREET
PHILADELPHIA 2

June 1st, 1966

JUN 6 1966
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Mr Robert LaFollette Bennett;

It was a great pleasure to hear of your appointment as U.S. Indian Commissioner.

We have been so interested for years in the Indian situation, and trust they will be in good hands now.

My Father taught the Cree Indians in Lac La Ronge Canada, and enjoyed his work and the many fine friends he made.

and we also have been interested in all tribes especially, the Arizona Indians, we wish you all success in your new work and trust it will be beneficial to all concerned.

Very Sincerely Yours

(Mrs) Florence Packer

Florence Packer

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JUN 6 1966

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IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE
PERFORMANCE WILL BE PRESENTED
JUNE SECOND.

request the honor of your presence, at
A Drama of Authentic Dances and Chants
of Indian America
on Wednesday evening, June first
at eight-thirty o'clock
Carter Barron Amphitheatre

R.L.W.P.
343-2136

This invitation is not transferable

Black Tie

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee on Indian Law

The Committee on Indian Law and the Montana Chapter sponsored a National Seminar on Indian Law on May 21 in the courtroom of the New Federal Building, Billings, Montana. Among the 242 attending the seminar were *Willard E. Fraser*, Mayor of Billings, *Dr. Lawrence Small*, Acting President of the Rocky Mountain College of Billings, *Roy F. Allan* and *Z. Simpson Cox*, Vice Presidents of the Indian Law Committee and the several chairmen of the Indian Tribal Councils and their attorneys.

The presentation originally to have been made by *Hon. Stanley M. Doyle*,

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Montana, was made by *Freda Beazley* of the Governor's office, Helena, Montana, since Justice Doyle was ill. *Hon. William J. Jameson*, Federal District Judge, was able to return from the judicial conference in Washington, D. C. in time to deliver an outstanding address.

A banquet was held in the evening where an outstanding Indian dance by Crow Tribal Indians led by *Dan Old Elk* entertained the guests. After a talk by Miss Indian America, *Marcele Sharron Ahtone*, *Hon. Robert L. Bennett*, newly appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, delivered a speech about the



Some of the many speakers and participants at the National Seminar on Indian Law held at Billings, Montana, on May 21 under the sponsorship of the Indian Law Committee (L-R): First Row, Mrs. Freda Beazley of Governor Babcock's office who read the paper of Associate Justice of the Montana Supreme Court Stanley M. Doyle who was ill; Judge William J. Jameson, U.S. District Court; Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Samuel J. Flickinger, Indian Law Committee Chairman and Seminar Moderator, Miss Frances Elge, Probate Judge; and Second Row, John M. Schlitz, Billings attorney; Earl Boyd Pierce, Attorney for the Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma; Charles Luedke, Billings attorney; Roy F. Allan, Seminar Honorary Chairman; Richmond Allan, Associate Solicitor, Indian Affairs, Department of Interior; Moody Brickett, U.S. Attorney, Butte, Montana; Rex Hibbs, Billings attorney; Alvin E. Bielefeld, Field Solicitor, Department of Interior, Billings; Edward L. Meredith, Attorney, Solicitor's Office, Billings; and Richard McDermott, Land Officer, Indian Bureau, Crow Reservation.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

July 11, 1966

Dear Senator Jackson:

It is my pleasure to furnish the attached report to you as requested in Executive Report No. 1 from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs accompanying my nomination as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Committee asked that it be advised within 90 days following confirmation last April 13th the steps taken to begin to meet the problems outlined in the Senate report. As requested by the Committee periodic progress reports to the Committees of Congress will be made.

Your comments will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclsoure

INTRODUCTION

I agree with the conclusions of the Senate Committee report, that Americans of Indian birth should not be denied the equal opportunities open to all in a free society, that they should be freed from unnecessary bureaucratic entanglements and outdated concepts, and allowed to take their place in our national life.

It is my intention to meet the challenges of the unresolved Indian problems outlined in the Committee report. The support of the entire Executive Department of the Federal Government toward this end was pledged by the President in his stimulating remarks at my swearing-in ceremony, which was attended by some members of your Committee.

I am far more interested in promoting constructive action than in recriminations over the responsibility for past actions, and it will be the major goal of the Indian Bureau under my leadership to initiate new ideas and programs that will, hopefully, enable our Indian citizens to throw off old frustrations and achieve a much quicker pace of progress.

I have acquired the services of an able and energetic staff of top flight assistants to help me and the Bureau staff, who are committed to this new effort.

Theodore W. Taylor, Ph.D., Public Administration, Harvard University, a career civil servant, is Deputy Commissioner. Taylor has been Assistant to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution since 1959.

Carl L. Marburger, Ed.D., Wayne State University, is Assistant Commissioner for Education. Dr. Marburger has been Assistant Superintendent of Detroit City Schools.

William R. Carmack, Ph.D., Communications, University of Illinois, is Assistant Commissioner for Social and Governmental Affairs. Dr. Carmack was Administrative Assistant to Senator Fred R. Harris of Oklahoma.

The commendable National effort to combat poverty has taught the Nation that where permanent rehabilitation of adults and education of the young for useful and full social and economic contribution are the goals, large scale financial commitments are necessary. As the Committee Executive Report No. 1 so well pointed out, although the Bureau of Indian Affairs has existed for well over 100 years, and has received appropriations of almost \$2 billion since 1948, almost 3/4 of that amount has been appropriated in the last six years alone.

However, 50 percent of the appropriation since 1960 has been invested in educational programs and educational facilities for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Indian school system. That portion of the investment will not, of course, yield its maximum return until these young people are through school and in contributive professions and occupations. The picture in Indian Affairs would doubtless be a more optimistic one if even this scale appropriation commitments had been made to the Indian people down through the years rather than in relatively recent years.

Yet, these amounts are not surprising when we recall that the administration of the Office of Economic Opportunity has suggested that an all-out attack on poverty generally in this country would entail an increase over the \$1-3/4 billion now proposed in the current budget to a \$3-4 billion annual appropriation over the next 10 years. A comprehensive attack on poverty whether among Indian or others entails sizeable economic commitments.

The National commitment to disadvantaged people of this country needs to be met. As long as the Bureau has the responsibility for Indian people on or near reservations, it will do everything possible to see that disadvantaged Indian people benefit from this commitment. The National commitment includes education and health services, economic development, medicare, etc. The Bureau exercises a facilitating and cooperating role with those agencies having primary responsibility for meeting this National commitment such as the Office of Economic Opportunity, Economic Development Administration, Public Health Service, Public Housing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, et al. The application of these various programs to Indian reservations should hasten the day when Indian people will become self-sufficient citizens of our American society.

INDIAN CLAIMS

Under the heading "Indian Claims," the Committee report provides: "We are requesting that the Indian Bureau immediately begin to furnish up-to-date reports on all tribes whose judgment distribution bills are now before Congress, and provide Bureau appraisals of the capacity of these tribes and their individual members to manage their own affairs. Such reports should automatically accompany future distribution bills submitted to Congress."

In response to the Committee request, the Bureau is developing up-to-date reports on all tribes whose judgment distribution bills are now before the Congress and will provide Bureau appraisals of the capacity of these tribes and their individual members to manage their own affairs, based upon our best judgment. Copies will be furnished to the tribes involved.

One of the troublesome aspects of the relationships between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian people concerns the potentiality of discontinuance of Bureau services, especially when distribution bills are being considered.

Three kinds of relationships have existed between the Bureau and the Indian people in the past. The Bureau has often been accused of a paternalistic relationship and this charge in part has often been correct. This concept of limiting the choices and structuring the life of Indians to the maximum degree is regarded as undesirable by me and my staff and I believe by the Congress. At the opposite extreme, a kind of adversary relationship is often created between the Bureau and the Indian people when discontinuance of Bureau services is discussed. This kind of relationship is most unfortunate in that it destroys meaningful communication and mutual confidence that must exist if the Bureau is to perform its functions effectively and the Indian people are to benefit.

The third kind of relationship and the one, in my judgment, most desirable, is a tutorial or advisory relationship in which the Indian people exercise maximum options as to the goals they wish to pursue, calling upon the Bureau for services and advice to which they are entitled and for which the Bureau is responsible.

If the Bureau is required to both define the criteria which constitute Government termination policy and at the same time evaluate the tribes as to their fitness under those criteria, it is acting in a dual role and its image is seriously confused. It ceases to be an advisor or partner and becomes an adversary. This is damaging to the kind of relationship in which the Bureau can be of maximum service either to the tribe under consideration or to the tribes watching the controversy with interest.

It would be preferable to have criteria agreed upon by the Congress and the Bureau, who have a joint Federal responsibility in Indian Affairs, well understood by all in advance rather than one-at-a-time judgments by the Bureau no matter how fair it might try to be. Consideration might also be given to identification of groups other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs who would help evaluate the readiness of various tribes in the light of criteria understood by the Indian people, the Bureau, and the Congress.

With respect to the Kalispel Tribe, the Committee report refers to the resolution of the Committee recommending that a substantial portion of the judgment funds be placed with a private trustee so that the Indians could have the experience of dealing with non-governmental advisers as does any other group of citizens.

Efforts have been made, without success, to develop a satisfactory investment plan for judgment funds of the Kalispel Tribe with a private trustee. The objective sought by the Committee is one which is shared by the Bureau. Legal limitations on investments of trust funds with private financial institutions are under review and legislative proposals to remove these limitations and prescribe conditions for those kinds of investments are under consideration for submittal to the Congress.

HEIRSHIP

Under the heading, "Heirship," the Committee report provides: "Therefore, the committee is requesting that the Bureau submit at an early date proposed legislation that will effectively and seriously meet this issue."

Legislative proposals are being drafted to meet the issue of fractionated ownership of Indian allotments by the Bureau for submittal to the Congress. The workable bill passed by the Senate in 1963 is one of the major considerations.

Rather than a single approach to settling this issue, it is the considered opinion of the Bureau that the Congress should provide alternative authorities for the Secretary to utilize in solution of this problem, particularly since the problem is subject to practical solution by more than one method. Despite efforts to do so, a consensus on a single solution has not materialized even with the outstanding contribution of the Senate in passage of the heirship bill in 1960.

We need to face the fact also that any solution of this problem is dependent upon adequate financing and the rate at which the problem will be settled will depend upon the financial support made available.

INDIAN EDUCATION

In approximately 275 schools and dormitories, including 26 high schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will enroll an estimated 59,800 Indian children and youth in fiscal year 1967. At the same time at least 100,000 Indian children will be attending public schools. Most of the students in Bureau schools will be "first generation," coming from homes with a minimum level of educational attainment and expectation. Most of the students in public schools are second, third, and fourth generation whose parents and grandparents are well educated.

The Bureau willingly accepts the obviously more difficult role of educating the "first generation" students. As you are aware, however, in doing so the Bureau faces special problems.

Quality education for disadvantaged children costs more, not less, than education of other children in the general population. National recognition and provision for this has now been accorded through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Economic Opportunity Act, and other recently created Federal programs. To date, however, the even more seriously disadvantaged Indian children enrolled in Bureau schools have not been eligible for benefits under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It is most gratifying, therefore, to note that amendatory legislation now before the Congress would correct this inequity and include Bureau school students in such benefits, and I hope the members of the Committee will support the amendment.

The fact that the reservation Indian population is on the increase and that this is a young population persuades the Bureau to believe that the cost of the education program for Indian children will require further outlays of capital funds for construction and maintenance of educational facilities and increased funds for their operation. This will be true even if some other Federal agency could be persuaded to take over the function and none seems interested in doing so at present. Planning designed to transfer this responsibility to State and local public school districts will continue as it has in the past. However, the public school education of Indian children requires a heavy input of Federal funds through Public Law 874, Public Law 815, and the Johnson-O'Malley Act, in addition to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It can be expected that costs to the Federal Government for the education of Indian children will continue to rise. The fact needs to be faced that Indian children have special educational needs and if these needs are to be met as well as they should be, it will require increased expenditures regardless of who conducts the educational program.

At the request of Senator Clinton P. Anderson, the Bureau is undertaking a survey of the educational progress of Indian high school and college students which should provide valuable information to the Committee and this Bureau.

It is our belief that a study and investigation of Indian education in the United States is long overdue and the Bureau would undertake such a study upon proper funding for this specified purpose. There are reasons to believe, however, that the public and mission schools would object to a study of Indian education by any Federal agency as an effort on the part of the Federal Government to control education. Any study of Indian education should include such schools along with the Bureau schools since they enroll over 60 percent of the Indian children for whom the Bureau has service responsibility.

It is suggested that an objective study of Indian education in Bureau, public, and mission schools be undertaken by an independent research agency, funded under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The Southwestern Cooperative Educational Laboratory headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and composed of a consortium of universities from the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, would be one such agency. A separate consortium formed for this specific purpose is another possibility.

The testimony of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on April 1, 1966, before the Subcommittee on Education of the Senate Labor Committee has been revised as follows:

- "1. The 'more than 8,000' Indian youngsters not enrolled in school refers to the school year 1964-65 and includes youngsters who had dropped out of Federal and public schools; youngsters whose physical or mental condition precluded their participation in the regular programs of the public and Federal schools; children whose parents did not wish to send them to distant Federal boarding schools and for whom no local facilities were available; and youngsters for whom there were no school spaces at their grade level in the Bureau of Indian Affairs school system. The latter group was a small portion of the total--probably not exceeding several hundred. Most of the youngsters without educational opportunities in 1964-65 were Alaskan Indian and Eskimo children from remote villages.

It was not the intent of Commissioner Howe, in his testimony, to suggest that Title I funds might be used for the construction of school facilities by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to accommodate youngsters not now enrolled.

2. The 4,000 youngsters referred to by Commissioner Howe as living in dormitories attend public schools. An additional 24,000 Indian youngsters live in dormitories and attend schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
3. The 50 percent dropout rate is an estimated overall rate for Indian youngsters enrolled in both public schools and those maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On the basis of the meager statistics available, it appears that the holding power of the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools is somewhat greater than the general holding power of public schools insofar as Indian children are concerned."

The foregoing revision was contained in a letter dated May 5, 1966, by the Acting Assistant Commissioner for Legislation, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to the Subcommittee on Education, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, United States Senate.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Expansion of special Indian relocation and vocational training programs is being undertaken to meet the growing market for skilled workers. Local markets are developing in many areas as industries are moving from some of the larger metropolitan areas to cities and towns accessible to Indian people. Within-state placement and relocation will receive greater emphasis in the months ahead.

We are reaching also to the young adults who have serious education handicaps and setting up programs in cooperation with Federal and State agencies to provide pre-vocational training. After this period of training, these individuals will be qualified to enter into vocational training.

The Indian people are proving to be excellent employees of light industries, such as the electronics industry, which require the skills of manual dexterity, hand and eye coordination, and high patience tolerance. This is providing an inducement for such industries to locate on or near reservations.

Indian people are facing up to the reality more and more that much of their economic future will be based on regular employment in the expanding labor market. This is a significant and hopeful attitude expressed by the Indian leadership. The training of the natural skills and the matching of these skills with jobs, preferably in the locally expanding labor market, will be pursued vigorously.

This Bureau and the Bureau of Employment Security are developing a cooperative program to extend services into isolated communities for application taking, testing, counselling, and otherwise preparing Indian people for entering the labor market.

The Bureau is cooperating closely with the Bureau of Employment Security of the Labor Department in development and operation of manpower development and training programs on Indian reservations; the Office of Economic Opportunity in development and operation of Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, and work experience programs -- all designed to qualify Indian people for employment.

A statistical summary of Indian participation is:
48 Indian Community Action Programs; 8 Job Corps
Conservation Centers on reservations; 15,425 Indian youth
in the Neighborhood Youth Corps; 2,307 children in the Head
Start program; 255 VISTA volunteers assigned to fifty reservations;
and 235 individuals being trained under work experience programs
of the Economic Opportunity Act.

OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL INDIAN PROGRAMS

Under the heading of "Objectives of Federal Indian Programs" the Committee report provides: "It seems to the committee that where a tribe takes the initiative in breaking ties with the Government, the Bureau should render every possible assistance. We expect this policy to be pursued under Mr. Bennett's administration."

The objectives of the Committee are clearly stated in the Senate Committee report. The Bureau recognizes its responsibility as directed by the Congress to raise the educational and social well-being of the Indians, assist in developing their assets, and encourage them to handle their own individual and tribal affairs so that they may all eventually become self-sufficient citizens of our American society. I believe that when this has been accomplished, the Tribe will take the initiative in breaking its special ties with the Government and the Committee may be sure that the Bureau will render every possible assistance as requested by the Committee.

In my talks to Indian people, I find that the Indian leadership accepts the fact that at some time the Congress will change their special relationship with the Federal Government. Until the Congress reaches that decision, hopefully with their consent, it is their wish that the Congress meet its responsibilities to them, the same as its national commitment to others, of maximum social and economic development; that the basis for determining readiness be prescribed, that the Congress further direct the States and other Federal agencies to provide them with the services to which they are entitled and guarantee to them the rights and privileges on an equal basis with other citizens. They respectfully request that in the development of criteria they be assured the right, if it is their decision, to own, hold and manage their property and the opportunity to maintain their Indian identity and culture.

We are at work on new foundation legislation which, if enacted, will authorize the Secretary, under certain conditions, to strike the limitations which have restricted Indian development, to permit Indian tribes to use the tools and institutions of modern corporate management, to grant the Indians entry to the many markets of America, to take a whole series of steps that will enable Indians to move forward, to build viable communities, and to enjoy the optimum development of their resources.

A review is being made of all rules and regulations of the Bureau to ascertain those which may be revoked or amended and supplemented to eliminate any undue restrictions on the ability of Indian tribes to function and make decisions.

OFF-RESERVATION INDIANS

Under the heading of "Off-Reservation Indians" the Committee report provides "Some legislative measure should be recommended by the Bureau to protect the interests of these off-reservation citizens, particularly when the Government is actively pursuing programs to relocate Indians to areas where employment is available."

It will be a departure in the historic policy of Indian affairs should the Secretary prescribe conditions of enrollment and participation in tribal affairs. This has usually been a matter for tribal determination but since a change in this policy is proposed by the Committee report we will need to go to the tribes involved to seek necessary tribal enactments under their prescribed authority or recommendations for legislative measures to protect the interests of off-reservation members. I am sure the Committee would not appreciate recommendations for legislation from the Bureau which would be opposed immediately by the tribes involved and others because failure to proceed in this manner would ignore authorities tribes already have in this matter.

In the past 3 years, 10 of 12 tribes adopting reorganizational documents have included the rights of tribal membership to children born off the reservation. Six more have removed residence requirements by constitutional amendments. It is estimated that only 6 percent of the approximately 198,000 qualified Indian voters cannot participate in elections because of non-reservation residence, although many tribal members would have to return to the reservation in order to vote.

I was instrumental, personally, while working with the Lower Brule Tribe, in having them amend their Constitution and By-Laws to provide for the election of a member to the Tribal Council by off-reservation members, to represent their interests. This tribe had agreed also to divide the tribal income on a percentage basis between the off-reservation members and the on-reservation members. However, the tribe was subsequently persuaded not to follow through on this.

In considering the problem, a distinction should be made between membership in a tribe and entitlement to participate in the tribal estate. Entitlement to participate in the tribal estate should

not preclude necessarily the continuous enrollment of tribal membership for other purposes. I believe this needs to be considered because when the number of off-reservation members exceed the number of residents the result based upon past experience is the dissolution of the tribal estate. This is the one big fear of Indian people who remain on reservations because of inability to leave or who deliberately choose not to leave.

ALASKA

There is no administrative remedy for the settling of native land claims because the Congress has reserved to itself the responsibility for determining native rights to land in Alaska. See the following:

"Treaty of Cession - concluded March 30, 1867
(15 Stat. 539)
Act of May 17, 1884 (23 Stat. 24)
Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1095)
Act of June 6, 1900 (31 Stat. 321)
Act of September 7, 1957 (71 Stat. 623)
Act of July 7, 1958 (72 Stat. 339)"

A joint meeting of the Alaska Congressional delegation, Departmental and Bureau representatives, has been held. A committee is being organized of Alaska congressional staff and Departmental and Bureau staff to draft a series of legislative proposals by which Congress will prescribe the criteria to settle native land claims. These proposals will be discussed by members of the Alaska congressional delegation with the people of Alaska during the summer in the hope that a workable bill can be submitted to the next session of the Congress.

CONCLUSION

Under the heading of "Conclusion" the Committee report provides: "The hearing on Mr. Bennett's nomination discloses a great number of unresolved Indian problems, and it is the committee's belief that it is in the full interest of our American Indians to pursue these matters until satisfactory solutions are found."

Sincere and vigorous efforts are being made to deal with the problems described in the Senate report and as further clarified in this report.

I accepted the position of Commissioner because I have faith and confidence in the Indian people, their abilities and capabilities. I believe that it should be the basic premise of future policy of the Congress and the Bureau that high expectations be placed on Indian people. The leadership and contributions which I think Indian people can make, and which are necessary, need to be accepted more by the Congress and the Bureau as we move along in the development of legislation and the execution of legislative direction.

Paternalism and its stifling effects brought about by the myriad of laws and their administration affecting Indian people should be eliminated. Paternalism creates attitudes of dependency which restrains the social and economic advancement of Indian people.

As I see it, the Congress and the Bureau must bring about a real, genuine, partnership with Indian leadership. There is no question in my mind that Indian leadership must be brought aboard to the fullest extent possible.

I believe we need to have Indian people assume more responsibility for making those decisions which affect their daily lives. I believe that there is much that can be done within the administrative authority of the Bureau to provide Indian people every opportunity to assume responsibility to make decisions and learn to live with them.

I look to the future with hope and enthusiasm. The Indian people are ready to move. I am ready to work with the Committee to help the Indian people emerge into the fullness of their destiny as citizens of this great land. I appreciate the confidence of the Committee.

WILLIAM R. WOOD
PRESIDENT



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COLLEGE, ALASKA 99735

President and Mrs. William R. Wood

Cordially Invite

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bennett

to a Reception and Dinner in Honor of

President Johnson's Advisory Committee on Historical
Sites and Recreation and the U. S. House of Representatives
Sub-Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs

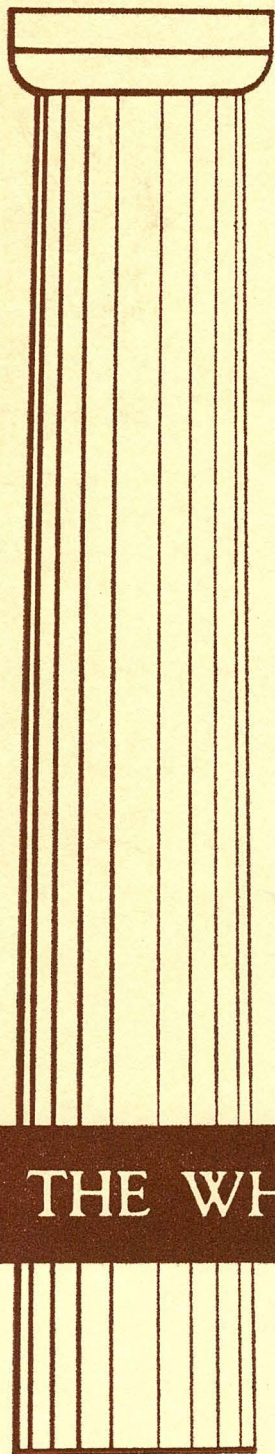
President's Residence, Campus

Tuesday, August 3.

Reception: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m.

r.s.v.p. - Mrs. Endell
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Youth in Turmoil

ROBERT L. BENNETT

THE WHITEWATER FORUM

SUMMER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

"The university is not engaged in making ideas safe for students;
it is engaged in making students safe for ideas."

President Clark Kerr
The University of California

An Address by
ROBERT L. BENNETT

At the Summer Commencement Ceremonies at Wisconsin State
University-Whitewater on August 4, 1966

ROBERT L. BENNETT is the Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
United States Department of the Interior.

Youth In Turmoil

ROBERT L. BENNETT

Youth in turmoil is the subject of my address to you. I would like to talk to you about that segment of American youth in greatest turmoil. These are the children and the young people of minority groups.

I am happy to have the opportunity to present for your consideration some points of view developed in the course of more than 50 years of observation and experience as a member of various minority groups — as a member of a minority racial group, as a member of a minority religious group, and finally as a bureaucrat among many taxpayers.

The validity of the points of view expressed here should be measured by you as you evaluate them against what you already know — and what you may learn — as all of us seek to find out how to provide opportunities by which children and youth may realize their full potential for creative life in freedom and dignity.

If you do not subscribe to these views, then you must determine for yourselves to what views you will subscribe. If you do subscribe to these views, then you must determine what course of action you plan to take in carrying out these convictions.

The masses of people of the world are not as concerned with satellites as they are with social problems of minority groups. This concern exists largely because social patterns prescribed in the past by dominant groups for natives of newly discovered areas, and later for minorities, were crystallized into legal systems from which subjected peoples throughout the world are now seeking freedom and independence.

The American Indian tribes, like other native peoples of the world, have been subject to legal systems involving treaty-making, ceding of land, and rights of occupancy. In the process of settling the land bringing vast territories into a federated union of states, now known as the United States, a modicum of legality in land acquisition gave respectability to transactions with separate Indian tribes.

For individuals within the tribes these experiences held no dignity nor promise. From such experiences they found themselves forced into patterns of acceptance and accommodation where they were made prisoners of war, compelled under forced marches to leave localities familiar to them, and refused settlement along with other settlers. The reservation system, though quite legal and useful to territorial settlers, also proved effective in isolating individuals and families of Indians from the mainstream of social and economic development.

Over a long period of time Indian tribes came to look upon these reserves as places of refuge from the "civilization" which threatened to engulf them. Later there began to be a movement of Indians away from the reservations, largely in search of education and new experiences. Now, Indian youth and young adults of all tribes are moving into the dominant group and utilizing structures of that group to establish and maintain a new way of life.

For those who are not able to cope with the frustrations which come about from failure to make an adequate adjustment, those things detrimental to their physical and social well-being become the pattern.

They are the products of a society that has oriented them for a different world and with their emergence they find themselves caught between two worlds. In their old world they find there is very little concern for the future — that one lives in complete harmony with nature — that in return nature will provide for their consumption those things essential to life. This is contrasted with the other world where there exists a real concern for the future — where nature is to be exploited for the benefit of man — and where production is the basis of our economic survival.

For the most part, Indian young people grow up in rural areas far removed from industrial activity and those resources which can contribute to their social development. All the knowledge about the other world is obtained from between the covers of a textbook. Their limited socializing experiences leave them little equipped with the social skills necessary for their satisfactory and healthy personality adjustment.

With a concept of time based upon the present only, they lack orientation to a future-oriented society. They feel the enjoyment of the moment should not be marred by a concern for tomorrow. As products of a society without a concept for time, Indian young people find it difficult to understand or keep pace with their youthful counterparts of a time-oriented society in their frenzied search for security.

Living in the homes of their parents and grandparents does not give them the opportunity to observe as daily examples people who are well adjusted to the society around them. There have not emerged a sufficient number of cultural heroes from their social system to provide images for emulation.

They have a fear of the prejudices in the communities around them and those who obtain social acceptance in those communities do not champion the cause of those who are left behind.

Their educational opportunities have been limited so that only now can it be said that for the first time there is available educational opportunities for every Indian child of elementary school age.

Social exchange and communication among ancestors in their various tribal groups were limited by the 200 native languages spoken by the various Indian tribes. The only common language was the English language of their conquerors.

They come from the most economically destitute minority group with a life expectancy of little more than one-half of the general population. Their instinct for preservation has promoted a very high birth rate and there has been a 50 per cent increase in population over the last 25 years, with 50 per cent of the present population being under 19 years of age. Their society demands that members share with each other for the benefit of the tribal group. This social obligation has forced parents to deny their own children many economic and social advantages. Due to mechanization of agriculture, job opportunity for the unskilled in proximity of their homes has been lost and their economy is based upon a relief program which over a sustained period is resulting in deteriorating personalities.

Finally, spiritual insecurity prevails as their native religious principles, and teachings are lost with the death of their elders, and the new Christianity is not so understood as to fill the spiritual gap caused by this loss.

Out of this background are emerging some, but far too few, outstanding Indian youth. The fact that these few personalities have survived social deterioration gives us hope as well as evidence that with sympathetic understanding and opportunity, this number can be greatly increased. They become a part of the total community bringing with them the contributions of their heritage to enrich all of our lives. Their struggle for a meaningful way of life in our society is that of all minority groups in the world who have joined issue with the dominant group to reach an understanding of the values of human life.

The major course of action of the next decade with respect to minorities should be directed toward diminishing minority status as a factor in the lives of individuals.

The existence of a minority depends upon the power of one group to dominate another socially, economically, and politically. When this domination restricts the freedom of the minority then conflicts arise between the groups, within the groups, and finally within the individuals themselves.

We must therefore set forth a premise that we can build a society in which we begin to diminish minorities and develop a total community identity. Only when this is done, can a capitalistic and democratic society develop to its fullest potential and provide that atmosphere essential for children and youth to have the opportunity to realize their capabilities for creative life in freedom and dignity.

Minorities learn through education, experience, and within-group training to develop methods of coping with their minority status.

People have in their minds an image of an Indian, a Negro, a Catholic, or a Jew, and as this human being moves out from within his own group and emerges, it is like immigrating into a foreign land because an image has been prescribed for him that he does not know nor identify as himself. This image bears no relationship to what he actually is nor to his potential as a human being.

It is the experience of minority groups that the dominant group attempts to tamper with their freedom of choice and decision making. Individuals, therefore, develop patterns of making those kinds of decisions which are expected of them, rather than habits of exercising free choice. They frequently find themselves in a position of acquiescing although they know that in the absence of freedom of choice and of opportunity they cannot achieve the results expected of them by the dominant group. Consequently, there is added the image of incompetence to the stereotype image.

This image of incompetence draws forth in the dominant group the mechanisms of paternalism, an approach which is neither desirable nor desired. However, it is another way of maintaining power under the guise of benevolence. Failure of the minority to have freedom of choice in decision-making can only add to the toll of disturbed personalities which are the consequences of a secondary role as a human being — limited by the fate but not the choice of being in a minority group.

If we accept the premise of freedom we would grant that every person growing up in this great land of ours would have the right and be given the freedom to discover himself and his potential to serve others not according to what someone else thinks he is nor any prescriptions written for his behavior as a member of a minority group. He should have the freedom of coming into contact with fellow-citizens and of not having his development restricted by extraneous factors which seek to identify him with what somebody else thinks is his place. If opportunities for development in terms of God-given talents and potential are restricted, then by the same token, the freedom to which we all subscribe as being the natural heritage of all citizens is also restricted.

We may well ask, "Why do we have devices to measure capabilities and talents if the opportunity for development is going to be restricted or determined on a wholly different basis?"

We need to say, "All of my friends are human beings," and not, "You know, some of my best friends are Indians." This kind of communication at the feeling level should not be interrupted nor made impossible by compartmentalizing of human beings according to the race, religion, or some other criteria created by the dominant group, primarily as a defense of its own security. The minority assumes that there exists meaningful communication between the members of the dominant group. There is understanding as to their views toward the minority status they are seeking to maintain for others, but in relation to other things there exists a paucity of that kind of communication out of which can grow, among other things, their own security.

The problem now confronting both the dominant and minority groups in various sections of the country is what to substitute for the view that the dominant group had of the minority when that view is no longer tenable.

At this point, real leadership must accept its responsibility or the dominant group may well find itself on the wrong side of issues when its position is evaluated in the light of democratic, Christian, and other acceptable values. Real leadership must accept its responsibility or the minority group may well find itself on the wrong side of the issues as the dominant group seeks to break out of the pattern it has brought upon itself.

Communications can neither commence nor continue if the dominant group has fears that it is not going to be treated properly as it should by the minority as the increasingly favorable position of the minority is accelerated.

The only common denominator is to recognize, accept, and defend the principle that man is a human being entitled to the respect he earns. If we recognize this as a common denominator, then the challenge is to develop the means of a deep and abiding understanding communication. When this is reached, we can out of the richness of all our different cultures, develop other common denominators in social, economic, and other fields.

How we handle ourselves in the dynamic situation of today will test the validity and permanence of our position in world leadership as the greatest nation on earth. It will profit us little to have peace with other nations when we do not have peace ourselves.

This peace from within grows out of the destruction by both the dominant and minority groups of something within themselves before the new dynamics of thought and feeling enable us to undertake a more peaceful life in our own

community. We must turn our back on all prejudice and separate ourselves from all prejudices and attitudes of the minority and dominant groups toward each other.

I would say to all youth in turmoil — you are human beings — each with an individual personality. You are also citizens of the United States and finally, you are descendants of a distinguished heritage of which you can be proud. If you think of yourself in a different light, then you will have difficulty of carrying out your main business in life— which is to be a human being. You have all the factors out of which a creative personality can be made.

The elements which go into building that personality are — heredity, for which you are not responsible; an environment, which you cannot control; but for your personal response, you alone are responsible. It is not alone what happens to you but the way you take it that will determine your mastery of difficulties which is all a part of life's business. In distressing situations you must look inward to your own attitudes and resources. How you handle yourselves — not the situation — will make the difference.

Confronting yourself with the making of your own personality is the beginning of worthwhile living. You must organize your life around some supreme values because the process by which real personality is attained is inward and spiritual. In order not to be torn to pieces inside you must accept heredity, cope with environment, and then say, "Now, I will see what I can do with me."

To pull a person together takes inner resources of power and of a power beyond one's self. This calls for faith — which is not something we get but something we have.

Religion is the basis for hope and a source of power in trying to make the most of what nature gave us and in becoming what we ought to be. He who undertakes the task is on the main road of creation's meaning and is accepting the central trust of life. If nothing else, please remember:

"The Lord will not ask thy race
Nor will He ask thy birth.
Alone, He will ask of you
What have you done on earth?"

This is the nineteenth in a series of publications by Wisconsin State University - Whitewater under the imprint *The Whitewater Forum*. Other publications in the series:

- John A. Kinneman, *Values in the Good Society* . . . December, 1963
- Margaret M. Donovan, Frank Palinay, H. Gaylon Greenhill,
and Robert Picker, *Teaching About Communism and the
Communist World* . . . February, 1964
- John R. Coleman, *The American Economy* . . . March, 1964
- Hamden L. Forkner, Paul A. Carlson, Marie S. Benson, and
Jane E. Clem, *Fifty Years in Business Education* . . . June, 1964
- Walker D. Wyman, *Tattered Battalions* . . . August, 1964
- Donald B. Johnson, *Presidential Nominating Procedures* . . . August 1964
- Charlton W. Tebeau, *Values Shaping Southern Thought* . . . September, 1964
- Edward Lamb, *Freedom Is Not Enough!* . . . October, 1964
- Richard J. Brown, *The University and Change* . . . January, 1965
- Maurice O. Graff, *Tools for Tomorrow* . . . April, 1965
- Paul I. Mitterling, Richard Cooklock, Herman Weil, and
G. John Stoelting, *Educating the Superior Student* . . . May, 1965
- G. Paul Grant, Gerald Booker, Margaret Quittenden, Donald
Graham, and H. Gaylon Greenhill, *Shakespeare's England
in the Twentieth Century* . . . May, 1965
- Daniel J. Dykstra, *A Better Tomorrow* . . . July, 1965
- Harold Taylor, *The Creative Arts In American Society* . . . November, 1965
- James H. Albertson, *The Unfinished Product* . . . January, 1966
- W. H. Ferry, *The New Technology and Higher Education* . . . July, 1966
- Norman A. Graebner, *The Unfinished Business of Diplomacy* . . . August, 1966
- Shepherd L. Witman, Willard L. Leeds, George W. Angell,
H. Kenneth Barker, Henry Bertram Hill, Norman Auburn,
Walter K. Beggs, *International Education and the University
Curriculum* . . . September, 1966

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

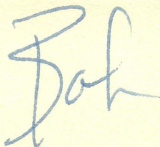
August 29, 1966

Dear Bob:

That was mighty thoughtful of you to send me the congratulatory telegram, which was the first thing I saw upon my return from Alaska.

With many thanks and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'B' and a simple 'ob'.A handwritten checkmark in blue ink, located to the right of the recipient's address.

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



JULIE GIBSON

Compliments of the

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BAYOU

Referred to B.A.
Bennett for
apposite handling

9/20

for

9/66

1. RB
2. Info

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE PLAINSMAN

The American Indian, who not only "got here first" but who represents perhaps the most commonly neglected minority in the United States today, has hardly begun to realize his full potential for citizenship.

While other minority races hold protest marches, noisy civil rights conclaves and even stage "demonstrations" that all too often can best be described as civil commotions, the American Indian has, as yet, to protest his neglect with any considerable boldness. Possibly his time is coming....

In the enclosed September issue of THE PLAINSMAN MAGAZINE, however, the story of the Indian of the High Plains has been detailed forcefully yet sympathetically in an article that describes his existence on the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation of South Dakota and in an exclusive interview with a national Indian leader.

THE PLAINSMAN's staff here refers to Robert L. Bennett, a member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and the nation's first Indian to become Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Bennett, who was appointed to his post this year by President Johnson, expresses his thoughts on his fellow First Americans and how he feels they can and must continue to enter the "mainstream" of American social, political and economic life.

Commissioner Bennett, interviewed by THE PLAINSMAN's Washington correspondent, Kenneth Scheibel, believes that the states which possess any considerable number of Indian residents must do more to aid their citizens than they have in the past,

and that the so-called "Indian problem" is not purely a Federal matter.

Mr. Bennett cites instances in which the Indian can make a considerable contribution to the nation's diversity of interests and yet how he often has been held back by his own justifiable desire not to lose his identity as a distinctive American.

Questioned about an alleged "reservation attitude" among some Indians, whether individually or collectively as tribes, Mr. Bennett said that increased educational opportunities and a "fair share" of public welfare funds may help to reduce the dependence of many Indians on the Federal Government.

"I would say that there is a 'reservation attitude' among Indians," he added, "which was brought about by the paternalism that develops in any kind of trusteeship relationship such as the Federal Government has in terms of controlling the property of the Indian people. This has created attitudes of dependency upon the Federal Government....We (at the Bureau of Indian Affairs)....hope to correct this as much as possible..."

Mr. Bennett, who also cited the excellent contribution of American Indians in their military service (perhaps the highest percentage of voluntary enlistments of any American group), believes that national Indian leaders should come to the fore who can speak confidently for the rights of all Indians. Such leadership, though, has been somewhat limited in the past.

Optimistically, Mr. Bennett remarked that "there is a growing tendency, particularly among younger Indians, to make their own way." (Indian girls, for instance, make particularly able nurses, secretaries and stenographers.)

Indian men, their fine military record notwithstanding, often can fill any type of job that requires a high degree of manual dexterity or close eye-and-hand coordination.

"In fact," Commissioner Bennett explained, "we can't fill the demand today for skilled Indian workers."

But, he added, the lack of adequate educational opportunities -- with particular emphasis on advanced vocational education -- is the greatest single deterrent to the full assimilation of the Indian today.

#

Washington Roundup

Capital Runs Out of Jokes

From the Daily Herald
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Art Buchwald, the Washington-based humor writer, claims the nation's capital is now out of jokes. You just don't hear a good joke around here any more, not even a cornball Texas-high one, according to Buchwald.

Like every other large city, Washington is tense over the racial situation. And there's nothing funny about that. It also has been drying up due to an extended drought recently.

Just as the city fathers were thinking of imposing mandatory controls over the use of water, it rained quite steadily Sept. 13, primary date for so many states around the country. No doubt the tears of defeated candidates, as Buchwald would say.

WAR ON POVERTY

Correspondents who have been traveling over the country report widespread discontent about the Administration War on Poverty. Conservative-oriented voters are particularly unhappy about it, they report.

So that means the continual carping by Sen. Peter H. Dominick, R-Colo., and other Republicans against the program is beginning to bear fruit.

Most recent evidence: the National Federation of Independent Business, Inc., has asked the Senate to look into an anti-poverty grant to the Zuni Indians to train them to make jewelry.

The beef of the NFIB is an allegation that it is going to cost up to \$60,000 to train an individual Zuni to be an expert silver smith. After all, it claims, Zunis have been making the finest Indian jewelry for centuries without Uncle Sam's poverty aid right on their own New Mexico reservation. The Office of Economic Opportun-

ity denies the allegation.

SOPHISTICATED INDIANS

Guess who are investing in certificates of deposits, with government consent? That sharp banker or attorney or broker down the street? Wrong!

The Ute Mountain Ute tribe of Southwestern Colorado and several Arizona tribes, with the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Indian Commissioner Robert L. Bennett told the press this past week that Indians are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

So much so, he said, that several tribes recently came in and asked to invest some of their tribal funds in certificates of deposit at six per cent interest instead of keeping it in the U.S. Treasury at four per cent interest.

Although the government is now in the process of trying to campen down the investor rush to c-d's, it let the tribes invest in c-d's for a limited period.

ASPINALL BOO-BOO

Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall, D-Colo., committed a boo-boo before the House Rules Committee recently, and it created quite a stir. In his last request for rules for legislation from his House Interior Committee, Aspinall asked the Rules Committee for speedy action because he was hitting the political hustings this month.

After all, Aspinall soberly noted, if members of Congress didn't show up on the hustings every two years as live candidates, they might end up as dead politicians.

Presently Chairman Howard W. Smith, D-Va., of the Rules Committee pushed back his chair, had a good laugh, and said Aspinall was so right. Smith had learned the hard way, from experience. He was defeated in the primary election after serving in the House for

35 years.

Smith is such a fixture in the House that Aspinall had momentarily forgotten Smith's defeat. He could have bitten off his tongue at that point.



*The American Indian Arts Center
of the
Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
cordially invites you
to a private viewing before the public opening
of the Arts Center's new and enlarged quarters
at
1051 Third Avenue at 62nd Street
New York 21, New York
Thursday, September 23, 1965
from three to seven p. m.*

MELVIN R. LAIRD
7TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

HOME OFFICE:
POST OFFICE BUILDING
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN
ZIP CODE 54449

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

DEFENSE
LABOR
HEALTH
EDUCATION
WELFARE

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

September 26, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 1966 and the notice and tentative agenda for the series of meetings which you will be holding throughout the country with official Indian leadership groups.

I appreciate your advising me of the time of the scheduled meetings and I would certainly like to attend if at all possible.

100
It does not look like I will be able to attend the meeting in Minneapolis on October 3-5. Congress remains in session and my appearance is necessary here.

I do appreciate your notifying me of the meetings and your kind invitation to attend.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Melvin R. Laird
Member of Congress

MRL:w:m

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SEP 29 10 59 AM '66
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.
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WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
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JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
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A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, OKLA.
ALAN BIBLE, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
GALE W. MCGEE, WYO.
MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.
E. L. BARTLETT, ALASKA
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NORRIS COTTON, N.H.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

September 26, 1966

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

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEP 28 3 49 PM '66

*1. [Signature]
2. Our file*

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 23 informing me of the forthcoming series of meetings with official Indian leadership groups all over the country.

Mr. Bennett, I deeply appreciate your advising me of these meetings. I would like very much to attend, at least those affecting the North Dakota tribes. However, I note that these meetings will be held in Minneapolis and Billings, Montana, before Congress is expected to adjourn. Therefore, it will not be possible for me to attend.

Thank you again for your letter.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
MILTON R. YOUNG

MRY:sw

CONFIDENTIAL

HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
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JERRY T. VERKLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

September 27, 1966

SEP 29 12 39 PM '66

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1. [Signature]
2. Massey
3. see files

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

I was most pleased to receive the notice and tentative agenda for the meetings of leadership groups in Indian affairs. It is through just such exchanges as these that I feel you will be most successful in carrying out the mandates outlined by the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee last Spring.

I should like to attend the meeting planned for Oct. 17-19 at Spokane but unfortunately, my duties at the United Nations will not permit me to be in the West at that time.

100

I will be interested to observe the results of these gatherings.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention. In your brief period as Commissioner you are proving to be a most progressive and capable administrator and I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Frank Church

Minneapolis Tribune, October 9, 1966

10/10/66
Gerard
Mr. Moxley

Is of Change Blow Through Indian Bureau

by Leonard Inskip

Future historians writing about Indian affairs may look back to an event in Minneapolis last week as a milestone in the national search for a workable Indian policy.

There have been no general meetings between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal representatives for about 30 years, according to Indian Commissioner Robert L. Bennett. Or at least until last week in Minneapolis where more than 100 officials of Upper Midwest tribes met with Bennett and Bureau staffers. Eight similar meetings will be held in other parts of the Nation this fall to get the grass-roots views of Indians about what national policy should be.

And even those earlier meetings in the mid-1930's were mainly to explain legislation after it had been introduced rather than seek ideas for new legislation.

The Bureau, long accustomed to telling Indians what is good for them, is under strong presidential and Congressional directive to come up with sweeping new legislation to help Indians obtain a more productive role in American life. The old program, often paternalistic, suffocating, bureaucratic, have not succeeded.

Last spring, when Interior Sec. Udall moved Bennett into the Commissioner's post -- the first Indian there for nearly a Century--Udall spoke of bold new programs in industrial development and education, and of opportunities for more self-government, as well as new faces at the Bureau's highest level.

Well, four of the bureau's top six officials today are new faces, and a fifth will be soon. All except Bennett and an associate commissioner are -- or will be -- from outside the organization.

A bureaucracy does not change its colors overnight -- and Indians say they are still waiting for the "new directions" to be reflected at operating levels. One reason, of course, is that any real shift in substance in national Indian policy requires legislation, and President Johnson has told Bennett to develop "the most comprehensive program for the advancement of Indians that the Government of the United States has ever considered."

Bennett's goal is to get a program in shape before the end of the year, but already his staff is grinding out ideas, some of which, the Commissioner found apparently to his embarrassment came to him in bill form rather than as memoranda and Indian lobby groups got hold of a copy of one such draft of a bill, and accused the Bureau of already having formulated its legislative program and of holding meetings with Indians merely as window-dressing. Bennett denied the charge.

Regardless of the controversy the document is good reading -- for it reveals some of the ferment taking place in the Bureau. The document's thrust is toward more opportunity for Indians to manage their own affairs either as individuals or as tribal groups, and toward a reduction in governmental paternalism.

One idea is to permit Indians to manage their own trust properties when they want to, instead of having the Federal Government manage it. Another would enlarge the powers of Indian Government. Another would permit tribes to bank their trust funds elsewhere than the U.S. Treasury, a step that would significantly expand the influence of Indians in the business world. Indian corporations would be permitted, a long guarantee program would be set up to

attract capital and industry to reservations.

How far the windows of change will blow down the corridors of the Bureau perhaps should still be a wuestion best left for the future. Much of the success of a new legislative effort will depend upon priorities assigned by President Johnson, but the three-day Minneapolis meeting was a step forward.

X X X

CENTER FOR ARTS OF INDIAN AMERICA

Department of The Interior Suite 5129 Washington DC 20240 202/343-6989

November 2, 1966

Dear Friends:

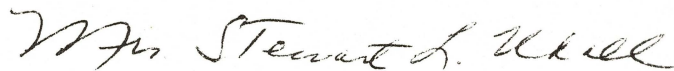
An exciting exhibit of Eskimo graphic art and sculpture will be on display in our 7th floor gallery in the Interior Building beginning November 8.

Art work of the Canadian Eskimos from the famed Cape Dorset area will be available for purchase just in time for Christmas shopping. Art objects will include unusual stone-cut prints and a variety of small sculpture.

Hours for the exhibit, sponsored by the Center for Arts of Indian America, will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from November 8 through December 31.

You are invited to come and bring your friends to see this outstanding exhibition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mrs. Stewart L. Udall". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping "U" at the end.

Mrs. Stewart L. Udall
President

WRC-TV

NBC OWNED STATIONS, A DIVISION OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

4001 NEBRASKA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016, EMERSON 2-4000

November 17, 1966

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

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

On behalf of WRC-TV, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for appearing on "Deena Clark's Moment With...", Saturday, November 12. We thoroughly enjoyed your visit to our studios and hope that you enjoyed it, too.

As a memento of the occasion, I have enclosed a recording of your on-the-air conversation with Deena Clark. I hope that it will afford you many pleasant memories.

Again, may I express our sincere appreciation for your time and participation.

Yours respectfully,



Aquilla T. Ruffner
Public Relations
Coordinator

Encl. (1)

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
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NOV 23 8 55 AM '66

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

Tuesday, November 22, 1966

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Thanks for the delightful story and for letting me have dinner with you at the Sarah Mc Clendon party.

Did your meeting with the Boy Scouts come off?

Please give my regards to your most attractive wife.

Sincerely,

Judith Axler
Judith Axler

*The chairman and members of the
Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council
cordially invite you to attend a*

Dinner

Honoring

*Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs*

*at 7:30 in the evening
Tuesday, November 22, 1966
at the Sunroom
Albuquerque Sunport, New Mexico*

R. L. V. P.



St. Andrew Society of Albuquerque

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Address Reply to:

ALLANMORE Box Z-42
Tijeras, N. M. 87059
November 22, 1966

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Indian Affairs

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the St. Andrew Society of Albuquerque tenders you an honorary life membership.

It has come to our attention that your success in dealing with the affairs and problems of the original North Americans reflects the aims and objectives of our society insofar as it aids in the preservation of the traditions, customs and history of a distinctive race of people. We hope that the music and dress of our representative members here tonight will impress you and continue to remind you in the future of the importance of a continuing effort to preserve the colorful Indian heritage which is so important to our southwestern culture.

We hope we will have the opportunity to welcome you at any of our future gatherings. With best wishes for your continued success.

Yours sincerely,

Allan P. Gruer
Allan P. Gruer, President

11/22/66



ST. ANDREW SOCIETY of
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

This is to certify that

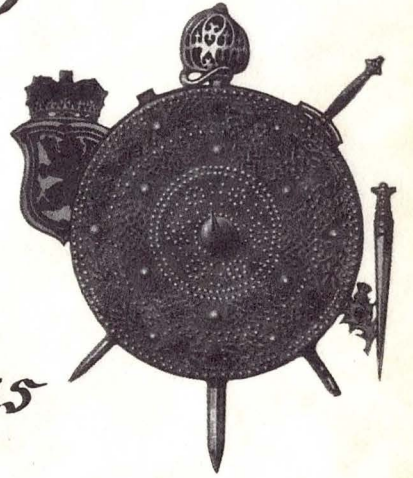
Robert L. Bennett

is a member in good standing.

Lifetime Honorary
Year

Frances Roelle
Secretary

The St. Andrew Society of Albuquerque To all Scots wha' hae'



By virtue of the authority vested in us
We now declare:

Robert L. Bennett

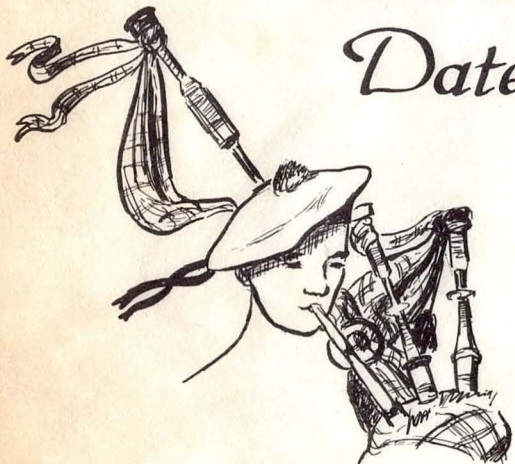
To be an honorary life member of this Scottish society and
Entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof

Dated this 22nd day of November
signed William P. Gruer

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

James A. MacKay

Frances Soelle



C. L. Bartlett
Alaska



United States Senate

December 2, 1966

Dear Bob:

That was a much appreciated congratulatory letter you sent me, and I am grateful to you.

With many thanks and with best wishes,

I am

Sincerely yours,

Bob

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