



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Edward Cline
Chairman, Omaha Tribal Council
Macy, Nebraska 68039

Dear Mr. Cline:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

RESOLUTION OF THE OMAHA TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA

Res. No. 69-18

WHEREAS, The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska is a Federal Corporation chartered under the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska is a member in good standing of the National Congress of American Indians, and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska through the Omaha Tribal Council, its governing body, is in agreement with various other tribes in retaining Commissioner Robert L. Bennett as the new Commissioner under the Republican administration January 20, 1969, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bennett has in his tenure been making important changes in Indian policies which have been of significant and lasting benefit to the American Indians under the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Omaha Tribal Council of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, that we hereby give our confidence and faith in Robert L. Bennett as the person who is responsible for the continuing progress being made by all Indian tribes under his administration,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Omaha Tribal Council, as well as all members of the Omaha Tribe, request the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of administration of the United States Government in January 1969.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was considered at a meeting of the Tribal Council of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, duly called and held on the 10th day of December, 1968, and was adopted by a vote of 6 for and 0 against, and 0 not voting.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1968.

Wayne Tyndall, Secretary
Omaha Tribal Council

Attest:

Edward L. Cline, Chairman
Omaha Tribal Council



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Percy Archambeault, Chairman
Yankton Sioux Tribal Council
Route 3
Wagner, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Archambeault:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made on my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe, and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

MINUTES
December 2, 1968

The Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee met in regular session at the Greenwood Tribal Building on December 2, 1968.

Members present: Percy Archambeau, Chairman
Bessie St. Pierre, Secretary
Peter McBride, Treasurer
Steve Cournoyer, Member
Joseph Packard, Sr., Member

Members absent: Delmer Arrow, Member
Daniel Dion, Member
Adelbert Zephier, Vice-Chairman

Non-members present: Mr. Ed. Krell, O.E.O.
Mr. Arthur Knueppel, P.H.S. Hospital Administrator

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Wilford Kezena.

The minutes were read and approved.

1. A letter was read which condemned the Rising Hail Colony buildings and recommended that they be torn down. It is our understanding that no additional offset claims will be levied against the Yankton Sioux Tribe as a result of concurring in this transaction. Steve Cournoyer moved that the Council adopt it as read. The motion was seconded by Joseph Packard, Sr. and carried with a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.
2. The Chairman said, "before any equipment can be turned over to the Tribe, it must be insured." The Treasurer was instructed to take out insurance for all equipment.
3. In his report to Portland, Oregon Peter McBride stated there were 11 States working with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Many Parks, markers and recreational areas were being developed along the route. Other possibilities and new ideas were given. One interesting idea was since most travel is by plane, sculptures of Lewis and Clark be placed so they could be seen from the air. The Commission was in session the 18th, 19th, and 20th was the day for resolutions and statements to be presented. The Commission recommended that the Tribe send a man or a resolution to the next meeting which will be held in St. Louis, Mo. in April or May, 1969. If the Tribe is interested, 1 member seated on the Commission would be helpful in keeping us up to date.

4. Percy Archambeau stated in his report to Aberdeen, S.D., there were 8 tribes who made a report on labor training. A man from the Green Giant canning plant had a favorable report for the 30-40 people who worked there this year. Labor training was found to be unsatisfactory. The trainees are not going out as had been expected. It is hoped a Vocational Training Center can be set up on the Cheyenne Reservation. Other important subjects discussed were agriculture and irrigation.
5. A meeting was arranged with Indian Commissioner Robert Bennett. He said Mr. Baldwin was appointed Superintendent for this Reservation. After a tour of the Reservation December 17, 1968, the Council will have an interview with Mr. Baldwin.
6. The Chairman reported fine cooperation from the P.H.S. Hospital.
7. Other Tribal business will be explored by the Tribal delegation on their trip to Washington, D.C.
8. Steve Cournoyer moved that funds be made available for Gordon Jones to accompany the delegation to Washington, D.C. The motion was seconded by Peter McBride and carried with a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.
9. The Council went on record favoring Mr. Robert Bennett as Indian Commissioner in the next administration. Steve Cournoyer moved that the Chairman send telegrams to our Congressional Delegation to keep Mr. Bennett as Indian Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Joseph Packard, Sr. and carried with a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.
10. Peter McBride moved that the Tribal clerk be paid the 1st and 15th of each month. The motion was seconded by Steve Cournoyer and carried with a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.
11. The Secretary was requested to send C.H.R. information to Dr. Browning.
12. Wilford Kezena and Joseph Packard were selected to discuss what a good superintendent should be and list questions to present to the Council. It was decided to record the interview with the Superintendent.
13. On November 24, 1968, the Chairman met with men on the possibility of a small industry which could be developed in a Tribal enterprise. He will keep the Council informed as developments occur and details can be ironed out.
14. Bills presented for payment:

Peter McBride	Trip to Portland, Ore.	\$299.40
Percy Archambeau	Trip to Aberdeen, S.D.	32.00
Gross Welding-caterpillar		51.50
Haar Implement- " repairs		6.85
Coast to Coast--antifreeze		13.29
United Building----Lock		5.64
Haar Implement		2.50
Farmers Co-Op		2.97

Steve Cournoyer moved that all bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Joseph Packard, Sr. and carried with a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

15. Mr. Krell reported that only the Greenwood project can be worked on in winter. The O.E.O. Committee is to make priorities on the projects. He said Mr. Haar would write a letter of explanation or we invite him at the next Council meeting. The Chairman asked for both the letter and his personal appearance. Mr. Krell commented on a meeting he attended in Denver, Colorado, the National association of Community Development. He said industry was discussed for rural areas. He asked what we are getting done. At the present time we are not doing enough for our problems. 90% of South Dakota's income comes from agriculture and one bad year raises havoc. Many farmers are not well off and we must create jobs. There is great potential for agriculture related jobs in the State. The rural poor people will have educational training for other job opportunities. He said business knows that something has to be done. The Council's interest to set up a non-profit organization was a very good idea and if the surrounding communities would be able to supply the necessary manpower. He explained how the Cheyenne Reservation works through their non-profit organization. A job does not solve all the problems but it does help.
16. Mr. Knueppel reported that mothers will receive additional foods with the regular commodities in the near future.
17. Mrs. Pauline Kezena asked if one of the class rooms could be used for Arts and Crafts. There will be from 10-14 people employed. It was decided to invite Father Vock to our next meeting to obtain more information.
18. The Treasurer reported \$100.00 had been received from 5½ months rent of the two bedroom apartment and no lease has been made for it yet. Mr. Kezena reported the Building Committee is looking after the matter and will give a report. Mr. Knueppel requested a bill of the unpaid balance. Only the Recreation Committee has paid all their rentals regularly. Other rentals are still due from Pow Wows and a dinner. The Treasurer is requested to get a list from the janitor, Sam Cournoyer in the rent of the building. It was reported again that 1 Councilman has paid only one month's rent for the Tribal Building he occupies at Lake Andes. The Chairman has offered his assistance in this case.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wilford Kezena and seconded by Joseph Packard, Sr.

Bessie St Pierre

Bessie St. Pierre, Secretary
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business
and Claims Committee

December 3, 1968

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President-elect of the United States
Pierre Hotel
Fifth Avenue and 61st Street
New York, New York 10003

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Please accept my congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the United States.

I have received copies of resolutions adopted by Indian organizations and Indian tribes and letters from individuals, both Indian and non-Indian, recommending that you retain me as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior. I would be willing to serve as a part of your official family and I feel confident that I can implement the statement issued by you to the National Congress of American Indians, Omaha, Nebraska, on September 27, 1968, through the Hon. Howard H. Baker, Senator from Tennessee.

My appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs by President Lyndon B. Johnson was not a political appointment but was based upon my 30 years of career service in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As an American Indian enrolled with the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, I feel that my background and experience provide me with the necessary competence to be effective in working with Indian people whose support I am privileged to enjoy.

When I was nominated for the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, statements in my behalf were submitted by members of Congress and I am happy to use them again as references. They are:

Senator E. L. Bartlett of Alaska
Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska
Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin
Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota
Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota
Representative Ben Reifel of South Dakota

Since my 2-1/2 years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I believe that I have developed an excellent bipartisan working relationship with key members of the Congressional committees having responsibility in Indian affairs. I am also happy to list them as references.

Senate Committee on Appropriations:

Senator Milton R. Young of North Dakota, ranking minority member
Senator Alan Bible of Nevada, majority member and Acting Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs:

Minority members of the committee-

Senator Len B. Jordan of Idaho
Senator Paul J. Fannin of Arizona
Senator Clifford P. Hansen of Wyoming
Senator Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon

Majority members of committee-

Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico
Senator Quentin N. Burdick of North Dakota
Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

House Committee on Appropriations:

Minority members of the committee-

Melvin R. Laird of Wisconsin
Glenn R. Davis of Wisconsin

Majority members of the committee-

Michael J. Kirwan of Ohio
Tom Steed of Oklahoma
Julia Butler Hansen of Washington, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs:

Minority members of the committee-

John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, ranking member of the full committee

E. Y. Berry of South Dakota, ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

Sam Steiger of Arizona

James A. McClure of Idaho

Wayne N. Aspinall, chairman of the full committee

James A. Haley of Florida, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

Ed Edmondson of Oklahoma, ranking majority member of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

I am enclosing a vita of my experience. I would be honored to be continued in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs under your leadership.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Harry Flemming
Office of the President-elect

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Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.



432 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10016

MU 9-8720

December 3, 1968

Oliver La Farge, *President*
(1932-1963)

Roger C. Ernst, *President*
Benjamin C. O'Sullivan, *1st Vice President*
Edward P. Dozier, Ph.D., *2nd Vice President*
Mrs. Henry S. Forbes, *Secretary*
Thomas Shaw Hale, *Treasurer*
William Byler, *Executive Director*
Arthur Lazarus, Jr., Richard Schifter, *General Counsel*

Mr. Richard Kleindienst
Staff of the President-elect
Office of the President-elect Richard M. Nixon
450 Park Avenue
New York City, New York 10022

Dear Dick:

Although I use this letterhead I write as an individual. I come to you with comparatively limited knowledge of American Indian affairs since my exposure has been only during the last ten or twelve years.

It is my opinion a period of mutual trust between Indian leadership and the Bureau of Indian Affairs exists at present, as it has few times since the initiation of the "Peace Policy" of President Grant, the centennial of which will take place along with the inauguration of President Nixon in 1969.

Grant's Indian policy, and that of each subsequent national administration has sought Indian social, economic and political adjustment with the larger community so that special Federal protection and support of Indians and their property could be eliminated. The methods by which the national objective of Indian self-sufficiency have been sought differed markedly from administration to administration, and have changed with confusing regularity. Its legacy has been bitterness and misunderstanding between Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Congress and the American people, observing this conflict, along with continued Indian poverty in the face of increased Federal Indian budgets and bureaucratic expansion, have, in their mutual frustration, urged the Indian problem be solved by terminating the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But Indians and their non-Indian friends have not wanted the Bureau eliminated. They have consistently jumped to its vigorous support and a relatively static, custodial relationship between Indians and the Federal Government has continued on decade after decade.

National opinion in the area of Indian Affairs is both powerful and unpredictable. In the early 1920's, reactions to Indian policy by church groups and by national women's organizations led to the significant reforms of the Hoover Administration in 1928. These were consolidated into major Indian legislation in the 1930's. Adverse Congressional and popular reaction to New Deal

policies and programs were violent in the period of social and political change after World War II. The expansion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs which took place during the depression years was curtailed, and Indian self-determination was made an option rather than the single goal of Federal Indian policy. This mood hardened with time and was formally expressed in early 1953 by Joint Concurrent Resolution 108, which stated that the intent of Congress was to terminate unilaterally the special Federal relationship over organized Indian Tribes as rapidly as practical.

Later, in 1957, the unilateral approach to termination was withdrawn in favor of termination based on Indian consent. But real damage had already been done. Distrust by Indian leadership of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and of Congressional intent, growing since 1946, continued and had reached a peak at the time President Kennedy entered office. He continued the latter-day Eisenhower program, and attempted to demonstrate by deed as well as by word, that the Indian consent would guide Indian Affairs. This grew into an emphasis on partnership between the Bureau and the Indian people which since has become the keystone of Indian policy.

Thru this doctrine of "partnership", an environment of mutual trust and respect between the Indian Bureau and the Indians has been created which the Nixon Administration is indeed fortunate to inherit. This must continue if we Republicans are to avoid being labeled the party of "termination".

The Republican Party can assure continuity in Indian Affairs by retaining Robert L. Bennett, the present Commissioner, for a year or eighteen months, if not longer. As the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs to serve in this century, Mr. Bennett is greatly admired and respected by Indian people. Quite apart from his not inconsiderable ability, he is a major symbol of the principle of partnership between the Indian people and the BIA.

Mr. Bennett brings more strengths than his mere "Indianness" to the job. He has developed and is putting into operation a unique approach in Indian Affairs. He feels that Indians best can cut the cord of dependency by themselves by taking over and administering programs which have for generations been provided for them by the BIA. Tribal service contracts with BIA under the so-called "buy Indian" clause of the Act of 1910, provides the means for making this shift. His ultimate goal is to redefine the Federal-Indian relationship, within the full protection of the Federal Trust, into one in which Indians have maximum authority while accepting increasing responsibility for decisions they make.

Mr. Bennett's program implies that as Tribes assume the administration of programs, the number of BIA employees will decrease. This leads to a second and vital ingredient which Mr. Bennett brings to the Commissioner's job. As a long-time career employee, he knows the Bureau and its many foibles. He is admirably suited to the difficult task of getting many Bureau employees to work themselves out of jobs.

Finally, and most important, Mr. Bennett brings to the Commissioner's job an intimate acquaintance with National Indian leadership. This group is the Commissioner's special "constituency". He knows them and trusts them. They, in turn, tend to trust and respect him. Experience has clearly demonstrated program success depends on this support by the Indian people.

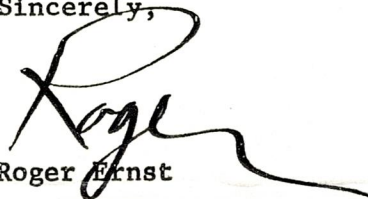
Mr. Kleindienst

-3-

December 3, 1968

I have known the Commissioner for many years through his work as an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His actual assignments during his career are documented within the Department of the Interior. If I recall correctly he changed his political registration from Democrat to Republican in 1960 so he could vote for Ben Reifel, Congressman from the 1st District in South Dakota, and is presently a registered Republican.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roger Ernst", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Ernst

RCE:b

December 3, 1968

Mr. Harry Flemming
Office of the President-elect
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Flemming:

I have received copies of resolutions from Indian organizations, Indian tribes, and letters from individuals recommending that I be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, in the administration of President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

I am interested in serving with the new administration. I believe that I could effectively and efficiently implement the statement by the President-elect which he issued to the National Congress of American Indians at Omaha, Nebraska, September 27, 1968, through Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. of Tennessee.

My appointment by President Lyndon B. Johnson was not a political appointment but was based upon my service career of over 30 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am enclosing a copy of the hearing on my nomination before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Senate and I invite your attention to the statements made in support of this nomination by the following members of the Congress:

Hon. E. L. Bartlett, U.S. Senator from Alaska
Hon. Ernest Gruening, U.S. Senator from Alaska
Hon. Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin
Hon. George S. McGovern, U.S. Senator from South Dakota
Hon. Karl E. Mundt, U.S. Senator from South Dakota
Hon. Ben Reifel, House of Representatives, South Dakota

I am also enclosing a vita summarizing my experience.

As an Indian American enjoying the support of the American Indian citizens, I believe that I could become an effective member of the team being developed by the President-elect to carry out the policies of his administration.

A copy of my letter to President-elect Richard M. Nixon is attached.

Sincerely yours,


Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Enclosures

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Richard M. Nixon

450 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 661-6400

December 5, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

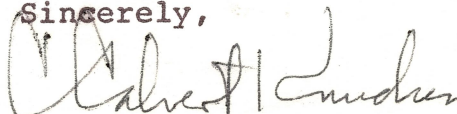
Your name has been suggested to the incoming Administration for appointment to high Federal office. It is our responsibility in such cases to obtain full information concerning your qualifications and possible availability for such an appointment, although our doing so does not imply that such an appointment is being sought or will be offered.

If you might under any circumstances be available to accept such an appointment and serve in the new Administration, either now or in the future, we would greatly appreciate your prompt completion and return of the enclosed form to this office.

All responses will be held in confidence and used only for the purpose described above, i.e. to obtain information concerning your qualifications and possible availability for appointment to high Federal office.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Calvert Knudsen", written over a light-colored background.

C. Calvert Knudsen

Encl.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DEC 5 1968

Memorandum

To: Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs
From: Assistant Secretary for Administration
Subject: Resignation of Presidential Appointees

For your information, the following guidance is provided concerning your resignation from the Federal service:

1. Resignations directed to President Johnson should be submitted to him prior to January 19, 1969. A carbon copy should be sent to this office.
2. Resignations not sent to the President must be submitted to President-elect Nixon. Such resignations will be sent to this office so that they may be submitted in one package to the new President on or about January 20, 1969.

For: C. McConnee

BOX 8900, UNIVERSITY STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

2450 VIRGINIA AVENUE N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEC 9 10 19 AM '68

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

♦ ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ♦

JOE B. FRANTZ, DIRECTOR

December 5, 1968

1. RLB file
2. Ho file
Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Once again, let me thank you for taking the time for such a full interview as we enjoyed in your office this past month. You are doing a marvelous job on a significant assignment, and I am so pleased that you agreed to share it with us at length.

As soon as we get a clean copy typed of your transcript, we will send it along. Meanwhile, thank you for your time and your frankness.

Sincerely,

Joe B. Frantz

JBF/rcm

BOARD OF ADVISORS: CHAIRMAN, FRANK VANDIVER, RICE UNIVERSITY • RICHARD CHALLENGER, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
LOUIS STARR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY • JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • JAMES MACGREGOR BURNS,
WILLIAMS COLLEGE • ALLAN NEVINS, HUNTINGTON LIBRARY • WAYNE GROVER, FORMER NATIONAL ARCHIVIST • HARRY
H. RANSOM, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, EX-OFFICIO

October 14, 1968

Mr. Joe B. Frantz
The University of Texas System
Austin, Texas 78712

Dear Mr. Frantz:

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett is out of town this week, but was in his office briefly over the weekend and read with interest your letter to him of October 9th concerning the oral history project which has been established under the auspices of the University of Texas for the purpose of recording experiences and observations of people associated with President Lyndon B. Johnson. *file*

Mr. Bennett asked me to let you know that he will be happy to participate in this project, and will await further word from your office as to specific arrangements.

With best wishes,

EW Pickett:ewp
10/14/68

Cordially,

Evelyn W. Pickett
Evelyn W. Pickett
Executive Assistant to Commissioner

CC: Mr. Macfarlan, Information---f.y.i.

MAIL ROOM

COMMR. READING FILE

Commr: chrony

: files--hold

Miss Ellis
145-2255
10/18
Nov. 13th
10:00am

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

OFFICE OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
THE COMMISSIONER

Creely 10/12

acknowledge &
advise that I
will participate

RFB



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

October 9, 1968

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCT 10 10 30 AM '68

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

An oral history project designed to record experiences and observations of those people associated with President Lyndon B. Johnson has been established under the auspices of the University of Texas. Persons being interviewed will include those people who have had either private or public contact with the President during his long career.

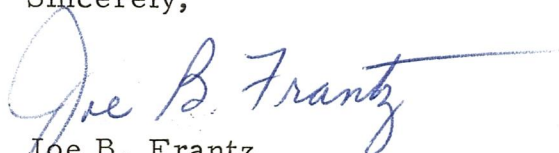
We are especially interested in filling in the information which cannot be gleaned from documents. We would like to know how you became acquainted with the President, in what areas your lives have touched since, of the genesis of any programs in which you might have participated, and of how certain decisions were reached.

The tapes of these interviews will be transcribed, and will be placed in the permanent files of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, a branch of The National Archives, situated on the University of Texas campus in Austin. They will be open only to qualified scholars under the most stringent of archival conditions. If sensitive information is included, restrictions may be placed on its use. We ask your cooperation, and particularly your participation as an interview subject.

My credentials as director of this project include 19 years as professor of history (five years as departmental chairman) at the University of Texas, director of the Texas State Historical Association, author of a dozen books and about two hundred articles, president of one national and two regional professional associations, and membership on various national boards, both professional and governmental. My staff of interviewers are comparably competent, professional historians.

My secretary will call your office to make arrangements as to time and place. We feel your inclusion in this project is vital.

Sincerely,


Joe B. Frantz

December 28, 1968

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

Dear Commissioner:

Thank you so much for your congratulations
and good wishes.

I, too, recall the buffalo dinner with a
great deal of pleasure - especially your very
entertaining remarks.

I look forward to our future association.

Very best regards,

Gerry Van der Heuvel
Gerry Van der Heuvel

GVdH/hns

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RICHARD M. NIXON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 7, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We acknowledge the receipt of the information concerning your interest in government employment.

We want you to know that President-elect Nixon appreciates your sincere desire to participate in the new Administration and that your application will receive careful consideration as positions are filled.

Sincerely,

Harry S. Flemming

Harry S. Flemming
Staff of the President-elect

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEC 12 11 43 AM '68



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Roger Ernst
President, Association on
American Indian Affairs, Inc.
432 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Dear Roger:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WINNEBAGO AGENCY
WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA 68071

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Administration

m. 601
12-9-68

December 6, 1968

Mr. Martin N. B. Holm

Area Director, Aberdeen, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Holm:

This has reference to the Superintendents' conference held in the Aberdeen Area Office on November 21 and 22, 1968 and the special report presented by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, concerning his recommendations to the Bureau of the Budget with respect to the programs and policies that appear necessary and feasible for the competitive advancement of the Indian people in today's society.

I have read and discussed the Commissioner's report with the Tribal Councils of the Omaha, Santee Sioux and Winnebago tribes and also with representatives of the Nebraska Inter-Tribal organization. The reaction of the Councils was highly favorable and in complete accord with each of the eight (8) items set forth in the report. I want to further report that all of the Nebraska tribes have expressed their complete confidence in Mr. Bennett and his philosophy in regard to American Indians and they have gone on record supporting his retention as Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the new Administration.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred A. Bray
Superintendent

RECEIVED

DEC - 9 1968

ABERDEEN AREA OFFICE
BRANCH OF REALTY



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Raymond S. Grant
Gnosis of Westfield
401 North Chestnut Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Dear Mr. Grant:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. I always felt at home and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

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I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

C 1A

January 6, 1969

7158

Dear Mr. Grant:

President Johnson asked me to thank you and those who joined with you for your letter. He appreciated receiving your comments and is pleased to know that you share his high regard for Commissioner Bennett.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker
Assistant to the President

Mr. Raymond S. Grant
Gnosis of Westfield
401 North Chestnut Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

CFH:pb

INTERIOR: (Bur. of Indian Affairs)

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

7153

Respectfully referred
for attention and
appropriate handling.

Whitney Research

Assistant to the President

Dear Mr. President;

The Gnosis of Westfield, New Jersey, a social group having a membership of about fifty persons, meets monthly to hear reports of studies by members on matters of current interest and concern.

At the November meeting Mrs. Walter Deal presented a paper on "The Plight of the American Indian". In this paper considerable information was developed which indicated that Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has been doing an outstanding job with real concern for human values and fair treatment of American Indians in the United States.

We, the undersigned members of Gnosis, felt we should bring this to your attention for commendation. We also wish to recommend to President-elect Nixon and our Congress that Mr. Bennett be reappointed for another term of years so that his experience and leadership may continue to develop policies of which all citizens can be proud.

Copy to; President-elect Richard M. Nixon
Senator Clifford P. Case
Senator Harrison A. Williams
Honorable Florence P. Dwyer

Signed;

Raymond S. Grant
Grace Saunders
Marian Ruth Felt
Mittie A. Saunders

Admin

Thelma S. Yocum
Anita B. Wade

Clyda W. Baldwin
Josephine M. Clark
Russell Yocom

Karlsruhe P. Leggett
John B. Knutler
Bruce Hainsworth

Frank J. Fuchs, Jr.
Edith F. Gate
Fred S. Clark

Oodridge C. Tate
 Dorothy J. Grant
 Nina L. Kuttler
 Marian Cory
 Mary Deal
 Harrison R. Cory
 Ruth F. Merrill

DEC 13 2 13 PM '68

December 10, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The city is still "buzzing" in response to your visit. You dispelled many misconceptions, and promoted new inquiries. Most important are those whom you have inspired to look more closely at themselves and this society. But you also prompted some people to become more familiar with Indian people, their environment, and their aspirations.

We are very grateful to you for your generosity in visiting our campus and sharing your expertise with the students, faculty, and friends of Moorhead State College. Our television show was well received. The restaurant we ate in burned to the ground the next day, which gave rise to some speculation about our heated discussions. No one was injured, fortunately, but there was a sizeable loss of choice cuts of meats and excellent liquor.

It was my intention to give you the widest possible exposure during your visit. I might have preferred to spend more time with you myself, but that would have been more to my advantage and less to yours. All of us hope that the new administration's expressed intention of keeping key career people in certain administration posts includes you. If any of us can be of service to you in your efforts, please call upon us.

Thank you again, from the Amerindian Club and myself.

Cordially,

James M. Murray
James M. Murray, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics

JMM:cyh

RESOLUTION NO. 59-69

WHEREAS, Robert L. Bennett is only one of two American Indians ever to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Bennett by reason of his race, his culture and his working lifetime devoted to his people has recognized the abilities and capabilities of Indians to move forward in the American economy, has administered the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs with understanding of the Indian people and their problems, and

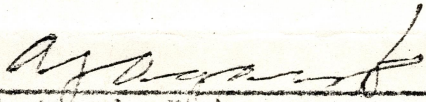
WHEREAS, Robert L. Bennett rose from the ranks and attained the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the merits of his advancement and his performance in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs has been an inspiration and a source of pride to every American Indian.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Indians of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North Dakota and South Dakota respectfully urge the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President-Elect of the United States, to retain and reappoint Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in order that the fine relationship Commissioner Bennett has developed between American Indians and the Federal Government may continue and progress.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, Chairman and Secretary of the Tribal Council of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 15 members of whom 11, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened, and held the 11th day of December, 1968, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 10 members, with 0 opposing, and with 0 not voting. The Chairman's vote is not required except in case of a tie.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1968.

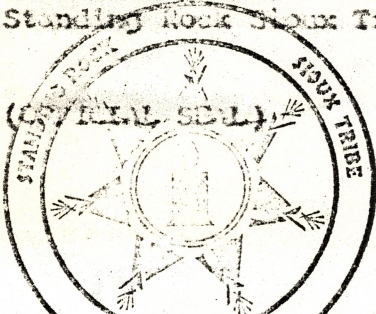


A. J. Ayard, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Alvina Greybear, Secretary
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Peter Dufault
President, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Federal Building, Room 420
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Dear Mr. DuFault:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me, and I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

100
PETER DUFAULT, PRESIDENT
SHERMAN SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT

HOWARD LANDY, MANAGER

PEARL FABRE, SECRETARY
SAM YANKEE, TREASURER



THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

PHONE: 751-2985 ROOM 420 FEDERAL BUILDING P. O. BOX 588
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA 56601

December 11th, 1968

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

As President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, on behalf of its 26,000 enrolled members, I ask that Robert L. Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs so that the programs that have been initiated under the direction of Commissioner Bennett and which are Indian orientated, can be completed to result in true advancement of the Indian people.

Sincerely yours,

THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE


Peter Dufault - President

PD/sb

cc; President Elect R. M. Nixon
J. Blatnik
W. Mondale
O. Langen
Governor H. LeVander
B. Reifel
N.C.A.I.

Dec 19 9 09 AM '68

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Oswald George
Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council
Plummer, Idaho 83851

Dear Mr. George:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as your Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

DEC 10 8 59 AM '68

CDA 84(69)

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the most important office in any United States President's administration, from the Indians' point of view, is the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

Whereas, the present Commissioner Robert Bennett received his appointment not because of any party affiliation but because he is an American Indian, an enrolled member of an Indian Tribe and he had a record as a skilled and dedicated administrator within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and

Whereas, the purpose of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to function as an agency through which the United States Government can fulfill its obligations to the Indian citizens of the United States and, conversely, through which the various tribes can maintain their existence and their function as quasi-sovereign entities serving the needs of their tribal members, and

Whereas it is a disastrous course from the point of view of Indians that the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs should again become a partisan or patronage office to be shifted and changed with the coming of each new political administration, and

Whereas, the much lamented and criticized pendulum swings of Indian policy that have plagued Indian tribes and the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for many decades should be brought to an end so that there will be a uniformly evolving policy on which the Indian tribes can rely and which will further stabilize the relationship of the United States and its Indian people, and

Whereas, Commissioner Robert Bennett, the first Indian to serve as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has fulfilled his responsibilities with great dedication and effectiveness and has fairly represented the best interests of both the Indian people and the United States, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians does hereby urgently recommend that the forthcoming administration of president-elect Richard Nixon retain Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we recognize Commissioner Bennett as an Indian colleague who in administering the Bureau of Indian Affairs has functioned and will continue to function not as a political appointee committed to the philosophy of one party or the

other but as a respected Indian leader who will equitably and efficiently fulfill the needs and the responsibilities of both the Indian people and their government, the United States of America, in his administration of Indian Affairs.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council at a meeting held at the Coeur d'Alene Sub-Agency on December 12, 1968, with the required quorum present, by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

Oswald C. George
Chairman

Evangelina Abraham
Secretary



Memo

From the Desk of
U.S. Rep. Ben Reifel
1st Dist., S. Dak.

You may find
this of interest
Ben Reifel

BEN REIFEL, M.C.
FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTH DAKOTA

348 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

HOME ADDRESS:
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

MEMBER:
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

VERN LOEN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SHIRLEY M. LUIKENS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

December 12, 1968

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior Designate
Office of the Governor
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hickel:

Please accept my warmest congratulations upon your selection as Secretary of the Interior.

As the ranking Republican member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, I have followed with some interest the speculation about this appointment. I look forward to meeting you when you appear before our subcommittee.

It was particularly pleasing to me to see a Westerner named to this post. With your background in state affairs, natural resource development and Indian affairs, you would seem to be admirably equipped to tackle the problems of this Department.

Secretary Udall and I have enjoyed a warm personal relationship. I regard him as one of the all-time great Secretaries of this Department in which I spent a quarter of a century as an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I look forward to working with you to make the Department even more responsive to the challenges it faces.

In that connection, might I say that your administration will be only as good as the men appointed to aid you. You could do no better than to continue Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have written a strong letter to President-elect Nixon urging Mr. Bennett's reappointment and I hope that you will give it full consideration.

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Page 2
December 12, 1968

In only two years in this position, Mr. Bennett has won unusual acceptance by Indian Americans everywhere and by BIA employees as well. As an Indian American himself--the first Indian Commissioner since 1871--he is uniquely qualified to deal with the peculiar needs of the "Forgotten American" and our Government's responsibilities to meet those needs through new and effective opportunity.

Undoubtedly, you are personally acquainted with Mr. Bennett through his service as Area Director of Alaska in the early 1960's.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ben Reifel, M.C.

BR:aro

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Richard M. Nixon

WASHINGTON, D.C.

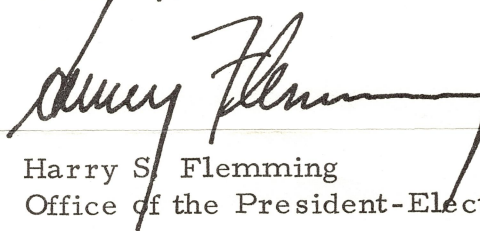
December 12, 1968

Dear Fellow American:

President-Elect Nixon wants you to know he appreciates your interest in serving in the new Administration. Information concerning you has been received by this Office which is conducting his search for qualified personnel.

Mr. Nixon has asked me to assure you that your interest in the new Administration will receive careful consideration as positions are filled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry S. Flemming", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harry S. Flemming
Office of the President-Elect



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Sterling Snake, Treasurer
Winnebago Tribal Council
Winnebago, Nebraska 68071

Dear Mr. Snake:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made on my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe, and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

435

December 12, 1968

DEC 16 1 23 PM '68

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Pres.-Elect Richard M. Nixon
Hotel Pierre
New York, N.Y.

Dear Pres.-Elect Nixon:

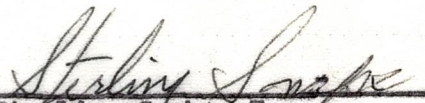
We are writing to express our view's on the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett.

We feel he is well qualified because he, being an Indian, know the Indian problems and knows how to deal with them, as well as being raised on an Indian Reservation, and attending Indian Boarding Schools. He would understand all the problem's of Indian Education and what steps should be taken to eradicate them.

We feel Robert Bennett should be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Thank You.

Enclosed is a resolution to this effect.

Sincerely yours,


Sterling Snake, Treas.
Winnebago Tribal Council

cc. Commissioner Bennett
Ben Reifel
N.C.A.I. Headquarters
Roman L. Hruska
Carl T. Curtis
Robert V. Denny

DEC 16 1 24 PM '68

RESOLUTION
OF THE
WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Resolution No. 69-13

WHEREAS, The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is a Federal Corporation chartered under the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984); and

WHEREAS, in the past few years there has been an uplifting of the standards of the American Indian, enough to awaken the self-reliance of the individual tribes to seek and find the road to progress; and

WHEREAS, never before has there been so much interest placed on the American Indian as a people of great potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Winnebago Tribal Council, of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska; that we, in a duly called meeting on December 2, 1968, do hereby express the earnest desire to retain Robert L. Bennett as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing Resolution was considered at a meeting of the Tribal Council of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, duly called and held on the 2nd day of December, 1968, and was adopted by a vote of 7 for and 0 against, and 1 not voting.

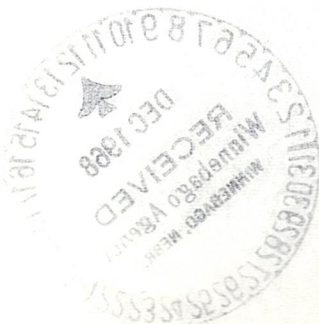
Dated this 11th day of December, 1968.

ATTEST:

Gordon C. Beaver
Chairman, WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Alvin S. Kelley
Secretary, WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Alfred T. Day
Superintendent, WINNEBAGO AGENCY



December 12, 1968

Honorable James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

This will acknowledge your invitation of November 8th to present my personal papers to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, which is being built on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Since receipt of your letter, I have had the privilege of meeting with Mr. Sherrod East of the National Archives and Records Service, who explained in full the purpose of the Presidential Libraries, and who left additional material with me.

I am interested in cooperating with this effort, for I strongly support the program. It happens, however, that I have already made a commitment regarding my papers to the Wisconsin Historical Association. I advised Mr. East that I would review the commitment which I have executed and be in touch with the Wisconsin Historical Association to develop an amicable procedure by which I might support your request on behalf of the Johnson Library as well.

In my conversation with Mr. East, I stated the unqualified opinion of both Mrs. Bennett and myself that the Library of the Johnson Administration will be tremendously important, for a scholarly review of the Johnson Administration in an academic forum in time to come, rather than in the emotional turmoil of today, will show and prove Mr. Johnson to be one of our great presidents.

With all good wishes, I am,

RLBennett:ewp
12/12/68

Sincerely yours,



cc: MAIL ROOM
COMMR. RDG. FILE
Commr: chrony
: files

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

hold ✓

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



1. RLB
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Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to present your personal papers to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, which is being built on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.

When the history of our era is written, the national center for research and writing on the Johnson Administration will be the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. Your role in contemporary affairs and your relationship to President Johnson enable you to make a unique contribution to that institution: your personal correspondence and other historical material. As in other Presidential Libraries, your papers would there be kept together, intact, under your name. Any restrictions you wish to place on their use will be carefully observed by the Library staff, which will consist of professional archivists working under the supervision of the National Archives and Records Service.

President Johnson's own papers for the entire period of his public life are unusually well-kept and complete, and will form the core of the Library's holdings. Also, copies have been made of those official records that document the initiation and progress of the key programs of the Johnson Administration, and these will be deposited in the Library. The gift of your personal papers, covering your entire career both public and private, would add greatly to the richness and usefulness of the Library's research resources. It is our conviction that in the Johnson Library your material can be best preserved and most effectively made available to future scholars.

If you have any questions about the Library or about this invitation, we would be happy to meet with you or to furnish you with any additional information you may desire.

Sincerely,

James B. Rhoads

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES AND PERSONAL PAPERS

As branch repositories of the National Archives, Presidential Libraries house the most important records of the Republic--the archives of the Presidency. These are detailed, day-to-day records of policy formation, program action, and public response. Together with other files and memorabilia accumulated by a President, usually over a lifetime of public service, they constitute the core of each Library's collections and are indispensable for research in American and indeed in world history.

In addition to preserving this unique manuscript and other material, Presidential Libraries are authorized by law to serve as repositories for the personal papers and other historical material of a President's "associates and contemporaries." The more complete this material is the more dependable historical evidence it constitutes, and the more useful it will be to historians, biographers, and other researchers wishing to learn about the men and women who advised and assisted the President and to whom were entrusted the task of carrying out his policies.

Most people who play a leading role in public life preserve in organized files their personal correspondence and the other documentary material they accumulate. It is to their benefit as well as to that of scholarship that these files not be broken up and dispersed as collections of individual autographs, letters, or other single items. For this reason a Presidential Library offers a donor one place of deposit for all of his personal papers.

The great value of personal papers is that when they can be properly released for scholarly research--and this the donor decides--they provide background information on people, politics, and public issues not to be found in official records. For the biographer, they may also contain indispensable information relating to an individual's civic and business affairs and his family life. When studied in conjunction with official records, personal papers help document the special knowledge, abilities, interests, and characteristics of the men and women who comprise the highest level of government, and of persons associated with the President on a nonofficial basis. A Presidential Library will hold all of this information in trust, confident that both history and the individual will benefit from the fullest possible documentation of this era.

In addition to their personal papers--correspondence, memoranda, drafts, notebooks, journals, diaries, and scrapbooks--public officials usually accumulate other files of research value. Although retained in

their offices, these files are not part of their agency's records and are generally taken with them by officials when they leave government service. Copies of significant series of official documents and of important or confidential communications, accumulated by an individual because of his special interests, can be useful because of his particular emphasis or arrangement, even though they may duplicate the official files. Copies of "reading" and "chronological" files of outgoing correspondence at policymaking levels can be important in this way.

Other materials of research value include official diaries, appointment calendars, and logs of telephone calls; invitations to give speeches and a full set of speeches delivered; a full set of press releases issued by his office; and directories or lists of persons and positions. Useful also are drafts, used or unused, of memoranda, letters, and speeches; informal or confidential personal memoranda, letters, and notes received from government officials or other public figures that are not intended to be part of the official records of the office; correspondence concerning individuals suggested for government appointment, or requiring opinions concerning the abilities of individuals, or containing similar personal information that is in no way connected with the official work of his agency; and correspondence that comes to an official because of the office he holds, but that does not directly concern his official responsibilities or relate to the work of his office. Included are letters from professional and business colleagues, former college and other friends who write to the official because of their personal relationships. Press clippings are valuable if they are clearly identified, as are photographs, motion pictures, and sound recordings. Physical objects that have an association with the President or with the individual's official service are significant, and are often useful for exhibit in the museum area of the Library.

While each of the Presidential Libraries is primarily concerned with the period represented by a particular Presidential administration, the entire careers of the individuals who constituted that administration are of interest. Thus, in correspondence files particularly, material dated both before and after the Presidential administration are of value. Generally speaking, it is desirable to preserve one's personal papers intact. Should persons who have served more than one President wish to divide their files chronologically, however, microfilm or other photocopies can resolve the problem. Complete files, consisting in part of originals and in part of copies, can be deposited in two or more Libraries. The conditions governing access to and use of the papers can be the same for each Library.

near at hand for a time before depositing them in the library of their choice may place them temporarily in the National Archives in Washington or in one of the several Federal Records Centers located throughout the United States. In either case, donors will be given facilities for personal use of their papers as well as professional reference service on them and reproductions of particular documents among them.



PRESIDENTIAL
LIBRARIES

THE careful preservation of papers, records, and documents has always been a distinguishing characteristic of great nations, for the archives of any country are among its most valuable cultural resources. Without them history cannot be written. When we preserve such materials we prove our commitment to the values on which our society has been built, and it is from these materials that posterity will make its judgments of our lives and times.

These were the factors that led the Congress, in 1934, to create the institution it called the National Archives, which has since become the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. This Service administers a nation-wide system of depositories where there are preserved and made available all classes of papers and documents that are important for the study of American history. This system includes the four Presidential Libraries now in operation and the two that are in process of creation.

The Presidential Libraries Act of 1955 gave statutory recognition to the special importance attached to the preservation of papers and other historical materials of the Presidents of the United States, together with the papers of their associates and contemporaries. Bringing into the National Archives system the papers of the Presidents, and of the men and women who helped them shape national policies, makes the study and understanding of a particular Presidential era easier. As part of the National

Archives system these papers are administered by the same agency that has responsibility for the preservation of the official records of our Federal Government, which show how the decisions and policies of a President and his advisors were carried out.

The four Presidential Libraries now in operation are:

Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch, Iowa

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, N. Y.

Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Mo.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kans.

When completed, the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library at Cambridge, Mass., and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library at Austin, Tex., will also become a part of the National Archives system.

The four existing Libraries, which are, in effect, branches of the National Archives, have proved to be important centers of research and educational activity both for the geographical areas in which they are situated and for the entire country. They contain not only the papers and files of four Presidents of the United States, but scores of collections of the personal correspondence, diaries, and other historical materials of the men and women who served with them or who played important public roles. The Libraries also have large collections of books and printed materials as well as

still pictures, motion pictures, and memorabilia that bear on the historical periods with which the Presidents are associated.

Presidential Libraries offer many advantages to persons confronted with the problem of how best to preserve their personal papers. Papers deposited in them are kept intact as separate, named collections. They are safe from the physical hazards that often beset manuscripts in private hands, for they are housed in buildings scientifically designed and equipped to insure their preservation. They are in the care of a professional staff specifically trained in the techniques of preservation, arrangement, and indexing and fully conversant with recent American history, so that intelligent help or guidance can be given to all who use them.

Presidential Libraries are specialized depositories whose holdings relate to clearly defined eras and fields of study. The archivists in charge of them can give a higher degree of expert attention to the papers under their care than can be given in a depository whose holdings range over a long span of time and widely different fields of interest. And the right of donors to place limitations on the use of their papers is specifically recognized by act of Congress. Such restrictions, stipulations, and conditions as donors choose to place on the use of their papers are scrupulously observed.

Because Presidential Libraries are a part of the National Archives system, persons who wish to have their papers

WHEREAS; the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board is the duly elected body representing the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and is empowered to act in behalf of the Tribes. All actions shall be adherent to provisions set forth in the 1960 Constitution and By-Laws and Public Law #449, and

WHEREAS; Robert L. Bennett displayed outstanding ability as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS; it is the feeling of many Indian tribes that they need a member of their race in this position, and

WHEREAS; Robert L. Bennett has created good relationship between the tribes and B.I.A.

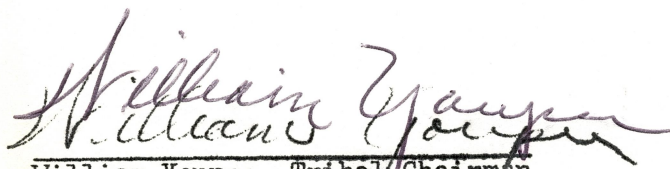
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that we hereby respectfully request President elect Richard M. Nixon to retain Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

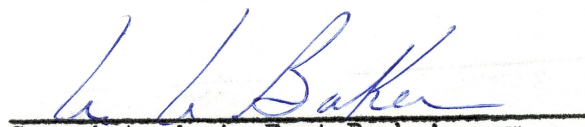
C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned Secretary-Accountant of the Tribal Executive Board of the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Executive Board is composed of 12 voting members of whom 12 constituting a quorum were present at a Recessed Special meeting duly called and convened this 13th day of December, 1968: that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 8.

APPROVED:


Verne E. Gibbs, Secretary-Accountant


William Youpee, Tribal Chairman
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board


Superintendent, Fort Peck Agency





ALASKA FEDERATION of NATIVES

1689 C STREET

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

December 13, 1968

EMIL NOTTI
President

JOHN BORBRIDGE, JR.
First Vice President

EBEN HOBSON
Second Vice President

MARGARET NICK
Secretary

JOHN SACKETT
Treasurer

FRANK DEGNAN
Sergeant-at-Arms

The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

My dear Mr. Udall:

Thank you for your letter of December 11th, informing me of your action of withdrawing public lands in Alaska from entry by third parties.

The Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors met on December 12th and unanimously agreed your action was helpful, necessary and courageous.

We have heard, since the imposition of your previous "land freeze," that the State of Alaska would be driven to bankruptcy. The Native people, being part of the State of Alaska, certainly would not like to see this happen. We don't think the land freeze will cripple the State - the revenues will probably be delayed until a later date, instead.

Developments, in Alaska, are happening at such a rapid rate that the State of Alaska needs this breather period to take an objective look at what is happening and follow up with some solid planning for orderly development.

Your withdrawal will give Congress the opportunity to solve the problem before it becomes more complex by further encroachments on the old way of life.

We applaud your positive and courageous actions which are for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely yours,

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Emil Notti
Emil Notti,
President

EN:1mb

INTERIOR DEPT.

DEC 17 1968

ASSISTANT
SECRETARY
P. L. M.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Hon. Jack B. Olson
Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Olson:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me and made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs



STATE OF WISCONSIN
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
MADISON

JACK B. OLSON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

12/14/68

Personal

Robert Bennett

The enclosed letter I
felt you might wish to
see — as you know
Wis. Delta is my home and
Mrs. Mason and I have both
discussed this matter a number
of times. If I can be of further
aid please call.

Sincerely Jack Olson



STATE OF WISCONSIN
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
MADISON

JACK B. OLSON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

9 December 1968

Confidential

Congressman Glenn R. Davis
Congressman John Byrnes
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

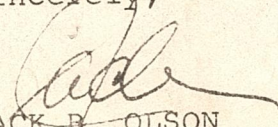
Dear Glenn and John:

Trust you had a good stay in Jamaica - it certainly is a wonderful place - with great weather, scenery and people.

The purpose of this note to both of you is to strongly urge your requesting Dick Nixon to retain Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is the first Indian to occupy this office and has done an outstanding job. I grew up with 300 Indians and have been a member of the State Indian Council for 10 years. Commissioner Bennett is an Oneida from close to Green Bay and has nation wide support of Indian Tribes in every section. Bennett is "dedicated to the progress of the nation's Indian people."

In my judgment, there is merit in his re-appointment to this post where he can continue to build a better America for all.

Sincerely,


JACK B. OLSON
Lt. Governor

si

Blind Copy



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mrs. Bernie Hamlin
Secretary, The Indian Women's Club
601 South Shawnee
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Mrs. Hamlin:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe, and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me and made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

December 17, 1968

Mrs. Bernis Hamlin
Secretary, The Indian Women's Club
601 South Shawnee
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Mrs. Hamlin:

I appreciate very much your letter of December 12, enclosing a copy of a letter you had written to Washington representatives recommending my retention as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The support of Indian people has been a real source of comfort to me in carrying out the responsibilities of this position, which is so important to the Indian people. I hope that I can be of some service in the next administration and that I will continue to deserve the support which the Indian people are displaying at this particular time.

With all good wishes for a happy holiday season, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

✓RLBennett/klm 12/17/68
file, chrono, mailroom, Commissioner's Reading File

The Indian Women's Club

December 12, 1968

*601 So. Shawnee
Bartlesville, Oklahoma*

1. RLB

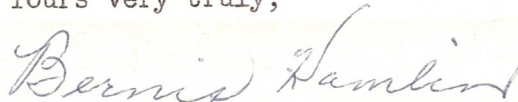
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

For your information, attached is
a copy of a letter our Club has written
to several of our Washington represen-
tatives regarding your retention as
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

May I take this opportunity to wish
you and your family a very pleasant Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Yours very truly,



(Mrs.) Bernis Hamlin
Secretary
Indian Women's Club

/bh
encl.

C
o
p
y

November 22, 1968

The Honorable Henry Bellmon
United States Senator-elect
Billings, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Bellmon:

The Indian Women's Club of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, unanimously approved a recommendation that we suggest to the incoming administration in Washington that Commissioner Robert L. Bennett of the Bureau of Indian Affairs be retained in that position.

Commissioner Bennett has worked exceptionally well with all Indian groups. Many programs for the betterment of the American Indians and Alaskan Natives in health service, training to improve their financial status, and in many other areas, both on a local and reservation-wide basis, have been initiated and effectively carried out under the direction of Commissioner Bennett.

We feel that the American Indians and Alaskan Natives have greatly progressed under the supervision of Commissioner Bennett and respectfully urge that there not be a change in this office. Your help in expressing the feeling of our clubwomen will certainly be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Mary Townsend Crow, President

MTC/bh

Same letter to: Hon. Fred R. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Hon. Page Belcher
Okla. State Representative
Federal Bldg., Tulsa, Okla. 74103

Hon. Ed Edmondson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Mr. Bryce N. Harlow, Legislative asst. to Pres.-elect
Richard M. Nixon, Washington, D. C. 20000

cc: Mr. Robert L. Bennett ✓
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Karl E. Mundt
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Melvin R. Laird
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Ben Reifel
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

The National Congress of American Indians
Washington Office Headquarters
1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Room 1010
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Georgeann Robinson
First Vice President NCAI
1406 Prairie Heights Drive
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Hon. Ben Reifel
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Ben:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. I always felt at home and I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

December 19, 1968

BY MESSENGER

Mr. Harry Flemming
Office of the President-Elect
c/o The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

At the request of Mr. Vern Loen, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Ben Reifel, I am forwarding a green sheet with attachments for your consideration. This is in support of the sponsorship by Congressman Reifel that I be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the new administration.

With all good wishes for a happy holiday season, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Enclosures

RLBennett/klm 12/19/68
file, ~~chicago~~

404 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

BEN REIFEL, M.C.
FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTH DAKOTA

MEMBER:
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DISTRICT OFFICES:
220 CITIZENS BUILDING
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57401

300 NORTHWEST BANK BUILDING
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57102

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

VERN LOEN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SHIRLEY M. LUIKENS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 13, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

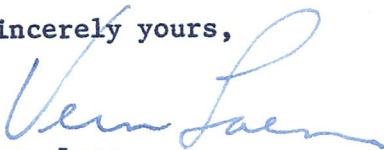
We have received instructions from the office of the President-elect concerning appointments in the new administration.

Congressional sponsors are invited to submit a red form listing the candidate's name, position sought and phone numbers. The candidates themselves are asked to submit a green sheet, which is enclosed.

In view of Congressman Reifel's strong support for your reappointment, I wanted you to know of this procedure. The completed form should be sent promptly to Mr. Harry Flemming, Office of the President-Elect, C/O The White House, Washington, D. C.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Vern Loen
Administrative Assistant

VL:aro

Enclosure

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RICHARD M. NIXON

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 14, 1968

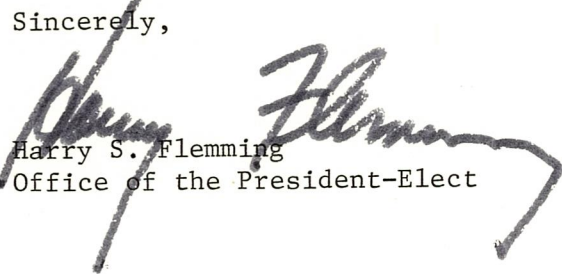
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

President-Elect Nixon wants you to know he appreciates your interest in serving the new Administration. Information concerning you has been received by this Office which is conducting his search for qualified personnel.

Mr. Nixon has asked me to assure you that your interest in the new Administration will receive careful consideration as positions are filled.

Sincerely,



Harry S. Flemming
Office of the President-Elect

Braund, Mel

December 16, 1968

Mr. Robert A. Davenny
State Chairman
Republican State Central Committee
P. O. Box 4-2050
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Davenny:

I have your letter of November 29 in which you advise that Mr. Mel Braund has written you recommending my retention as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am appreciative of the interest shown by Mr. Braund, as we have been closely associated during my tenure as Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Juneau.

In response to your request, I am submitting a vita on my background and qualifications. It is hoped that you will find this helpful and informative, and additional details as desired can be submitted.

We are building our physical facilities for schools for Native children in Alaska to meet the requirements of the boroughs and the State of Alaska. Joint consultation is had with boroughs and State Commissioners of Education so that the facilities will be built to acceptable standards for turnover to the borough or State.

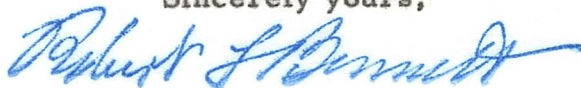
On most of the smaller facilities in the remote areas, the planning and construction of facilities is done by the Bureau of Indian Affairs through its Division of Plant Design and Construction located in Anchorage. This is done for several reasons:

(1) inaccessibility to public transportation (2) provide employment for the Native people to help the local economy (3) training of Native people in building crafts and in maintenance of physical facilities. The results of this program show that on these projects, 88 percent of the total labor force are Native people from local villages who receive 76 percent of the total wages paid.

Where we contract, the figures show 25 percent of the labor force are Native people who receive 21 percent of the manpower expended. However, our policy in larger facilities such as the dormitory at Nome, the dormitory at Kodiak, and the proposed construction at Mt. Edgecumbe, if this project is authorized, will be through competitive bidding. I believe that you can appreciate the justifications for these policies. It might be further explained that these are general policies and exceptions have been made where it is feasible for competitive bidding rather than Bureau of Indian Affairs construction.

Should any further information be desired, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Enclosure

cc: ~~file~~, chrono

(no other copies made per RLB)

RLBennett:emh 12/16/68



REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ROBERT A. DAVENNY
STATE CHAIRMAN

P. O. BOX 4-2050
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99503

29 NOVEMBER, 1968

100
1.RLB
Mr. ROBERT L. BENNETT, COMMISSIONER
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1951 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

DEAR MR. BENNETT:

A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF YOURS, MEL BRAUND, HAS SPOKEN VERY STRONGLY FOR YOU AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE ENCLOSED COPY OF HIS LETTER TO ME.

WE REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT YOUR POSITION IS TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA. MR. BRAUND FEELS THAT WE, AS ALASKANS SHOULD HAVE SOME VOICE IN THE SELECTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, IN WHICH I HEARTILY CONCUR.

BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR NAME TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING YOU AND YOUR QUALIFICATIONS. I WOULD, THEREFORE, REQUEST A RESUME OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS.

OUR NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN, LLOYD BURGESS, IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO KNOW YOUR STAND AND REQUIREMENTS ON THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS FOR NATIVE CHILDREN IN ALASKA AND THE PROCEEDURE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON SUCH PROJECTS.

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER MR. BRAUND'S REQUEST AS SOON AS WE HEAR FROM YOU.

VERY TRULY YOURS

Robert A. Davenney
ROBERT A. DAVENNY
STATE CHAIRMAN

RAD/MGF

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEC 9 12 52 PM '68

November 25, 1968

Mr. Robert L. Davenny, Chairman
Republican Party for the State of Alaska
Post Office Box 4-2050
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Bob:

We sincerely support the retention of Robert L. Bennett as
Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Bennett is a veteran of over thirty years' service with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He first became acquainted with Alaska in December, 1961, when he was appointed Area Director for the Juneau Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. At the time of his appointment he was reported to be a registered member of the Republican Party. While his civil service status limited his political activity it was generally accepted that his political loyalty was Republican.

Bennett is an Oneida Indian and a native of Wisconsin. He served as Assistant Area Director at the Bureau's office at Aberdeen, South Dakota, from 1958 to 1961. He first joined the Bureau in 1933 and served in the UNITAH and OURAY, NAVAJO and CONSOLIDATED UTE agencies and in the Washington office. He is a 1931 graduate of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, and holds a law degree from Southeastern University, Washington, D.C. He was in military service during World War II.

Bennett assumed the position of Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs November 1, 1965. He took to that position a conviction and philosophy that Indian People should not be dependent wards of the government but that they should be independent contributing members of society. His belief that all persons should have the right to participate in government is evidenced by the progress made in encouraging Indian Councils to become effective functioning units. During his term as Commissioner there has developed a greater awareness of the need for sound planning in the use of economic resources of Indian Tribes, and there has been an encouraging shift away from the historical approach of paternalism in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

There have been demonstrations of joint efforts of Industry and Indian Tribes during the last three years. There has been a marked increase in participation of Indian People on boards of Directors

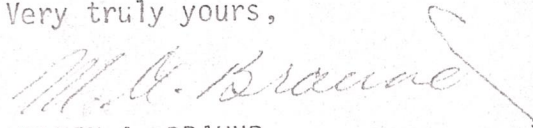
-2-

Mr. Robert L. Davenny, cont'd.

of Corporations where there are investments of Tribal monies. There has been an increase in investments of Tribal funds in the private section of the economy rather than continuance of Treasury deposits controlled solely by Bureau Administrators.

We believe that it would be to the benefit of the nation and to the Indian People to continue Robert L. Bennett in office. The beginnings of the programs he has started show promise for the future. His conviction that welfare should not substitute for employment is essential to the growth and development of our economy. We respectfully request that full consideration be given to his qualifications and performance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. A. Braund", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MELVIN A. BRAUND



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Francis Wyasket
Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Council
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Mr. Wyasket:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

WILKINSON, CRAGUN & BARKER

LAW OFFICES

ERNEST L. WILKINSON
JOHN W. CRAGUN
GLEN A. WILKINSON
ROBERT W. BARKER
ROCCO C. SICILIANO
DONALD C. GORMLEY
CHARLES A. HOBBS
ANGELO A. IADAROLA
PAUL S. QUINN
LEON T. KNAUER

FRANCES L. HORN
RICHARD A. BAENEN
JERRY C. STRAUS
HERBERT E. MARKS
R. RICHARDS ROLAPP
RICHARD A. ZIMMERMAN
HUGH J. YARRINGTON

12/23/68
1616 H STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

NATIONAL 8-4400

CABLE ADDRESS:
"WILCBAR"

December 17, 1968

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
Hotel Pierre
New York, New York

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

C
O
P
Y

Under date of December 9, 1968, the Administrative Officer of the Uintah and Guray Tribal Business Committee of the Ute Indian Tribe, Fort Duchesne, Utah, forwarded to you a resolution supporting the reappointment of Honorable Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We are happy to forward a copy of that resolution, and enclose a copy to Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary-Designate of the Interior.

We have been privileged to represent the Ute Indian Tribe for more than 30 years. We can assure you that the resolution was adopted only after careful consideration, a practice which is characteristic of the Utes.

We have also represented other Indian tribes in approximately 15 western states and currently serve as general counsel to the following tribes: Quinault Tribe of Washington; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Montana; Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming; and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. We also serve as litigation counsel to a number of other Indian tribes. We are now general counsel to the National Congress of American Indians, the only all-Indian organization in the United States.

We can assure you that Mr. Bennett is highly regarded and respected by all Indian groups with whom we have come in contact. He has made a sincere effort to determine the underlying causes and to arrive at solutions to the many aspects of the "Indian problem." We believe that he should have a reasonable opportunity to implement his plans.

Honorable Richard M. Nixon

December 17, 1968

- 2 -

We believe that we have experienced a unique position in the Indian field within the past two or three decades. Since several of us have long been identified with the Republican party, we feel we can visualize and be sympathetic to your goals and objectives. Therefore, we would be willing to consult with any of your staff on possible personnel appointments if you thought that our background in this field would be helpful in this respect.

With respect to Mr. Bennett, who is a member of the Oneida Indian Tribe, we have noted your commitment to appoint an Indian member of the Indian Claims Commission. It is our honest conviction that this is a commitment which is difficult, if not impossible, of performance. We have learned from a prior survey that there are few if any qualified Indian lawyers who are Republicans (the only possible vacancy on the Commission is Republican). The continuation of Mr. Bennett in office as Commissioner of Indian Affairs might help you satisfy that commitment - reappointing and continuing an Indian citizen as Commissioner of Indian Affairs rather than appointing an Indian citizen as a member of the Indian Claims Commission.

We take this occasion to wish you success and satisfaction in perhaps the most important and difficult position in the world. You have our prayers for success for our country and yourself.

Respectfully yours,

WILKINSON, CRAGUN & BARKER

By: Glen A. Wilkinson

CAW:bhs

enc.

cc: Honorable Walter J. Mickel



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Edward R. Davenport
President, Arizona Indian Association
3224 W. Larkspur Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029

Dear Mr. Davenport:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

File

Arizona Indian Association

Representing The Indian Mailman Monthly Publication

3224 W. Larkspur Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029
December 17, 1968

The Honorable Walter Hickel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building Room 6151
18th and C, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Sir:

May I extend my congratulations and those of the Arizona Indian Association on your appointment to the position of Secretary of the Interior. From our brothers in the Alaska area we have heard many favorable comments of your support of their efforts to work for a better future for their people.

As you know, the National Congress of American Indians, of which this Association is a member, went on record at its Omaha convention in September of this year as strongly endorsing the retention in office of Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Since he assumed this position, we have had many contacts with Mr. Bennett and have always found him to be sincerely interested in the welfare and progress of the American Indian people. It is further to his credit that, for the first time in the history of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, he has given official recognition to the plight of the off-reservation Indian and has actively encouraged solutions to this problem.

We feel that it is of the greatest importance to the Indian people of the United States that Mr. Bennett remain in office, not only to provide continuity to the many new and progressive steps which the Bureau of Indian Affairs has begun to take under his direction, but because we strongly believe that Mr. Bennett has the interest of the Indian people at heart and will continue to make it possible for them to help themselves rather than having the Bureau do it for them.

We respectfully request that this letter be added to the pleas of the many other Indian tribes and organizations who endorsed Mr. Bennett and that every consideration be given to his retention in office.

Respectfully yours,

Edward R. Davenport
President

Juana Lyon
By: (Mrs.) Juana Lyon
Secretary



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mrs. Helen M. Peterson
Publisher, Hardin Tribune-Herald
Hardin, Montana 59034

Dear Mrs. Peterson:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Area Director

BILLINGS AREA OFFICE
316 NORTH 26TH ST.
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101

December 20, 1968

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

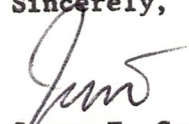
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing a copy of an editorial that appeared yesterday in the weekly Hardin Tribune-Herald. I am sure you will remember Mrs. Peterson, the Publisher of this paper. She has always taken a very deep and active interest in Indian business, and has not always indicated this kind of support. It is, therefore, particularly gratifying to see her taking this position.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a continuing appointment in 1969.

Sincerely,


James F. Canan
Area Director

Enclosure



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CROW INDIAN AGENCY
CROW AGENCY, MONTANA 59022

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Branch of
Reservation Programs

December 23, 1968

DEC 27 3 47 PM '68

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

Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1950 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

Sir:

We are enclosing an editorial from the Hardin Tribune-Herald which we believe will interest you. The majority of the Crow Indians and their neighbors on the reservation and Big Horn County believe you are doing a good job. We were happy to see this editorial, we concur with the writer.

Sincerely yours,

James O. Jackson
James O. Jackson
Superintendent

100
Enclosure
4

R 002

December 20, 1968

Mr. Wendell E. Smith, President
The United States Jaycees
Box 7
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is to follow up on our recent telephone conversation regarding your interest in having the National Junior Chamber of Commerce support Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Nixon Administration. Presented for your consideration is some background on Mr. Bennett and some indication of support being given for him by the Indian people.

Bob Bennett is currently serving as Commissioner. He has held this position longer than any of his predecessors. He is of Oneida Indian descent from the State of Wisconsin. Educated at the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, and holds an L.L.B. Degree from Southeastern University. He has worked with Indian people all of his life, either with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Veterans Administration. He has served in the capacity of a clerk, as an employment officer, Superintendent of Indian reservations, Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Area Director in South Dakota and Area Director in Alaska prior to his coming Commissioner. Commissioner Bennett has been unusually successful in the Indian field. The following incomplete information indicates the support and endorsements being given to Commissioner Bennett by Indian organizations:

1. The National Congress of American Indians did endorse Mr. Bennett for Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Nixon Administration at their 1968 Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. N.C.A.I. represents some 200 tribes throughout the United States.
2. The United Tribes of North Dakota. This represents all Indian tribes of that state.
3. The Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians. These are the Tribes of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.
4. The Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Eastern Oklahoma.
5. President Roger Ernst of the American Association of Indian Affairs.

6. The United Southern Eastern Tribes, The North Carolina Cherokees, Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes of Florida and the Choctaws of Mississippi.

7. The Council of American Indian Organizations, Russell Carter, President

8. American Indians United. This represents all of the Urban Indian Centers in the United States.

9. The Western Intertribal Coordinating Council. This represents the Indians of the Northwest Coast.

The following individual Indian Tribes have endorsed Mr. Bennett to date:

1. Winnebagoes of Nebraska

2. Santee Sioux of Nebraska

3. Omahas of Nebraska

4. Cheyenne River Sioux of South Dakota

5. The Ogalala Sioux (Pine Ridge) have authorized their tribal attorney to write an endorsement letter on their behalf.

6. Consolidated Ute Tribe of Colorado

7. Jicarilla Tribe of Apaches, New Mexico

8. Mescalero Apaches of New Mexico

9. The following Pueblos of New Mexico have endorsed Mr. Bennett:

a. Acoma

b. Cochiti

c. Isleta

d. Jemez

e. Laguna

f. Nambe

g. Picuris

h. Pojoaque

i. Sandia

j. San Felipe

k. San Ildefonso

l. San Juan

m. Santa Ana

n. Santa Clara

o. Santa Domingo

p. Toas

q. Tesque

r. Zia

s. Zuni

10. Papago Tribe of Arizona

11. Pima Tribe of Arizona

12. San Carlos Apaches of Arizona

13. White Mountain Apache Tribe of Arizona

14. Salt River Tribe of Arizona

15. The Verde Groups of Arizona

16. Colorado River Tribes of Arizona

17. Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley, Idaho

A number of Indian Tribes have also passed resolutions not known to me at this time.

I am advised that the following individuals have endorsed Mr. Bennett:

1. Ben Reifel, Congressman from South Dakota's First District who is of Sioux Indian descent. Mr. Reifel gave his endorsement of Mr. Bennett in a news release in the December 15th issue of the Aberdeen (South Dakota) American News.

2. I am advised that the Governor of Idaho has personally endorsed Mr. Bennett.

3. I am informed that a number of Indian leaders from the State of Oklahoma have endorsed Mr. Bennett in personal contacts with Senator-Elect Harry Bellman of Oklahoma.

4. Other influential Indians from Oklahoma have been in contact with State GOP Chairman Bud Wilkinson of Oklahoma asking that Mr. Bennett remain as Commissioner.

I am hopeful that the above information will be helpful in your efforts to support Mr. Bennett. When I receive additional information on this matter, I will forward it to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Artichoker, Jr.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Edward Claplanhoo
Chairman, Makah Tribal Council
Neah Bay, Washington 98357

Dear Mr. Claplanhoo:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as your Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

NEAH BAY, WASHINGTON



December 20, 1968

Via Air Mail

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

Dear Bob:

We enclose herewith Makah Tribal Resolution No. 38-69. As you can see we have officially supported your reappointment in the deep belief that you represent the best interests of the Makahs and all Indian people.

Warmest regards.

Very truly yours,

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

By Luke Markishtum,
Acting Chairman.

LM:kaa

Enclosures

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JAN 2 2 09 PM '69

JAN 2 2 09 PM '69

RESOLUTION NO. 38-69
OF THE
MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Makah Tribal Council is the governing body of the Makah Tribe, and Indian chartered corporation as defined in the Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and,

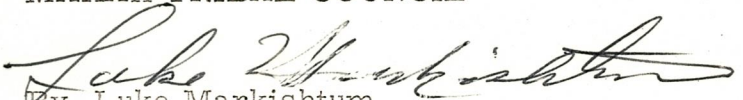
WHEREAS, the Makah Tribal Council has had occasion to work closely with the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and has carefully noted his performance in this position since his appointment; and,

WHEREAS, the Makah Tribal Council feels that said Robert L. Bennett has compiled a record of great achievement during his tenure as Commissioner; and,

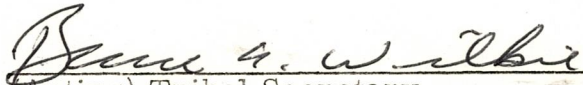
WHEREAS, the Makah Tribal Council further believes that Commissioner Bennett has a deep understanding of Indian problems and the means necessary to solve these problems, Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Makah Tribal Council does hereby affirm its support of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and urges that his talents and knowledge be utilized by the incoming administration by retaining him as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL


By Luke Markishtum,
Acting Chairman.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted at a (~~regular~~)(special) meeting held on December 19, 1968, at which time 4 Council members were present, and was passed by a vote of 3 for and 0 against, the Acting Chairman being authorized to sign the Resolution.

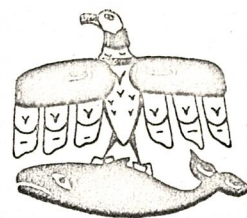

(Acting) Tribal Secretary

(Seal)

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL.

NEAH BAY, WASHINGTON

December 20, 1968



Via Air Mail

President-elect
Richard M. Nixon
Pierre Hotel
Fifth Avenue and 61st Street
New York, N. Y. 10021

My Dear Mr. Nixon:

Congratulations upon your election as President of these United States.

We enclose herewith a Resolution of the Makah Tribal Council strongly endorsing retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the ensuing four years.

As indicated by our Resolution, we have worked closely with Commissioner Bennett in the past, and we feel that he would be a credit to the Nixon administration.

Very truly yours,

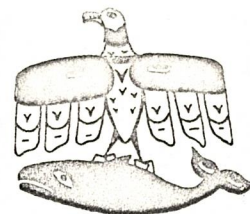
MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

By Luke Markishtum,
Acting Chairman

LM:kaa
Enclosure

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

NEAH BAY, WASHINGTON



December 20, 1968

Via Air Mail

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel,
Governor of the State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hickel:

Congratulations upon your appointment as Secretary of the Interior in President-elect Nixon's cabinet. We look forward to meeting you personally and working with you in the future regarding Indian affairs.

We enclose herewith a Resolution of the Makah Tribal Council, strongly endorsing retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the ensuing four years.

As indicated by our Resolution, we have worked closely with Commissioner Bennett in the past, and we feel that he would be a credit to the Nixon administration.

Very truly yours,

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

By Luke Markishtum,
Acting Chairman

LM:kaa

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Elmer Manatowa, Jr.
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Business Committee
1337 E. Cherry
Cushing, Oklahoma 74023

Dear Mr. Manatowa:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ANADARKO AREA OFFICE

P. O. Box 368

Anadarko, Oklahoma

73005

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Operations

DEC 26 1968

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JAN 2 9 39 AM '69

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C. 20242

Attention: Tribal Operations

Sir:

Enclosed is the original and three copies of Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma Resolution SF-69-17 adopted by the Sac and Fox Tribal Business Committee on December 10, 1968.

The resolution is an expression of gratitude and confidence in Commissioner Bennett on behalf of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma, and further urges his retention as Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of administration in January.

435 We are forwarding Resolution SF-69-17 for your information and appropriate distribution.

Sincerely yours,

Howard E. Walke
ACTING Area Director

Enclosures



RESOLUTION

SAC AND FOX TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
Business Committee Meeting
Washington, D. C.

SF-69-17

December 10, 1968

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RETENTION OF ROBERT L. BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS UPON THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN JANUARY.

WHEREAS, never before have so many people and so many government agencies and private organizations been interested in Indians; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central Office and Field, are now engaged consistently in really productive work for Indians and among Indians; and

WHEREAS, never before has such a start been made as now for the substantial and sustained progress of Indians in individual enterprise, in bringing industries to reservations, and in concerted efforts for improvement of health, education and employment among Indians; and

WHEREAS, to this auspicious climate, Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is seen as a contributing and stimulating factor, bringing to bear a wealth of knowledge and experience in Indian Affairs to involve so many diverse interests and to awaken the potential capacity of Indians of self-improvement and for self-help.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the SAC AND FOX TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA that we hereby express our gratitude and confidence in Robert L. Bennett as the standard bearer of Indian progress and urge his retention as Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of administration in January next.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of December, 1968.

CERTIFICATION

We, Elmer Manatowa, Jr., Principal Chief and Peggy F. Southern, Secretary-Treasurer of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma do hereby certify that the above Resolution SF-69-17 to be a true and exact copy as approved at a meeting of the Sac and Fox Tribal Business Committee held on December 10, 1968, there being a quorum present and by a unanimous vote in favor of the resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this 10th day of December, 1968.

Elmer Manatowa Jr.
Elmer Manatowa, Jr. - Principal Chief

Peggy F. Southern
Peggy F. Southern - Secretary-Treasurer

UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA

BOX 157 EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

TELEPHONE: 964-4155 or 964-4472

435
FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux
Eagle Butte, South Dakota

CATO W. VALANDRA, Vice-Chairman
Rosebud Sioux
Rosebud, South Dakota

December 27, 1968

EUNICE LARRABEE, Secretary
Cheyenne River Sioux
Lantry, South Dakota

ALJOE AGARD, Treasurer
Standing Rock Sioux
Fort Yates, North Dakota

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Attached for your information is RESOLUTION NO. 7 - UNITED SIOUX TRIBES which was duly adopted at a regularly called meeting on December 21, 1968.

We are hopeful that President Elect Richard M. Nixon will give favorable consideration to our resolution.

cc: file

Sincerely,

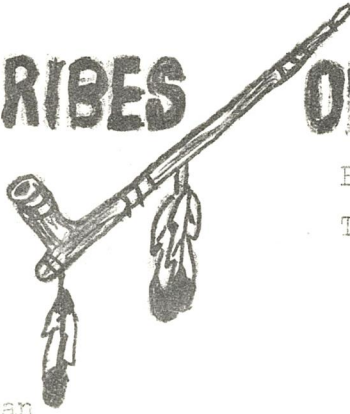
Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman
United Sioux Tribes of
South Dakota

DEC 31 10 07 AM '68

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

435

UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA



BOX 157 EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

TELEPHONE: 964-4155 or 964-4472

FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux
Eagle Butte, South Dakota

CATO W. VALANDRA, Vice-Chairman
Rosebud Sioux
Rosebud, South Dakota

EUNICE LARRABEE, Secretary
Cheyenne River Sioux
Lantry, South Dakota

ALJOE AGARD, Treasurer
Standing Rock Sioux
Fort Yates, North Dakota

DEC 31 10 07 AM '68

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 - UNITED SIOUX TRIBES

WHEREAS, THE UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA REPRESENTING ALL OF THE RESERVATIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA COMPOSING OF SOME 45,000 SIOUX INDIANS, AND,

WHEREAS, THE PRESENT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, ROBERT L. BENNETT, HAS PRESENTED CERTAIN PROGRAMS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE AMERICAN INDIANS. THESE PROGRAMS ARE AIMED AT THE INDIAN ASSUMING THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES AS OTHER CITIZENS OF THESE UNITED STATES AND THEREBY BECOMING A PART OF THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE, AND,

WHEREAS, WITH THIS APPROACH HE HAS BUILT UP THE INDIAN'S CONFIDENCE IN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AS NEVER BEFORE BY CONTINUING THE SAME POLICY BY GIVING LEADERSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PROBLEMS, AND,

WHEREAS, COMMISSIONER BENNETT WITH THESE NEW POLICIES AND BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO BE TRIED AND ARE JUST NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED AND SHOULD BE GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO PROVE THEM OUT. ONE OF THESE IS SELF DETERMINATION AND THE PLANNING OF THEIR OWN DESTINY, AND,

WHEREAS, PRESIDENT ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON DID PROMISE TO THE INDIANS, IN HIS CAMPAIGN, FULL CONSULTATION,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON THIS 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1968, THAT THEY GO ON RECORD REQUESTING PRESIDENT ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON TO CONSIDER THE RETENTION OF MR. ROBERT L. BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FOR THE UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA


FRANK DUCHENEAUX, CHAIRMAN

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, AS SECRETARY OF THE UNITED SIOUX TRIBES HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT; THAT A LEGAL QUORUM WAS PRESENT TO ENACT BUSINESS FOR THE TRIBES.


EUNICE LARRABEE, SECRETARY



NATIONAL
CONGRESS
OF
AMERICAN
INDIANS

NCAI OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Belindo
Navajo-Kiowa
Washington, D.C.

CONSULTANT ON PROGRAMS

Vine Deloria Jr.
Standing Rock Sioux
Denver, Colorado

PRESIDENT

Wendell Chino
Mescalero Apache
Mescalero, New Mexico

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Georgeann Robinson
Osage
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

TREASURER

Cato Valandra
Rosebud Sioux
Rosebud, South Dakota

RECORDING SECRETARY

Benny Atencio
Santo Domingo Pueblo
Santo Domingo, New Mexico

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN AREA
Alvina Greybear
Standing Rock Sioux
ALASKA AREA
Don Wright
Athapaskan
ANADARKO AREA
James Cox
Comanche
BILLINGS AREA
Gladys Jackson
Assiniboine
GALLUP AREA
James Hena
Teseque Pueblo

MINNEAPOLIS AREA
Roger Jourdain
Red Lake Chippewa
MUSKOGEE AREA
Hampton Anderson Jr.
Choctaw
PHOENIX AREA
Nelson Jose
Gila River
PORTLAND AREA
Stanley Smartlowit
Yakima
SACRAMENTO AREA
Elsie Ricklefs
Hoopa Valley

1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE N. W.

1450 PENNSYLVANIA ST.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
(HEADQUARTERS)

DENVER, COLORADO 80203
(FIELD OFFICE)

ROOM 1010

202 223-5532

303-255-1668

27 December, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO: NCAI Elected Officers and Regional Vice-Presidents

FROM: Wendell Chino, President, National Congress of American Indians

SUBJECT: Position Paper on the Administration of Indian Affairs

In view of the remarks of Robert L. Bennett, Indian Commissioner, to the Bureau of the Budget, and the interest of the Nixon Administration in this matter, I have prepared a position paper which is attached for your review and consideration. I shall be glad to hear from you on this matter.

See p. 1

INDIAN VIEWS
ON
ADMINISTRATION OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
DURING THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

BY

WENDELL CHINO

PRESIDENT
MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE

PRESIDENT
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

CHAIRMAN
NEW MEXICO COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

December 13, 1968

As the President of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the President of the National Congress of American Indians, and the Chairman of the New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs, I would like to project several personal views and ideas that I have concerning the Federal administration of Indian affairs during the coming and subsequent Administrations.

The appointment of Mr. Robert L. Bennett by President Johnson, as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has made many positive contributions to the Indian well being! It is to the interest of the coming Administration, the interest of the Country and the interest of the Indian people that Mr. Bennett be retained as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The creation of the National Council on Indian Opportunity by President Johnson was a milestone in the involvement of Indian people with the administration of this Country, and as such it can be a vital mechanism for Indian involvement in their own progress. There is no other like body which gives the Indian people such vital participation in the discussion and solution of their problems. The National Council on Indian Opportunity must be continued and funds appropriated for its continued operation.

There is no question about the desirability of appointing an Indian of recognized ability to the Indian Claims Commission. This should have a high priority in the coming Administration.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs for a long period of time has handled matters involving Indian people. After a fair consideration of all the issues involved, I believe that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has, in good conscience, attempted to carry out its programs and functions, but I believe that the time has now arrived to take a long and analytical look at this Bureau.

The abolition or dispersal of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and all of

its services among other government agencies certainly is not the answer. We believe that the Bureau of Indian Affairs can effectively perform its present duties if the organization is revised. It has the experience and know-how that is required.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs should, by legislation, be made an independent commission or agency. At the present time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs must compete for funds with other agencies and bureaus within the Department of Interior who are also the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior. The Department of Interior is basically a land oriented organization, rather than a human oriented organization. The Department's Budget Managers are also land oriented. They do not have the required empathy regarding basic Indian problems which are human in nature, such as the community problems of education, housing, etc. The Secretary of the Interior often finds himself hamstrung by the Department and other interests which are more interested in other areas. This conflict of interest at the Secretarial level cannot contribute to the fair and impartial administration of Indian Affairs.

The very bureaucratic structure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs insulates the Secretary of the Interior from the Indian people. The Secretary's chief representative of the Indian people, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is also further insulated from the people by the Area Offices. With these insulations, it is no small wonder that many critics of the Bureau of Indian Affairs claim that the job is not being done, and that top heavy administration results. Limited funds are now being wasted on useless office support, which also breeds excessive red tape and reporting requirements. Direct access to the top administrators is needed. The establishment of an independent Indian Commission will remove most of the bureaucracy that makes it so

cumbersome for Indian people to communicate with those who are responsible for Indian Affairs. I believe that this proposed Indian Commission will be more responsive to the Indian people and speed the day when full scale development can be implemented in Indian communities.

An Associate or Deputy Commissioner should be incorporated into this Indian Commission who should have the prime responsibility for the affairs and problems of the Indians in urban areas. The proper and wholesome adjustment of the urban Indians to an urban environment is most essential if off-Reservation employment is to be encouraged.

I would recommend the establishment of a committee or commission to study the operation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Included in this body should be a broad representation of responsible reservation Indian leadership. One of the primary tasks of this body should be a complete study and evaluation of the present Bureau of Indian Affairs budget process. The present process has built-in pitfalls which not only encourage, but promote and nourish the building of empires by bureaucratic Branch Chiefs through their control of funds, promotions, etc. at the Central, Area and Agency levels.

I believe that funds appropriated by the Congress for the benefit of Indians and Indian Tribes should be appropriated with broad discretionary powers for their use given to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and especially to the Agency Superintendent. The present line-item-functional appropriations result in waste for some functions through an over abundance of funds while other necessary functions are curtailed because of fund limitations. The revision of the budget process should also include the approval or the veto power by Tribal governing bodies during the local Agency budget submittal process.

The funds which are now required and presently being utilized to maintain

Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Offices should be given to the Tribal governing bodies for use in contracting for specific professional services and technical advice needed on their Reservations. If these funds can not be given to Indian Tribes directly, the funds should be placed under the direct control of the Agency Superintendent to fulfill the same objectives, i.e., contract for private professional services desired by the Tribes and subject to Indian leadership approval.

The Indian Agencies at Reservation level should be reorganized, taking into account local needs and the total Reservation development programs. The present Bureau structure, which calls for an Agency Branch to complement every Washington Branch Chief, whether it is essentially needed or not should be eliminated. The local Agencies should be revamped to include an effective combination of facilities and services urgently and ultimately needed to achieve the human resource, natural resource and economic developments in the Indian Community.

I have some reservations about Indian Tribes contracting to perform services for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In many cases, Indian Tribes do not have the necessary capital to contract to perform these services. If Indian Tribes are to be encouraged to contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the necessary working capital and equipment must be made available on an outright grant basis to permit the Tribe to function economically. It should be specifically understood that if Indian Tribes are to contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, that a fair return by the Tribes is to be expected and that the Tribes should not be expected to pay sub-standard wages to perform these services. Also, the Tribes should be offered not only the dirtiest, smallest and most difficult jobs which the Agency must accomplish, but Tribes should be encouraged to accept major tasks that may require them

to develop their own staffs of skilled experts. In many instances, Tribes are offered just those jobs that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has never been able to successfully accomplish, or those which are insignificant, or those which the Bureau of Indian Affairs does not want to be bothered with.

If Indian Tribes with very little capital contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs this contracting could bankrupt them unless payment procedures by the Bureau are improved. Further, the failure of Congress to give continuity of appropriations for Indian contract programs and developments could leave Indian Contractors with costly, but unusable equipment. Excessive contract supervision and red tape requirements should also be kept in check if Indian Tribes are to be expected to contract successfully.

We have many years to go before the Indian people and their communities reach optimum development; therefore, any thoughts of abolishing or parceling out the services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to other Federal agencies is out of the question at this time. If another Federal agency attempted to take over one of the present functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that agency would have to learn the difficult task and would be faced with the same problems which the Bureau of Indian Affairs faces. We suggest that the change of the present Area-Agency system is the most expedient route to take.

If the Bureau of Indian Affairs is abolished or its services fragmented it will again jeopardize, and in many cases it will terminate the present services of the Federal government. It will be termination in disguise. Indian people have never been successful in competing for services through other government agencies, and the services received from these agencies have been very small or practically nil except for the excellent services now received from the Economic Development Administration and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Politically and socially it is almost impossible for the Indian to compete for services among other Federal agencies. With the huge backlog of services and developments needing to be accomplished, at best, the parceling out of Bureau of Indian Affairs services to other Federal agencies would only be an injustice to these agencies because of their already insurmountable work load. A revamped and revitalized Bureau of Indian Affairs with sufficient funds can and will do a better job!

These are views and opinions that I have developed during my years of observation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs while in the service of my people on our Mescalero Indian Reservation. I respectfully submit them for your consideration in your deliberations during the coming years.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Miss Helen Overland
Executive Director, White Eagle
Community Development Association
Room 411, Community Building
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

Dear Miss Overland:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

My three years as Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been the most wonderful experience of my life, for they put me in contact with so many fine people. The courteous and welcome manner in which I was received in Indian country was an inspiration to me. You made me feel at home, and in turn I brought back to Washington renewed desire to be of service to the Indian people.

So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

WHITE EAGLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
Room 411 Community Building
Ponca City, Oklahoma

December 26, 1968

Secretary Hinkle
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Hinkle:

Congratulations on your new post! We look forward to working with you in this new administration.

This letter concerns the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett. We would like to urge his retainment as Commissioner. We feel that Mr. Bennett is a unique Commissioner in that he is genuinely interested in the future of Indian people and has established a close rapport with Indian people rather than those who supposedly represent us. It is our opinion that his Indian heritage provides him with a better understanding of what the problems are and better equips him in dealing with them. We are assured that any programs or changes he may recommend will be presented with our views and interests in mind. Further, we feel that a change in Commissioners would only be for the worse.

We are actively concerned that he remain Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We will appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Overland

Helen Overland
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HO:rs

cc: Senator Henry Bellmon
Robert L. Bennett

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEC 30 2 59 PM '68

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

JUNIOR COLLEGE - CO-EDUCATIONAL

BOTTINEAU, NORTH DAKOTA 58318

RW

December 31, 1968

Dear Bob,

I am fairly close to Nixon, as close as anyone out in the boondocks can be. I have recommended that you be retained in Washington. However, I feel that statements signed by political jockies like Rev. Austin Engel and such are handicaps.

I have also recommended a housecleaning in the Industrial development office and Indian education.

I know the spot you are in. You are surrounded by status quo personnel. I hope that everything works out and that a dynamic program can be carried out. Have you followed the Dane White case? I have informed every U.S. Senator on it. The report of the investigating committee has substantiated my charges that "Civil Rights" for Youth is a crying need. I am on the advisory committee for North Dakota. The present office in Washington, D.C. is a farce but its actions or lack of actions are tragic for the minorities.

Through the Armstrongs I am of the blood of the hereditary chieftains of the Wyandot and Delaware. I am a white man with Indian blood but I am not an "Anglicized" Indian.

Sincerely,


Edward A. Milligan
(He Topa)
(He Topa)



Buy "NORTH DAKOTA PRODUCTS"



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Enos Poorbear
President
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

Dear Mr. Poorbear:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and encouragement which you have given me during the uncertain days following the change of Administration in January.

The almost unanimous and spontaneous efforts made by you and the Indian leadership to have me retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs was a most gratifying development. I will always treasure the many expressions that have been made in my behalf. It makes the disappointment at not being able to continue as Commissioner less severe and it assures me that I was doing the things and providing the kind of leadership that the Indian people wanted.

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So I leave the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs not by my choice, but at the request of the new Administration. In so doing, I extend to my successor every good wish for the difficult job ahead. If he merits the same kind of support from you that you gave to me, then his job will be made less difficult.

I intend to keep up my long association with the Indian people and to serve them in other capacities. I look to the future, therefore, with hope and enthusiasm and to the opportunity of seeing many of my Indian friends again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Dec 30 1 10 PM '68

108
December 27, 1968

President Elect Richard M. Nixon
Hotel Pierre
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Nixon:

I wish to express sincere congratulations from the Oglala Sioux Tribe on your election to the highest office in the land. We are looking forward to good working relations with you and your administration. This is of utmost importance to us in our attempt to create an economy on our reservation which will enable us to contribute to the welfare of the country instead of constantly being on the receiving end. I must say that American Indians do have valuable contributions in both human and natural resources which, up to this point, have been virtually untapped.

This letter refers to the contribution in human resources, our people who have special talents in dealing with problems of Indian people. The United States Government has retained people in its service to Indians who have little or no capacity for working with people, much less Indians, for too many years. The paternalistic attitude of many in key positions has done the Indian a great disservice. Now for the first time in American history we have a man as Commissioner of Indian Affairs who has a real and sympathetic understanding of our problems. Having an Indian in this part has been a great encouragement to the Indian people both real and psychological.

It is for these reasons that I, representing the Oglala Sioux Tribe, respectfully recommend and strongly urge that you retain Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We need him.

Again I should like to convey my personal congratulations and wish you every success in the job you are about to begin.

Incidentally, my wife and I will participate in your inauguration and especially in the parade in full regalia.

Thank you for your concern.

Respectfully,

Enos Poorbear, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

WJC:cc

cc:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

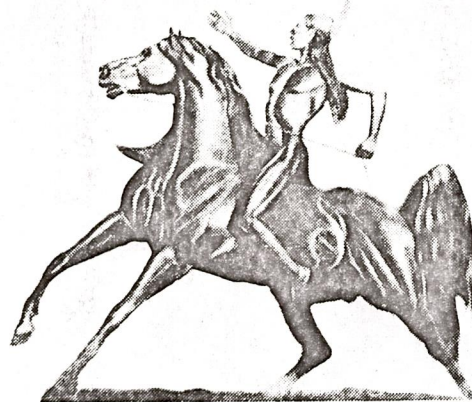
ENOS POORBEAR
President

LLOYD W. EAGLEBULL
Vice-President

ROBERT J. MOUSSEAU
Secretary

WALLACE L. FINGER
Treasurer

THEODORE TIBBITTS
Fifth Member



OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

Telephone 867-5157

"Land of Chief Crazy Horse"

RESOLUTION NO. 68-46 XB

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT-ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON TO
RETAIN ROBERT L. BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WHEREAS, there exists between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Commissioner
Bennett a workable relationship, and

WHEREAS, innovative programs for American Indians have been and are
being initiated by the Commissioner and need implementation, and

WHEREAS, under policies of Commissioner Bennett, the Oglala Sioux
Tribe is realizing more involvement in BIA policies, concerning Education,
Health and Welfare on our reservation, now

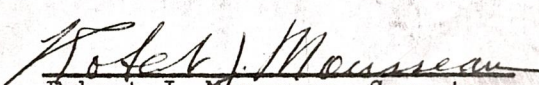
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Oglala
Sioux Tribe, that, President-elect Richard M. Nixon, is respectfully
requested to retain Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs
for the general welfare of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and for progressive
betterment of all Indian Tribes in the United States.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned as Secretary of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, hereby certify
that the Executive Committee is composed of 5 members of whom 5 constituting
a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and held on December 18, 1968
at Pine Ridge, South Dakota; that the foregoing resolution was adopted by an
affirmative vote of 5 for; 0 against; that said resolution is in full force
and effect unless by legal enactment of the committee it shall be amended or
rescinded.

ATTEST:


Enos Poorbear, President
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council


Robert J. Mousseau, Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council

JAN 3 10 44 AM '69

RESOLUTION NO. 92-68-CK

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council representing 6,300 members of the Tribe believe that under the administration of Commissioner Robert L. Bennett, that progress has been made towards the Indians of these United States by assuming the responsibilities for the management of their own affairs, also in time to take the same responsibilities as other citizens of these United States and thereby become a part of the mainstream of American Life, and

WHEREAS, with this approach he has built up confidence in the Bureau of Indian Affairs as never before, by continuing the same policy, by giving leadership and understanding of their problems in preparing them, the Indians, to take their place in this Great Society, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bennett has instituted policies beneficial to all Indians that are now being implemented and should be given a fair chance to prove out, one of these is self-determination and the planning of their own destiny, and

WHEREAS, President Elect Richard M. Nixon did promise to the Indians in his campaign full consultation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council at Eagle Butte, South Dakota, this 4th day of December, 1968, that they go on record requesting President Elect Richard M. Nixon to consider the retention of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 15 members of whom 4, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held on this 4th day of Dec., 1968; and the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by an affirmative vote of 12 members.

Hazel Garreaux
Hazel Garreaux, Secretary
CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL
CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE
EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

RESOLUTION
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION
An Indian Chartered Corporation

No. **2670**

RESOLUTION REQUESTING RETENTION OF ROBERT L. BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WHEREAS, never before have so many people and so many government agencies and private organizations been interested in Indians; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central Office and Field, are now engaged consistently in really productive work for Indians and among Indians; and

WHEREAS, never before has such a start been made as now for the substantial and sustained progress of Indians in individual enterprise, in bringing industries to reservations, and in concerted efforts for improvement of health, education and employment among Indians; and

WHEREAS, to this auspicious climate, Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is seen as a contributing and stimulating factor, bringing to bear a wealth of knowledge and experience in Indian Affairs to involve so many diverse interests and to awaken the potential capacity of Indians for self-improvement and for self-help, while retaining tribal entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Montana, that we hereby express our gratitude and confidence in Robert L. Bennett as the standard bearer of Indian progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of this organization, as well as friends of the Indian, be called upon to urge the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of administration in January next, with copies of this Resolution furnished to the Commissioner and to the President-Elect, Richard M. Nixon.

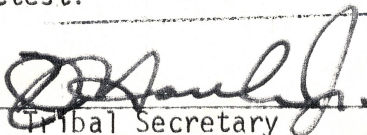
C E R T I F I C A T E

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted on December 27, 1968, at a regular meeting of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, of the Flathead Reservation, Montana, by a vote of 9 for, 0 opposed, and 0 not voting, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article VI, Section 1, (a), (c), and (u), of the Tribes Constitution and By-laws, adopted on September 25, 1935, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on October 28, 1935, and as amended by the Tribes December 10, 1948, and further approved by the Secretary of the Interior December 22, 1948, and further amended by the Tribes April 1, 1960, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on May 5, 1960.

RECEIVED

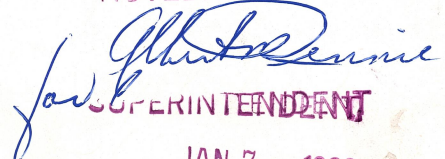
JAN 10 1969

Attest:


Tribal Secretary


Chairman, Tribal Council

NOTED:


SUPERINTENDENT

JAN 7 1969