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April 2, 1969

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 8 1 21 PM '69

C
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Y

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The Commission on Indian Affairs of the State of Michigan respectfully
concerns its self with Indian Affairs on a national level.

By formal action the enclosed resolution was unanimously adopted and
is herewith submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Perrault, Chairman
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

by: Herman E. Cameron, Resident Agent
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

HEC/jd

A RESOLUTION

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

APR 8 2 30 PM '69

- WHEREAS: The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is a duly-constituted and incorporated Council, and,
- WHEREAS: Said Council is composed of the four bona fide Indian Reservations of the State of Michigan, and,
- WHEREAS: It is the function of the Inter-Tribal Council to address its self to the resolution of the social and economic issues that confront its constituents, and,
- WHEREAS: The Bureau of Indian Affairs through and by the duly appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, occupies a position of prominence in the Affairs of Indians, and,
- WHEREAS: The present occupant of said office, Mr. Robert L. Bennett, has earned the esteem and confidence of the American Indians of the State of Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, representing the Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe, and the Bay Mills Indian Community, shall respectfully recommend the reappointment of the Honorable Robert L. Bennett to the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution be provided for the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Honorable Robert P. Griffin, United States Senate, the Honorable Philip A. Hart, United States Senate, the Honorable Philip E. Ruppe, Member of Congress, the Honorable Ellord Coderberg, Member of Congress, and the Honorable Marvin L. Esch, Member of Congress.

Benedict Quigno, Secretary
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.
State of Michigan

Mark A. Perrault, Chairman
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.
~~State of Michigan~~

Box 248 A

L'Anse, Michigan 49946

~~RFB~~
~~LRLS~~
2. Special file

~~100~~

April 2, 1969

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. President:

The Commission on Indian Affairs of the State of Michigan respectfully
concerns its self with Indian Affairs on a national level.

By formal action the enclosed resolution was unanimously adopted and
is herewith submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Herman E. Cameron, Director
Commission on Indian Affairs
State of Michigan

A RESOLUTION

RECEIVED
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

APR 8 2 30 PM '69

- WHEREAS: The Commission on Indian Affairs of the State of Michigan is a duly authorized Commission by virtue of duly enacted legislation, and,
- WHEREAS: The Commission on Indian Affairs of the State of Michigan is sensitive to the needs of its constituency, and,
- WHEREAS: The Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior manifests its concern for the socio-economic well-being of Indians through and by a duly appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
- WHEREAS: The present Commissioner of Indian Affairs is Mr. Robert L. Bennett, and,
- WHEREAS: It is the solemn conclusion of said Commission on Indian Affairs that Mr. Robert L. Bennett has prominently displayed his deep and compassionate concern for the social well-being of the American Indian and that he has faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Indian Affairs of the State of Michigan respectfully recommends the re-appointment of Mr. Bennett to the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution be provided for the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Honorable Robert P. Griffin, United States Senate, the Honorable Philip A. Hart, United States Senate, the Honorable Philip E. Ruppe, Member of Congress, the Honorable Elford Cederberg, Member of Congress, and the Honorable Marvin L. Esch, Member of Congress.

Helen Hornbeck Tanner, Secretary
Commission on Indian Affairs
State of Michigan

William A. LeBlanc, Chairman
Commission on Indian Affairs
State of Michigan

Department of Education



Archdiocese of Baltimore

Catholic Center • 320 Cathedral Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 3, 1969

100
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Sir:

The Department of Education is deeply grateful to you for your well-prepared presentation on "The Indian of the Past and Present" for the teachers of Grade Five.

Enclosed is a small token of appreciation for your service to our teachers.

Again, I would like to express my personal thanks to you. Sharing your wealth of experience with teachers is a source of blessing for both the giver and the receiver.

Wishing you all the joys of the coming Easter season, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sister M. Ambrosia

Sister M. Ambrosia, S.S.N.D.
Director of Elementary Curriculum

SMA:jg

APR 7 1 29 PM '69

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BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LAW OFFICES

DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

ROBERT D. DELLWO
KERMIT M. RUDOLF
WILLIAM J. GRANT
RICHARD J. SCHROEDER

1016 OLD NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201
MADISON 4-4291

103-C
April 4, 1969

2. Special file
Honorable Walter J. Hickel
The Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242

Attention: Thomas P. Holley
Assistant to the Secretary

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Re: Commissioner Robert L. Bennett
Report of Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.

I am attorney for the Kalispel, Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribes in this area. The purpose of this letter is to comment in their behalf on the lengthy report dated February 11, 1969 by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. entitled "The American Indian and the Bureau of Indian Affairs - 1969." These tribes are apprehensive that their views about the report will not be known by you. They assume that you and your office will study the Josephy Report, and they believe that it may influence your decisions not only about future Indian policy and administration but whether or not you will reappoint Robert L. Bennett Indian Commissioner.

BACKGROUND

Much of my law practice has been in the representation of Indian tribes and groups and of Indians personally. My orientation toward Indians and their tribes began in my boyhood during my life on the Flathead Reservation. My father, Dennis A. Dellwo, was a principal organizer of the Flathead Indian Irrigation District and served as its secretary from its inception until his death in 1963. I have represented Indian groups in the Northwest for approximately twenty years of law practice. I mention the above only as a credential from which you can judge whether I speak knowledgably about the background and history of Indian affairs, their present condition and status and the wishes and desires of the Indians of the Northwest in the current situation.

Mr. Josephy is most perceptive in his analysis of what was wrong with Federal Indian policies in the past and the growing fears of Indians that almost any real changes in administrative policies were somehow connected with termination.

I often heard my father expound on the pendulum swings of Indian policy from 1916 until his death in 1963, and particularly from 1930 to 1950. In those years the tribes were bereft of independent legal counsel.

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Their confusion about Federal Indian policy and its administration was absolute and complete. So hopeless was their communication with Washington, D. C., the distant, detached, unfeeling governmental entity, that they didn't even try to understand. This acceptance of complete ignorance of Indian policy and administration and helplessness concerning it is at the root of the tribal and individual Indian anomie we find even today.

Thus, without discussing it at length, we can see why Indians are apprehensive about any sudden changes in Indian policy and why they are so suspicious of change. Unfortunately for our Federal administration, knowledge here does not mean release from fear. Rather, the more the Indian people and their lawyers and spokesmen have found out how their affairs were handled until 1950 the more shocked they have become. It is truly an unfolding tale of near treachery toward and betrayal of the Indians and of unbelievable administrative capriciousness and negligence. The more our Indian people hear of the facts of that period the less confidence they have in their Federal guardians.

PERIOD 1950 to 1960

Why do I pick 1950 as a date of demarcation? Because it was not until then that most tribes achieved truly viable tribal governments complete with independent legal counsel. Not until then did the channels of communication open up. While there are exceptions, it was not until after 1950 that tribes could meaningfully go to their agencies and the Indian Bureau in Washington, D. C. and directly influence Indian legislation, policy and administration. There was a kind of "graduation" or "commencement" about that time when, after generations of complete frustration, they found themselves with tribal organizations, some tribal money and tribal attorneys with which to attempt to take some initiative of their own.

What did the Indian tribes find with this awakening? They found a government poised to terminate them. The Spokane Tribe which I represent made its first trip to Washington and found that after their recent awakening from a hundred years of isolation they were on a list of tribes "ready for termination." The Flathead Tribe found termination hovering like a vulture and within a very short time found themselves with their backs to the wall fighting their own termination. The tribal delegations discovered the unfolding Federal Indian policy that culminated in 1953 with House Concurrent Resolution 108 which announced that Federal Indian policy was to terminate tribes. They saw two tribes fall to the onslaught (Menominee and Klamath). Their awakening to Federal Indian policy was an awakening to a chamber of horrors, aimed at the destruction of their tribes.

The year 1952 brought the Eisenhower administration and a new Commissioner. The Indians still talk of that Commissioner as the man who never came to their reservations and never did see first hand anything truly Indian. He was a detached fellow, an unknown quantity, a threat of indifference, lack of understanding and arbitrary decision. The Kalispel Tribe I

April 4, 1969

represent never saw or heard from him. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe found a friend who was Under Secretary of the Interior to supersede his regressive directives. The Spokane Tribe journeyed to Yakima to see him as he was "passing through." They were ushered in one door and out the other, barely having time to find out which man was the Commissioner. They heard an unknown official voice in the background intone, "Mr. Commissioner, this is the tribal delegation from the Spokane Tribe. They want you to know that they are interested in a tribal liquidation-termination program." The Commissioner congratulated them for their "progressive, forward looking views" and turned to the next delegation.

The years from 1950 to 1960 might be described from our local viewpoint as the period of time when the tribes were getting organized and were finding out the facts of Federal Indian policy. They found nothing to encourage them. In fact they had awakened only in time to join in a fight for survival--a fight against withdrawal of Federal services and tribal termination.

What else did they find? They found their reservations checkerboarded beyond belief by the former accelerated alienation of Indian lands by the sequence of Federal Indian allotment, the granting of fee titles and approved sales out of trust. They also found an almost instinctive policy by the Indian Bureau and Department of the Interior of delaying and rejecting every meaningful Indian program suggested by any tribe, whether it was a tribal court, a land purchase program, a tribal investment or anything else. There was an "administrative loyalty" within the Bureau of confirming and approving Bureau decisions up and down the line even when strongly opposed by the Indians. They would not "move an official" under pressure from Indian groups.

Attorneys found the approval of their contracts endlessly delayed and sidetracked. Many will recount that they were working on their second or even third 3-year contracts before even their first contract had won Bureau approval. Lawyers viewed the shambles of past Indian policy and found with their tribes that they could look only to the future and the hope of changing it.

The "breaking out" of the Indian tribal organizations in about 1950 coincided with the advent of the claims cases. The positive aspects of claims possibilities and the uniting effects of the threats against tribes and reservations all over the United States led to a new cohesiveness among tribes. The National Congress of American Indians was organized and Joseph Garry, Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, was its president for eight years. Regional subsidiary organizations such as the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians became influential. Indians found a common denominator in the threats against their existence.

They had to stand together. Public Law 280 threatened their legal jurisdiction. There was a mass assault on their hunting and fishing rights. Suddenly, after decades of officially pronounced exemption, the Bureau of Internal Revenue sought to tax the income from Indian lands. The Coeur d'Alene Indians with their valuable wheat lands, went to their grain warehouses for their wheat checks only to find that their grain had been distrained by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Individual Indians found themselves in poverty, unable to understand where their money had gone. Tribes banded together against the threat.

Through the 1950's the Tribes checkmated the termination bound executive branch of government with a growing political power and "friends on the hill." Tribal lawyers stuck their toes into this field of legal representation and became advocates, lobbyists, spokesmen and finally almost "Indian" in their espousal of Indian causes. They were "hooked" by the dignity, the humanity and the needs of their Indian clients.

PERIOD 1960 TO PRESENT

Then 1960 came. It is now a milestone in Indian Affairs. Mr. Josephy is quite accurate in his portrayal of the change, but like so many writers fails to see its impact at the reservation level. Bear in mind that until 1960 most stay-at-home tribal members never saw an important Bureau of Indian Affairs official.

The Philleo Nash Era

Philleo Nash came to the National Congress of American Indians Convention in Lewiston, Idaho soon after his appointment in 1961 and danced and sang with the Indians. The Indians viewed him as a man who could not possibly have a broad background in Indian Affairs but whose heart was in the right place. Yet they knew he knew more than his predecessors had. He was the "visiting Commissioner." He visited reservations, most of them. He was the conferring Commissioner; he conferred with tribal groups and tried to find out what they wanted. He was the sacrificial Commissioner. It appeared that his helping such tribes as the Kalispel to hold the line against a termination "deal" as a condition to get their claims money was largely responsible for his being replaced as Commissioner.

The Robert Bennett Era

Look at it from the Reservation Indian's point of view. Here was the first Commissioner they had ever seen who appeared to be "for them" and he (Philleo Nash) was fired and replaced by Robert Bennett in 1965. By this time the Indian groups knew of the ascendancy of the Termination philosophy in Congress. Public Law 280 had not been amended to provide for consent. An inheritance bill had been introduced that was really a termination bill. The Colville Termination Act was a black cloud on the horizon, and apparently because of pressure from the Senate Interior Committee a beloved Commissioner was replaced.

What a spot for his replacement! One need only go back and read the resolutions of various tribal organizations that immediately followed. Bob Bennett was not readily accepted. "Wait and see" was an understatement.

Then came the so-called Omnibus proposal with the leak of an already drafted instrument that failed to reflect the ideas of tribal groups expressed in the various regional meetings Mr. Bennett had held. Mr.

Josephy correctly outlines this sequence. But Mr. Bennett so deported himself on this issue, redeeming himself by finding out the views of Indians and paying attention to them, that he came out "on the side of the Indians" instead of trying to put something over on them.

The writer does not want to repeat the material outlined by Mr. Josephy but only to highlight some reactions of local Indian organizations with regard to the administration of Robert Bennett.

With such a foreboding beginning, isn't it a miracle that today Commissioner Bennett has more united support from Indian groups than any previous Commissioner, including Philleo Nash? The writer, viewing it from the perspective of tribes in the field, offers the following in explanation:

1. Beginning in 1960 and accelerating through the Bennett tenure was a marked improvement in tribal relations with Superintendencies and Area Offices in the field and with the Commissioner's office in Washington, D. C. There has been a philosophy of helpfulness. More and more the Bureau has been a "technical resource" with the tribal organizations being more active in the final decisions. Where formerly it seemed as if there was a "turn-down neurosis" on the part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there has been an "approve the tribal programs and proposals if we can" policy. Yet this new liberality in approach and communication has been tempered with a readiness of the Bureau to reject or propose modifications to proposals where needed. The tribes have had the benefit of a friendly supervision by a trustee.
2. A better teamwork has emerged. There has been a loyalty and friendliness of the Superintendencies and Area Offices to tribal governing bodies and free exchanges of ideas. A true camaraderie has developed. Tribal bodies have become more conversant with Bureau procedures and their needs. At the same time Bureau officials, particularly at the local level, have observed the growing competence and effectiveness of the tribal groups.
3. The Commissioner has emerged into a position of "friendly appeal." Each tribe has had numerous occasions to meet with Mr. Bennett. They consider him their personal friend. He knows them by name. In some instances their friendship extends back into remote origins. Joseph Garry of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Walt McDonald of the Flathead went to Haskell with him. Within each tribal governing body are men who knew him before. Each tribe has had favorable experiences with him personally in which he has tailored Bureau procedures and programs to their special needs. Many instances of this can be cited. The whole attitude of the tribal groups toward the Bureau has evolved into a highly improved position. At the same time tribal governing bodies have matured and developed into effective local governmental entities.
4. The tribal "fears of change" have been allayed. Commissioner Bennett and hence his subordinates at Washington and in the field have been so open and accessible in the formation of changes in policy and

and programs that the "shock factor" has disappeared. Indians have been included in the deliberations and often began them. We have therefore reached a position today where the Indian Bureau, as presently organized under Commissioner Bennett, can lead the Indian Tribes through a series of constructive changes with very little of the old psychology of fear and apprehension on the part of the Indian groups.

5. The TRUST that has developed in the Indians over the last several years is no better demonstrated than here in the Spokane area. The Colvilles, with their Colville Termination Act, urgently support the reappointment and retention of Commissioner Bennett. More surprising, both the terminationist "majority" and the fighting anti-terminationist "minority" are equally strong in their support of Bennett. Additionally, the three tribes the writer represents, and in fact, every tribe in the Northwest, supports his retention. This seeming contradiction can be explained. More important, the fact of his support from such divergent groups is most significant and is a jewel that no previous Commissioner ever had.

In summary, the tribal groups have matured and developed into responsible, capable governing bodies. They have become better and better informed about their position in the framework of government. They have learned of their potential in both human and material values. THEY KNOW HOW TO OPERATE constructively. They see the need of great change in government policies and procedures, but they want those policies to evolve out of the present organization with the present Commissioner.

CONCLUSIONS

The writer sincerely and respectfully offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Mr. Josephy is correct about the "termination psychosis" of Indian tribes and the fact that in the past they have hesitated to support change because of their fears that it might include steps to termination. He appears to overlook that this termination apprehension syndrome has largely disappeared in so far as it relates to the Indian Bureau itself. It continues to exist in the Indian view of general governmental and congressional policy. The two sources of fear and confidence are entirely distinct.
2. Above all, precipitous changes should be avoided. There is a present atmosphere of CONFIDENCE by the Indian tribal groups in the present Indian Bureau and particularly in the present Commissioner. They will accept evolving, constructive change under his leadership. Specifically, they will accept growing tribal responsibility and autonomy and increasing delegation of powers to the field. It is conceivable that they would accept sweeping changes in the Bureau of Indian Affairs itself as long as Robert Bennett is kept as Commissioner.
3. All the Indian groups of the Northwest, and particularly the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Kalispel Tribes, will react with great shock and

apprehension to the appointment of a different Commissioner merely by reason of the change in Presidents. They view Robert Bennett as an Indian leader, a true Indian versed in Indian Affairs, a non-political leader whose primary dedication is to the reservations and the Indians, actually a Republican, fully eligible for continued tenure. They emphatically ask, "WHY LOOK FURTHER FOR A COMMISSIONER?" Their support of Robert Bennett is total. The replacement of a man so fully qualified for the job and so widely supported by the Indian people will be received by the Indian people with extreme shock and suspicion. There is no conceivable appointment of any man on the horizon that they will accept in lieu of Robert Bennett.

4. Any combination of sweeping administrative decisions without Bennett are, if they require tribal support, doomed to failure. A new Commissioner might have a chance within the present framework. If his appointment, however, is accompanied by transfers of the Indian Bureau to the Executive Office of the President or to Health, Education and Welfare or by broad changes of any kind, the "double shock" to the Indian people will take years to overcome, even with good programs.
5. The tribal governments already know of administrative changes Robert Bennett has in mind and, under his leadership with present Bureau officials who are on exceptionally friendly terms with the Indians, those changes will be accepted. They won't be accepted if offered by another Commissioner.
6. In summary, these changes offered by Commissioner Bennett and actually sought by the tribes the writer represents are as follows: Retain the present Bureau organization format but delegate more powers to the field. Strengthen, rather than weaken, the superintendencies, consolidate a few of them into nearby cities and allow them to make final decisions in most matters. Likewise, delegate more decision making powers to the Area Offices. Retain and strengthen the Area Offices as being reservoirs of "resource people," technicians, engineers, foresters, welfare people who can supplement the Superintendencies which in the modern day find it difficult to hold such experts especially if they must live in out of the way places. Allow greater autonomy in and cast greater responsibility onto the tribes themselves.
7. Allow the "prudent man rule" to function in the Indian Bureau and in the tribes themselves. For example, if a tribe through its attorneys and accountants and qualified financial advisers proposes an investment and it appears that adequate prudence has been exercised, approve the investment without nit-picking it up through administrative channels. (Note: This suggestion appears to be the increasing policy of the Bureau right now.)

The writer sincerely believes that the views expressed above are the general views of all tribal groups in the Northwest. He therefore hopes

Honorable Walter J. Hickel

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April 4, 1969

that they will be read not as the views just of one man or of three tribes but as those of the vast majority of Indians and their tribes. We hope that the Secretary will read and consider them before going forward with any changes in the Indian Bureau.

Respectfully submitted,

DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

Robt. Dellwo

By: Robert D. Dellwo

RDD:fb

cc: Commissioner of Indian Affairs ✓
Senator Henry M. Jackson
Congressman Thomas Foley
Area Office of Indian Affairs, Portland
Superintendent, Colville Indian Agency, Coulee Dam
Superintendent, Northern Idaho Agency, Lapwai
Tribal Council Members of Kalispel, Spokane and
Coeur d'Alene Tribes

April 4, 1969

News Release From:

AP Press Conference

Zeta Psi Educational Foundation
Columbia University Club
4 West 43rd Street Suite 404
New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 736-0992

For details contact: Patricia Newport
Public Relations Director
Zeta Psi Educational Foundation

A STATEMENT ON CURRENT AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

by

LOUIS R. BRUCE

I have prepared this statement today as a means of communicating to the new Administration and others some of my concerns about the field of American Indian Affairs.

As a person of Indian descent (Mohawk-Sioux) and a long time Republican Party worker, I feel a real obligation to bring to the attention of this administration some of the pressing areas which Indians feel need clarification.

Indian people generally were encouraged by President Nixon's campaign pledges of September 27, 1968.

He underscored in the statement, his intentions for a positive and constructive policy aimed at alleviating the adverse social and economic conditions manifested by the first Americans. Inherent in this philosophy is a recognition that many Indian tribes enjoy a unique relationship with the Federal Government which carries with it responsibilities for special programs and services.

President Nixon wisely indicated that "Termination of tribal recognition will not be a policy objective and in no case will it be imposed without Indian consent." He further pledged that the overriding theme of his Administration work with Indians would be to seek meaningful Indian self-determination and participate in planning their own future.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Statement by Louis R. Bruce-2

Indian people feel that the new Administration has had a reasonable period of time to settle in and it is now appropriate that their concerns be given priority attention.

In recent days, the Congress has granted the President a two-year extension of the Executive Reorganization Act. There is increasing interest in American Indians by the various Congressional committees, by liberal groups and the media.

If President Nixon intends to look at reorganization within the Executive Branch including the Interior Department, I would hope he would call a high level meeting of Indian leaders to discuss the type of appointments they would like to see on a Hoover Commission and to serve on an advisory group for developing Indian policy.

I have followed with interest the appointments of minority members to upper and middle level positions in the various departments in the new Administration. These key posts have been in the Small Business Administration, the Civil Service Commission, Departments of Health, Education and Welfare and Labor as well as on the White House staff.

Strikingly absent from these appointments are American Indians.

Yet there are several critical unfilled appointments of direct concern to American Indian people and their well being. All embrace high level policy and decision making responsibilities. They are as follows:

- (1) The Commissioner of Indian Affairs
- (2) The Director of the National Council on Indian Opportunity
- (3) A vacancy on the Indian Claims Commission

In all of these areas there are qualified Indian people who know and have worked with their people and understand the unique legal and cultural relationships involved in Indian affairs. I believe that all Indians, irrespective of party, should be considered for these and other appointments where their knowledge and experience qualifies them.

Statement by Louis R. Bruce-3

There are a great many American Indians like myself who are ardent members and who are long time supporters of President Nixon. We stand ready to guide and counsel this Administration as it moves forward in a positive manner in the field of American Indian Affairs.

---end---

Information on Author:

Mr. Louis R. Bruce
Of New York City and Richfield Springs, New York
Presently Chairman of the Board, Zeta Psi Educational Foundation

*LRB:1
Special Sub*



FOUR WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

**Zeta Psi Fraternity
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

TELEPHONE (212) 736-0992

January 9, 1969

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

Dear Bob:

Just a brief note to let you know how much I appreciated your taking time from your busy schedule to join us for dinner at the Cosmos Club. This kind of a session for us was overdue and I certainly enjoyed being brought up-to-date on Indian Affairs. You can rest assured that I will do all I can to bring support for your appointment. I think you have done a very fine, excellent job as a commissioner and, of course, all of us are very proud of the fact that for the first time in 90 years or so that we have had a real "redskin" to represent us. Since I saw you I made some contacts here in New York and in Detroit on your behalf.

Keep in touch and I hope you can arrange to have a real nice day for January 20th for the Inaugural Parade. I'd hate to have you get your Indian bonnet and tepee soaked on the float.

Good luck to you and let me know if there is anything more I can do to help. All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Louis R. Bruce
Executive Secretary

LRB:1
cc: Forrest Gerard

P.S. Incidentally, our host at the Cosmos Club, Dr. William Duryee, Research Director, Warwick Clinic, 2300 "K" Street, Washington, D.C. was very pleased to have a chance to meet and talk with you.

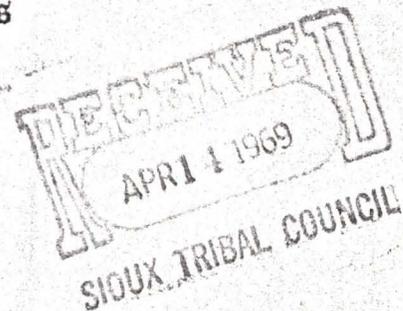
E. Y. BERRY
2D DIST., SOUTH DAKOTA

DISTRICT OFFICES:
306 1/2 7TH STREET
RAPID CITY
119 E. 2ND AVENUE
MITCHELL

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

April 10, 1969

PAB *Spencer*
COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Mr. Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

Dear Frank:

Just a quickie to let you know the boss has received your April 7th letter, but the enclosure you mentioned was not attached.

When Mr. Berry returns, will advise him of your endorsement of Bob Bennett for Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the Nixon administration.

Always good to hear from you, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mavis

Mavis Daly, Adm. Asst.
E. Y. BERRY

Hope you have the Good Start check by now!

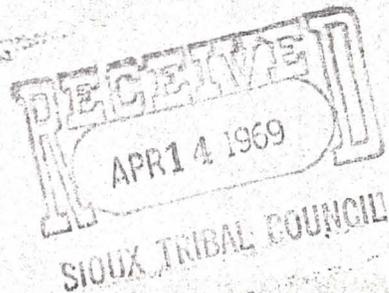
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA., CHAIRMAN
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.
JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS.
HERMAN F. TALMADGE, GA.
B. EVERETT JORDAN, N.C.
GEORGE MCGOVERN, S. DAK.
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JACK MILLER, IOWA
CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
MARLOW W. COOK, KY.
ROBERT J. DOLE, KANS.

WYVY M. MOORE, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 10, 1969



Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reappointment of Commissioner Bennett.

Frank, I agree completely with you on the competence and qualifications he has shown as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. You can be assured that he will have my full support to continue on as Commissioner.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McGovern".

George McGovern

Frank Ducheneaux
Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

JAN 3 10 43 AM '69

435

December 27, 1968

Mr. Richard M. Nixon
Hotel Pierre
New York, New York 10000

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Attached hereto is a copy of Resolution No. 92-68-CR which was passed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council on December 4th, 1968, regular session, which is self-explanatory and submitted for your consideration.

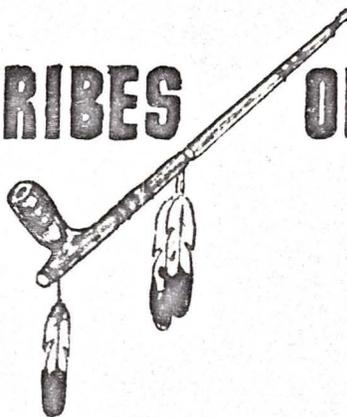
In behalf of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, I would like to thank you in advance for your favorable consideration to our request.

Sincerely yours,
CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE

Hazel Garreaux
Hazel Garreaux, Secretary

cc: Robert L. Bennet ✓
Senator Karl E. Mundt
Melvin R. Laird, Congressman
Ben Reifel, Congressman
NCAI - Washington, D.C.

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

EUNICE LARRABEE, Secretary
Cheyenne River Sioux
Lantry, South Dakota

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

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

April 7, 1969

Mr. Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Secretary Hickel:

I am quite pleased that you will give careful consideration to retaining Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as stated in your letter of March 18, 1969.

I have reported your letter of March 18, 1969 to the Tribal Council and the comments were that at least we have one Bureau official who has kept his word, referring to your first public statement concerning Indians in which you stated:

"So often it seems, discussion of the Interior or Department emphasize the natural resources and not the human values, over which we have responsibility--our human resources--like the American Indian. He has often been referred to as the forgotten American. I do not intend to forget him--I intend to listen to him. We have smothered the Indian cultures with our own ignorance. The Indian education system and its policies must be given a completely fresh and objective examination. You don't necessarily solve this aging problem by moving to another bureau. This is the Interior's obligation. I do not promise you an instant solution but I can assure you you will see action--not just talk."

We also call to your attention the Republican Platform for 1968, and I quote in part--"The plight of the American Indians and Eskimos is a national disgrace, contradictory government policies have led to intolerable deprivation for these citizens. We dedicate ourselves to the promotion of policies responsive to their needs and desires and will seek the participation of such policies".

President Richard M. Nixon's statement to the National Congress of American Indians at their annual meeting at Omaha, Nebraska, September 27, 1968, said in part--"They should--and they must--be made part of the mainstream of American life". "xxxx To help them reach the goals that they themselves have set and will set, my Administration will be pledged to the following policies:

The special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian people and the special responsibilities of the Federal Government to the Indian people will be acknowledged".xxxxx

Mr. Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior
April 7, 1969
Page -2-

"xxxWill see to it that local program and federal budgets are operated with minimum bureaucratic restraint and in full consultation with the Indian people.xxx"

Mr. Secretary Hickel, the several Reservations in South Dakota, the United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota, the National Congress of American Indians, a national organization representing some 100 tribes in the United States of America, have gone on record recommending the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, be retained and reasons are stated in Resolution submitted to the President of the United States. No Commissioner of Indian Affairs has had the confidence of the Indians of these United States as does Commissioner Robert L. Bennett. He has done more to prepare the Indians of these United States in the short time that he has been Commissioner in management of their own affairs and placing responsibilities for their own salvation and destiny, which is necessary if they are to take their place in the mainstream of American life.

We certainly agree with your statement that changing of policies does not solve the problem and that it does take time.

We would like to point out to you that Robert L. Bennett has had a trying time to break through, down to the local level, because of the die-hards in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It would be a crying shame that just as he has got to the local level he be removed and we would have to start all over with some other Commissioner who has very little knowledge of what has been done, and has to build up the confidence of the American Indians before he can get going.

We hope, Mr. Secretary, that with your statement that you will listen to the American Indian, and the statement of President Nixon, and the Republican Platform, that you will consider this wish of the Indian people.

Sincerely,

Frank Ducheneaux
Frank Ducheneaux, President
United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota
P. O. Box 633
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

FD/vr

FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman, Eagle Butte
REUBEN WARD, Vice Chairman, Cherry Creek

ALICE BOWKER, Treasurer, Eagle Butte
HAZEL GARREAUX, Secretary, Eagle Butte



COMMITTEES:

Land & Forestry:

Donald D. Dolphus, Chairman
Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Member
Peter Dupris, Member

Ways & Means:

Peter Dupris, Chairman
Robert Kessler, Member
William War Bonnet, Member

Welfare & Telephone:

Francis Traversie, Chairman
Louis Veo, Member
Andrew LeBeau, Member

Extension:

Reuben Ward, Chairman
Manuel Red Bear, Member
Ernest Ducheneaux, Member

Rehabilitation Committee:

Ernest Ducheneaux, Chairman
Emmett Hollow Horn, Member
Donald D. Dolphus, Member
Reuben Ward, Member
Dennis Buffalo, Member

Organized Under Act of Congress June 18, 1934
(46 Stat. 948)

Cheyenne River

Sioux Tribal Council

Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

April 7, 1969

COMMITTEES:

Law & Order & Enrollment:

Dennis Buffalo, Chairman
Louis Veo, Member
Francis Traversie, Member

Claims & Legislation:

Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman
Donald D. Dolphus, Member
Reuben Ward, Member
Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Member
Ernest Ducheneaux, Member
Andrew LeBeau, Member

Health & Education:

Andrew LeBeau, Chairman
Ramon Williams, Member
Emmett Hollow Horn, Member

Appraisal Committee:

Lawrence Lind, Chairman
Manuel Red Bear, Member
Ramon Williams, Member

Planning Committee:

Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Chairman
Peter Dupris, Member
Reuben Ward, Member

2 Sp. files
~~FRANK DUCHENEAUX~~
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed herewith for your information are copies of letters written to our Congressional Delegation and to the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Walter J. Hickel, in regards to retaining you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sincerely,

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

Frank Ducheneaux
Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman

FD/vr

FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman, Eagle Butte
REUBEN WARD, Vice Chairman, Cherry Creek



ALICE BOWKER, Treasurer, Eagle Butte
HAZEL GARREAUX, Secretary, Eagle Butte

COMMITTEES:

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Emmett Hollow Horn, Member

Appraisal Committee:

Lawrence Lind, Chairman
Manuel Red Bear, Member
Ramon Williams, Member

Planning Committee:

Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Chairman
Peter Duoria, Member
Reuben Ward, Member

Congressman Ben Riefel
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Congressman Riefel:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, which is self explanatory, and setting out the views of the American Indians.

It is hoped that in the interest of the American Indians, and at least their wish, just this once, that you may give your full support to the re-appointment of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, who has done more to involve the Indians in their struggle to take their place in the mainstream of American Life.

Sincerely,

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

Frank Ducheneaux
Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman

FD/vr

FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman, Eagle Butte
REUBEN WARD, Vice Chairman, Cherry Creek

ALICE BOWKER, Treasurer, Eagle Butte
HAZEL GARREAUX, Secretary, Eagle Butte



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Ramon Williams, Member
Emmett Hollow Horn, Member

Appraisal Committee:

Lawrence Lind, Chairman
Manuel Red Bear, Member
Ramon Williams, Member

Planning Committee:

Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Chairman
Peter Dupris, Member
Reuben Ward, Member

Congressman E. Y. Berry
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Congressman Berry:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, which is self explanatory, and setting out the views of the American Indians.

It is hoped that in the interest of the American Indians, and at least their wish, just this once, that you may give your full support to the re-appointment of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, who has done more to involve the Indians in their struggle to take their place in the mainstream of American Life.

Sincerely,

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

Frank Ducheneaux
Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman

FD/vr

FRANK DUCHENEAUX, Chairman, Eagle Butte
REUBEN WARD, Vice Chairman, Cherry Creek



ALICE BOWKER, Treasurer, Eagle Butte
HAZEL GARREAUX, Secretary, Eagle Butte

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Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

April 7, 1969

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Francis Traversie, Member

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Lawrence Lind, Chairman
Manuel Red Bear, Member
Ramon Williams, Member

Planning Committee:

Benjamin Hawk Eagle, Chairman
Peter Dupris, Member
Reuben Ward, Member

Senator Karl E. Mundt
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Mundt:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, which is self explanatory, and setting out the views of the American Indians.

It is hoped that in the interest of the American Indians, and at least their wish, just this once, that you may give your full support to the re-appointment of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, who has done more to involve the Indians in their struggle to take their place in the mainstream of American Life.

Sincerely,

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

Frank Ducheneaux
Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman

FD/vr

10:25 a.m., 4/11/69 Anadarko

Mr. Robert LaFollette Bennett

They are singing the Lord's Prayer and you, Mr. Bennett, sit, thoughtful, and prayerful, I know on that platform.

I sit here in the back of the room and I am praying to Our Blessed Lord to give you the wisdom to do the very best you can for these and all Indian youth--now in school--and all the many coming, coming, coming--

I plead for the continuation of schools such as Riverside, Intermountain, Phoenix--yes--and Chilocco.

I and my husband taught at Intermountain in 1955 and at San Carlos 1956-1962. And since his death I served as Health Educator for USPHS on Papago for 5 years.

I'm out of Federal service now--an Oklahoma public school teacher-- (Am. Government). I have some Indian students, attend an Indian church where the service is in Seminole. I try to keep close to what Indians are thinking, and more important--feeling. And there is still their feeling of a strong need for the Indian schools--or at the very least--the resident facilities that provide a base from which they can attend public schools.

I have full confidence that you will resist pressures that would cause the eventual loss to many Indian youth of their only (presently available) school opportunities. Until each "neighborhood" has a good public school I know you will quietly exert every possible effort to keep, and improve and enlarge what these youth have--and work to get what they need.

They're singing "America--Our Heritage" and I know you'll preserve and protect and promote the appreciation of that heritage and the development of a greater one for their children.

"Go with God" and with our prayers sustaining you--

Sincerely, Mrs. Marie Hood

P. S. As you are saying now, truly the Chilocco students have learned their lessons in Am. government well, as demonstrated by their efforts of these last few days to shape their own future.

TYPED (from attached) FOR EASIER READING.

Mr. Robert
La Follette
Bennett

General
J. C.

10:25 am.

4-11-69 ~~Canada~~

They are singing
the Lord's Prayer
and you, Mr.
Bennett, sit,
thoughtful, and
prayerful, I know
on that platform
I sit here in
the back of the
room and I

am praying to
Our Blessed Lord
to give you the
wisdom to do
the very best
you can for
these and all
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— now in
school — and

all the many
coming, coming,
coming —

I plead for
the continuation
of schools such
as Riverside,
Intermountain,
Phoenix —
yes — and

Chillico
and my husband
~~I taught~~ at
Intermountain
in 1955 and
at San Carlos
1956 - 1962,
and since his
death I served
as Health Educator
for USPHS

on Papago for
5 years.

I'm out of
Federal service

now ——— an
Oklahoma
public school
teacher ———

(Am. govern-
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They're sing-
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and I know
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and promote

the appreciation
of ~~that~~ heritage
and the
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children.

"Go with God"
and with our
prayers
sustaining

you

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marie Hook

P.S. As you
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Lessons in
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well, as demon-
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their efforts
of these last
few days to
shape their
own future.

CHARLES E. GROUNDS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA 74868

April 11, 1969

J. R. L. B. R. H. S.

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

My Dear Commissioner:

I have been following the newspaper accounts of the trouble up at Shilocco. First I want to say that I am well pleased with the manner in which you handled this touchie situation.

I felt that you were a "Natural" to handle this situation because of our training received at Haskell. As we know the Boarding Schools serve a great purpose for those Indian children who could not get an education otherwise or at least a very sub-normal education if any.

My Sister whom you met while here, attended Shilocco as did my older Brother. Ofcourse they thought that this was a wonderful school. I have visited Shilocco several times and I have always felt that they were doing a good job, under the circumstances.

Ofcourse you remember we had our problems while at Haskell, but we all seemed to work them out for the benefit of the students and the school. We students did not always like the solution, but I find this is true even in trying to get discipline from your own children.

The student problem is nation, yes even world wide, and must be delt with immediately by appropriate means. As I view the situation here at home, I am glad to say that the Indian Schools are still standing intact without any broken windows or mutilated buildings.

This is just a note of incouragement to let you know I am one hundred percent behind you and have talked with several in this area who have attended Shilocco and other Indian Schools that feel the same as I do.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Grounds
Charles E. Grounds
Attorney at Law

CEG/mh

Arizona Republic, 4/14/69
AP

HICKEL MAY REMOVE INDIAN AGENCY HEAD

Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel disclosed yesterday he is looking around for a new Commissioner of Indian Affairs to replace incumbent Robert L. Bennett.

Hickel was asked in an interview whether he might submit legislation to improve his department's program on Indian affairs.

"Yes, I think so," he responded.

"We are really searching for an answer to the problem." But the answer is not a program; the answer is some person, some individual -- one would be enough -- who has the desire to carry out that program.

"I think we can find American Indians that have that desire, have the capability and the leadership to solve the problem, and as soon as I find that person -- and I have interviewed literally dozens -- then we are going to start."

Though he did not mention him by name, informed sources confirmed Hickel's remarks meant Bennett would be replaced.

Bennett, himself an Indian, was appointed Commissioner in 1966 after a career of 28 years in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

When charges were made recently that students were mistreated at Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma, Harrison Loesch, new assistant Secretary Public Land Management, took charge of the case personally.

But Hickel's revelation that Bennett was on the way out took both Loesch and Under Secretary Russell E. Train by surprise.

said: Asked whether career men in such positions would be retained, *Hickel* "I don't think that they have always been staffed by career men, because they are obviously in a political position."

"I will say this. We are looking for the best men available, men to do the job. And it doesn't necessarily mean they have to be Republican, but if they are Republicans it helps."

X X X



ORGANIZED 1923

1263 W. PRATT BLVD. #909
262-0620
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60626

April 15, 1969

copy
HAB
2. Sp. file
Mr. Walter J. Hickel, Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

We have been greatly distressed to read that you are replacing Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs..

We share in the opinion of Indians throughout the country that Mr. Bennett should be retained as Commissioner. He has been outstanding in his work and has accomplished a great deal for Indians.

It is all the more distressing to know that this is being done in the face of the many endorsements and letters from tribal bodies and from Indian organizations, stressing the wish that Mr. Bennett be continued in office. He has been outstanding in his work and has accomplished a great deal for Indians.

It is all the more distressing to know that this is being done in the face of the many endorsements and letters from tribal bodies and from Indian organizations, stressing the wish that Mr. Bennett be continued in office. Certainly this will alienate those Indians who are Republicans, to say nothing of other Indians who will justifiably feel that their recommendations have been ignored and that they have been given no consideration.

If this takes place, it will make Mr. Nixon's pledge to give consideration to Indian thinking only empty words with no sincerity behind them.

We wish to strongly protest this action and to ask again that Mr. Bennett be retained in office.

Sincerely,

Marie LaFrinierre
President

L:9

Copy: Mr. Nixon

THE MYRIN INSTITUTE, INC.
FOR ADULT EDUCATION
521 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

SYLVESTER M. MOREY, *Chairman*
FRANZ E. WINKLER, *President*

TELEPHONE
212-758-6475

April 15, 1969

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

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 10 1 42 PM '69

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 9 sending me a foreword for the forthcoming report on our Indian conference in Denver last year.

Your foreword goes right to the point and we think it will make an excellent addition to the manuscript. Incidentally, the manuscript is now being looked at by two different publishers. From the interest to date we believe we will have no problem in finding a suitable publisher. We will let you know later on when final arrangements are made.

I do hope you continue as Commissioner of Indian Affairs for many years to come. I have seen evidence of your good work and your awareness of the problems of the American Indian.

Thank you for your kind lines about last summer's project. I, too, hope that we enjoy joint efforts in the future.

With warm regards.

Cordially yours,

Sylvester M. Morey
Sylvester M. Morey

Copy II

Spencer
RJP

April 15, 1969

Mr. Walter Hickel, Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hickel:

I was shocked and disheartened to read that you are determined to replace Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This is really a very sad and unfortunate action, for a number of reasons.

For one, Mr. Bennett has done a superlative job. Every Indian organization and Indian-interest organization, and most tribal groups have endorsed Mr. Bennett and requested that he be reappointed - rather, they have urged it. Not to do so is to coldly disregard the expressed desire of the Indian people whom Mr. Nixon assured in his campaign speeches would be given every consideration with respect to their wishes.

Further, this disregard will cause many Indians - already very apprehensive about the Republican administration - to look to the Democrats to whom they already feel they owe much in the way of help. When Mr. Nixon was elected, there was open fear spoken by Indian leaders as to how they would be treated at Republican hands. They will take this setting aside of their urging as evidence that they can expect nothing and many that might have been brought into the Republican fold will be lost.

Since you will be dealing with Indians, this will not help to win you friends and influence people.

Recently the National Congress of American Indians held an industrial conference in this city. A great deal of anxiety was expressed as to why Mr. Bennett was not being replaced. Among those who work with Indians, it is obvious that Mr. Humphrey and the Kennedys have made a strong impact.

For long years, Indians have had a natural and understandable distrust of us. In recent years, much of this has been broken down. It is just as understandable that there will be a return to this attitude.

I am writing to you as one who has had intimate contact and identification with Indians since her high school days. Also, as a "vaccinated Republican, whose grandmother was present, as a child, at the birth of the Republican Party. No one was more jubilant over the election of the Republican administration than I; now, I am afraid that I am considerably disillusioned and concerned as to how much will be lost to this administration with the dismissal of Mr. Bennett.

Hickel -2

Probably this letter will never reach you. I hope that it does, and I hope that you will re-consider.

Sincerely,

G:em

(Miss) Marion E. Gridley
Editor

Copy:

Richard M. Nixon
Senator Barry Goldwater
Cong. Ben Reifel
Senator George McGovern
W. Clement Stone

CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS
Yakima Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 632
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON - 98948

April 16, 1969

100
The Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20025

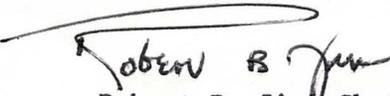
RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 21 2 54 PM '69

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter and the Statement of President Richard M. Nixon released September 27, 1968, that we have sent to various people and Indian Organizations that we feel may be of assistance to us in retaining you as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Please let us know if there is anything more we may do?

Sincerely yours,


Robert B. Jim, Chairman
Yakima Tribal Council

Enclosures:

fjb

CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS

Yakima Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 632

TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON - 98948

April 15, 1969

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20025

Dear Mr. President:

The Yakima Indian Nation respectfully takes this opportunity to recommend the re-appointment of the Honorable Robert L. Bennett as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We cite as reference that Mr. R. L. Bennett has the wide support of Indians throughout the United States and Alaska, including but not limited to resolutions by:

1. The National Congress of American Indians.
2. The Northwest Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.
3. The Inter-Tribal Council of Western Washington Indians.
4. The Board of Trustees of the Pacific Northwest Indian Center of Spokane, Washington.

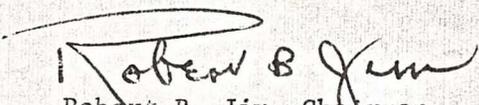
and many other prominent Indians as well. Mr. Bennett has demonstrated his ability to help Indians with his leadership and background.

As for the Yakima Reservation, we have, since Mr. Bennett, progressed by establishing two factories on our reservation which is classed as a depressed area. I am sure that his actions have helped many other Indians.

We refer to the speech of the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, 1968, delivered by Senator Baker of Tennessee, which stressed "Special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian people, "The special responsibilities of the Federal Government to the Indian people will be acknowledged" and "I will insure that the Indian people are fully consulted before programs under which they must live are planned."

Through these statements made and released on September 27, 1968 we make this recommendation for the re-appointment of R. L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and feel your administration will follow "The Federal Indian Policy," you have released to the American People.

Respectfully yours,


Robert B. Jim, Chairman
Yakima Tribal Council

Dutelle

P.O. Box 417 RFD
Jenks, Okla. 74037

4-16-69

Mr Robert F. Bennett

Dear Bob:

Can I do anything to help? There is much support for you in Tulsa. A resolution of Council of American Indians has been drafted & is in process of distribution.

You must be retained as Commissioner.

Feel free to call or write. I can run errands, etc.

My telephone in Tulsa
918-299-2339.

Norman H. Ingog



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tribal Operations

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PORTLAND AREA OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 3785

PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

435

APR 17 1969

AIRMAIL

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C. 20242

Attention: Tribal Operations

Sir:

We are enclosing three copies of Tulalip Resolution No. 277-16
requesting that Commissioner Bennett be retained in this position.



Sincerely yours,


Richard M. Balsiger
Assistant Area Director
(Community Services)

Enclosures



R. J. J.

SURNAME:

Macfarlan 4/17

BCCO 9055

Chairman A. J. Agard
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal
Council
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

APR 21 1969

Dear Chairman Agard:

Secretary Hickel referred to us for reply your most gracious letter complimenting him and President Nixon and endorsing my retention as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Your thoughtfulness in writing is deeply appreciated, and I ask that you convey my heartfelt thanks to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ROBERT L. BENNETT

Commissioner

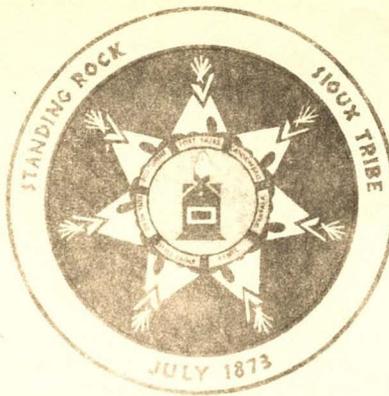
cc: IM

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Surname ✓
132 Chron
Mailroom
BCCO

WJM-pv-4/17/69

Special file



9055

INTERIOR DEPT.

TELEPHONE NO. 854-2561
FORT YATES, NORTH DAKOTA 58538

February 10, 1969

APR - 4 1969

ASSISTANT
SECRETARY
E. L. M.

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North Dakota and South Dakota welcomes you and congratulates you on your high office. The Tribe appreciates your interest in meeting with its tribal leaders.

The Tribe was most pleased with President Nixon's views on the Indian people expressed in his message to our national organization, the National Congress of American Indians, on the occasion of the annual convention in Omaha last September.

President Nixon gave his reassurance on three major policy principles which, in the past, has been the source of much difficulty and strife. President Nixon told us, first, that we need not fear his Administration will terminate the federal responsibility without Indian consent. Second, that his Administration will respect the right of the Indian people to self-determination. Third, that under his Administration, state jurisdiction will not be imposed on Indian people on the reservation without the consent of the Indian.

The major problem of the Indian people on the reservation is lack of jobs. If our people have jobs, most other problems can be solved. President Nixon addressed himself to this basic problem. He assured us that his Administration, through incentive to industry would encourage industry to come on the reservation and create jobs for Indian people; that government loan programs would be broadened and administered in a more meaningful way; that job training would be speeded up; and that health services would be improved. President Nixon also emphasized that unnecessary bureaucratic levels should be eliminated so that multiple layers of authority do not separate the Indian from the decision making powers.

Honorable Walter J. Hickel

February 10, 1969

Page two

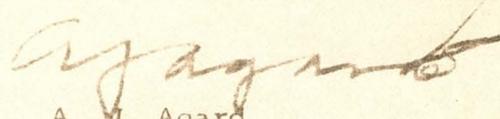
903

We have been pleased with the way Commissioner of Indian Affairs Bennett has been handling Indian affairs. Commissioner Bennett is one of our people. He understands our ways. He knows how we think and feel. We are glad to see that he is continuing as Commissioner.

We place our trust in you to carry out the high principles and policies announced by President Nixon.

Respectfully yours,

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL



A. U. Agard
Chairman

Honorable Walter J. Hickel

February 10, 1969

Page two

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Respectfully yours,

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

A. J. Agard
Chairman

COPY of Statement presented to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, Meeting of the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation, Federal Building, Bismarck, North Dakota. Presentation made by A.J. Agard, Tribal Chairman of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Chairman of the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation.

February 10, 1969

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

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December 11, 1968

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President-Elect of the United States
Washington, D. C.

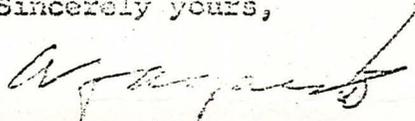
Dear Mr. President-Elect:

On Wednesday, December 11, 1968, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, the governing body of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, adopted a resolution urging that you reappoint Robert L. Bennett, an American Indian, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

On behalf of the people of the Tribe and the Tribal Council, I extend to you our heartiest congratulations and our prayers that your administration may be a complete success.

Sincerely yours,



A. J. Agard
Tribal Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Superintendent, Standing Rock Agency
Secretary, Tribal Council
Marvin J. Sonosky, Attorney

1. RLB



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

PROVO, UTAH 84601

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS

April 18, 1969

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

On behalf of the Brigham Young University studentbody, I would like to tell you what a pleasure it was having you on our campus last month. It was a delightful experience for those of us who were able to be with you during the day and I have received many favorable comments regarding your speech. I hope you enjoyed the day as much as we. I know the University will be looking forward to the next time you will be visiting us.

Also, enclosed is a check in the amount of \$250.00 and at your convenience would you please sign the receipt and mail it to the Treasurer's Office, Brigham Young University, D-148 ASB, Provo, Utah 84601

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shari Stephens

SS/sl

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 24 2 34 PM '69

PAUL PITTS
CHIEF

CHARLES WHITEHORN
ASSISTANT CHIEF

~~I. RLB RJD~~



Spur file

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

E. E. (DUTCH) COOPER
D. E. (BILL) MARTIN
EDWARD RED EAGLE
GEORGE E. REVARD
JOE REVELETTE
JOHN SHAW
GEORGE B. SMITH
SYLVESTER J. TINKER

OSAGE TRIBAL COUNCIL

PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

74056

April 19, 1969

Honorable L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

Dear friend Bob,

I had a friend of mine who is very close to
Boots Adams of Phillips Petroleum Co - to
call Bud Wilkinson in your behalf and
I hope we can get some results.

I would really hate to see a new man go
into the Commissioner's Office at this time
because I know how long it would take for
him to settle down and start Hickel's program
whatever it is -

From what I now find out talking to
Indians from all over the United States, they
are very well satisfied with your program
and feel sure they are progressing in more
ways than one.

If there is anything I can do to help
you to stay in your present position please
feel free to call me up at any time

Your friend
John Shaw



100

Hoopa Valley Business Council

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE

Regular Meetings on the First Friday of Each Month

P. O. Box 817 HOOPA, CALIFORNIA 95546 Phone 625-4691



April 21, 1969

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner
1951 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C.

Handwritten signature and notes:
1. 2. Spec. file

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

We greatly appreciate the courtesies you extended to our delegation when we met with you on April 14 and April 18, 1969.

As you know, you have our support and we earnestly hope that you will be reappointed as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature: Charles J. Moon

Charles J. Moon
Chairman
Hoopa Valley Business Council

APR 23 9 03 AM '69

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

TRIBAL PROGRAMS
NOTED BY RB 1/20/69

RESOLUTION OF THE HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE
HOOPA INDIAN RESERVATION
HOOPA, CALIFORNIA

RB
Spn Jlu
ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO: 894

DATE APPROVED: 1-15-69

SUBJECT: REQUEST RETENTION OF COMMISSIONER BENNETT

- WHEREAS: The Hoopa Valley Tribe did on May 13, 1950 adopt a constitution and bylaws that was approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on September 4th, 1952 and Article VIII, Section 1 (a) to administer all tribal property by ordinance or resolution subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative (g) to negotiate with the Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of the tribe.
- WHEREAS: The Hoopa Valley Business Council of the Hoopa Valley Tribe have been able to see the notable change in the attitude of the employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the policies affecting their reservation, and;
- WHEREAS: Said change has resulted in the necessary motivation for the tribe to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to a comprehensive program that would insure the intense development of Human and natural resources of the Hoopa Reservation and;
- WHEREAS: never before has such a start been made for the substantial and sustained progress of Indians in individual enterprise, in bringing industry to the reservation, and in concerted efforts for improvement of health, education, and employment of the Hoopa Indians, and;
- WHEREAS: The Hoopa Valley Tribe credits the wise decision of Secretary of Interior Stewart L Udall with the choosing of a man of Indian Ancestry, Robert L Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the Tribe credits Mr Bennett as being a contributing and stimulating factor that was necessary to involve so many diverse interests and to awaken the potential capacity of Indians for self improvement and for self help, now therefore,
- BE IT RESOLVED: that the Hoopa Valley Business Council hereby express our gratitude and confidence in Rober L Bennett as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Hoopa Valley Business Council respectfully requests the Secretary of Interior, retain Robert L Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs as the Hoopa Valley Business Council deems it necessary and in the best interest of the tribe.

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

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Hoopa Valley Business Council hereby certify that the Hoopa Valley Business Council is composed of seven (7) members of which 7 constituing a quorum were present at a Special meeting thereof; duly and regularly called, noticed and convened and held this 15th day of January, 1969 and that this resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

DATED THIS 15TH DAY OF JANUARY 1969

ATTEST Mary E Davis
Mary E Davis: Secretary
Hoopa Valley Busienss Council
Hoopa Valley Tribe

Charles J. Moon
Charles J Moon: Chairman
Hoopa Valley Business Council
Hoopa Valley Tribe

NOTED: January 16, 1969

Vincent Little
Area Field Representative

RECEIVED
JAN 16 1969

HOOPA AREA FIELD OFFICE

AM
IN REPLY REFER TO:



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Real Property Management

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

APR 24 8 29 AM '69

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

APR 22 1969

LS

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue NW.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Bob:

Although this is an entirely personal letter, the views of my fellow employees in the Billings Area Office are such that you would be safe in the thought that it is from all of us.

I am saddened to hear that your days with us are running out. Your record and your unquestioned honesty and devotion to the Indian people have been a constant source of inspiration to your people and those of us who sincerely try to serve them. We think that history will reflect what we know about you, that you have done everything possible for a man in your position to do with the funds you were given and that you have been a great commissioner in every sense of the term.

You know, of course, that we will give the new commissioner our full cooperation and best effort. Know also that you take with you to new endeavors the admiration and respect of those of us privileged to work with you. God speed and best wishes to you and your family for the future.

Warm personal regards,

Myron E. Saltmarsh

Myron E. Saltmarsh
Realty Specialist
Billings Area Office

MUNDT
SOUTH DAKOTA

KAUGHEY
NATIVE ASSISTANT

ROBERTA VAN BEEK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WALTER C. CONAHAN
PRESS SECRETARY

ROBERT E. RUDDY
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 24, 1969

MEMBER:

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Frank Ducheneaux
Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57628

Mr. Aljoe Agaard
Tribal Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Fort Yates, North Dakota

Dear Frank and Aljoe:

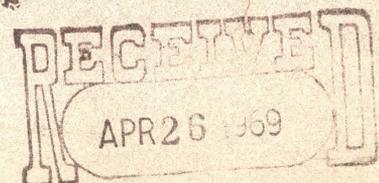
I have your telegram of April 21 reaffirming your support of the retention of Bob Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am deeply grateful to you for your continued support of the position for Bob. However, it appears that the Secretary has now determined that he would like to have his own individual on the job as the Commissioner. Therefore, we have been working with the Vice-President in an effort to induce him to select Bob as Executive Director of the Indian Opportunity Council.

As you know, this council comes under the direct control of the Vice President, and we feel that this could be an upgrading of Bob's talents and would utilize him to a far greater extent than he would be used as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I hope we are successful in our effort to get the job done in behalf of Bob Bennett, who, all of us from South Dakota feel, has done an excellent job as Commissioner for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Karl E. Mundt, U.S.S.



SIoux TRIBAL COUNCIL



1404-100-0
IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tribal Operations

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ANADARKO AREA OFFICE
P.O. Box 368
Anadarko, Oklahoma
73005

435

APR 24 1969



Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C. 20242

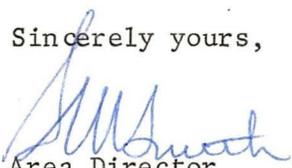
Attention: Division of Tribal Operations

Sir:

Enclosed are four copies of Kickapoo of Kansas Tribal Council Resolution No. 21, adopted by the tribal council on January 19, 1969.

The resolution is a recommendation by the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas that Commissioner Bennett be re-appointed as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and is forwarded for your information and appropriate distribution.

Sincerely yours,


Deputy Area Director

Enclosures (4)

APR 9 1969
RECEIVED

KICKAPOO OF KANSAS TRIBAL COUNCIL

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 21

WHEREAS, The Kickapoo Tribe of the Kickapoo Reservation of Kansas is organized in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and,

WHEREAS, The Kickapoo Tribal Council met in special session this 19th day of January 1969 and,

WHEREAS, The Kickapoo Tribe is in favor of continuing the B.I.A. Programs as initiated by Commissioner Robert L. Bennett and,

WHEREAS, We feel that Commissioner Bennett has shown an unusual insight and interest in the welfare of the American Indian and,

WHEREAS, Many positive gains have been made in cooperative participation of the Tribes with the B.I.A. under Commissioner Bennett's leadership, this partnership should continue and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Kickapoo Tribe hereby recommends that Robert L. Bennett again be appointed as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Nixon, Secretary of Interior Hickel, and the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

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

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted this 19th day of January by a vote of 6 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council in special session at which 6 members of the Council were present, constituting a quorum.

RECEIVED

Ralph E. Simon

Chairman

ATTEST:

APR 9 1969

Bonnie Briscoe
Secretary

RECEIVED
APR 9 1969

FROM: SECRETARY

DATE: 3/19

- TO:
1. ~~DCCO~~
 2. LIA
 - 3.
 - 4.

8569

-
- FOR:
- APPROVAL
 - INFORMATION
 - PER OUR CONVERSATION
 - COMMENT
 - ACTION AS APPROPRIATE
 - DRAFT REPLY FOR SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE
 - REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY
 - AS REQUESTED

-
- AND:
- RETURN
 - FILE
 - FORWARD
 - SEE ME

REMARKS:

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 13, 1969

STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
PUBLIC WORKS

SELECT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:
SMALL BUSINESS
NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

R. J. M.

8569

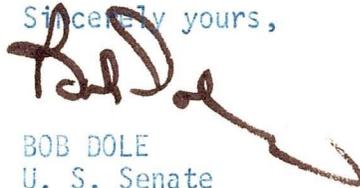
Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory Resolution from
Mr. Ralph E. Simon, Chairman of the Kickapoo Tribal Council
of Kansas.

The Resolution is being forwarded for your appropriate
attention.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE
U. S. Senate

BD:gh
Enclosure

5-30056



Pacific Northwest Indian Center, Inc.

LOCATED ON THE GONZAGA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202

100

April 24, 1969



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Wilfred P. Schoenberg,
Chairman, President
Jerome Peltier,
First Vice President
Spokane, Washington
Lorraine Misiaszek,
Second Vice President
Olympia, Washington
Hazel Beaulieu,
Secretary-Treasurer
Spokane, Washington
Howard Ball
Spokane, Washington
Rowland Bond
Spokane, Washington
Doris Bounds
Umatilla, Washington
Neil Byrne
DeSmet, Idaho
Francis Conklin
Spokane, Washington
Thomas Connolly
Spokane, Washington
Robert Dellwo
Spokane, Washington
Joseph R. Garry
Plummer, Idaho
Oswald George
Plummer, Idaho
Vernon Jackson
Warm Springs, Oregon
Robert Jim
Toppenish, Washington
R. Riley Johnson
Yakima, Washington
John P. Leary
Spokane, Washington
Richard Lewis
Spokane, Washington
Walter McDonald
St. Ignatius, Montana
D'Arcy McNickle
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
B. C. Payette
Montreal, Canada
Samuel A. Postell
Spokane, Washington
Sister Providencia
Great Falls, Montana
Melvin Robertson
Spokane, Washington
Eagle Selatsee
Toppenish, Washington
Paschal Sherman
Washington, D.C.
Alex Sherwood
Wellpinit, Washington
Forrest R. Stone
Spokane, Washington
Henry Sugden
Lapwai, Idaho

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed you will find a copy of my letter to the Secretary of the Interior. The Indian people in this area are very much alarmed by the rumors that you will be relieved of your duties. Hence, this resolution was passed to express our apprehensions and to request full consideration for you.

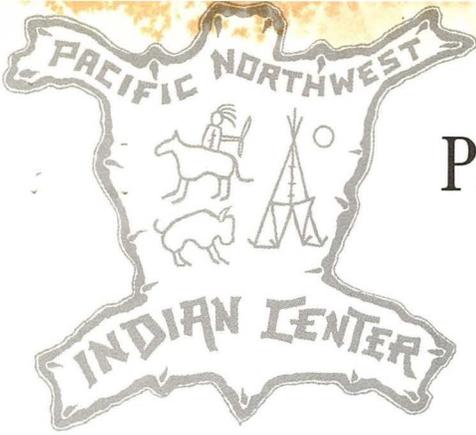
You will also find enclosed a copy of a resolution recently passed by the Washington State Legislature regarding the Pacific Northwest Indian Center.

Respectfully yours,

Wilfred P. Schoenberg
Chairman, President
Pacific Northwest Indian Center

WPS/ks

Save the First Americans' Heritage!



Pacific Northwest Indian Center, Inc.

LOCATED ON THE GONZAGA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202

April 24, 1969

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Wilfred P. Schoenberg,
Chairman, President
Jerome Peltier,
First Vice President
Spokane, Washington
Lorraine Misiaszek,
Second Vice President
Olympia, Washington
Hazel Beaulieu,
Secretary-Treasurer
Spokane, Washington
Howard Ball
Spokane, Washington
Rowland Bond
Spokane, Washington
Doris Bounds
Umatilla, Washington
Neil Byrne
DeSmet, Idaho
Francis Conklin
Spokane, Washington
Thomas Connolly
Spokane, Washington
Robert Dellwo
Spokane, Washington
Joseph R. Garry
Plummer, Idaho
Oswald George
Plummer, Idaho
Vernon Jackson
Warm Springs, Oregon
Robert Jim
Toppenish, Washington
R. Riley Johnson
Yakima, Washington
John P. Leary
Spokane, Washington
Richard Lewis
Spokane, Washington
Walter McDonald
St. Ignatius, Montana
D'Arcy McNickle
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
B. C. Payette
Montreal, Canada
Samuel A. Postell
Spokane, Washington
Sister Providencia
Great Falls, Montana
Melvin Robertson
Spokane, Washington
Eagle Selatsee
Toppenish, Washington
Paschal Sherman
Washington, D.C.
Alex Sherwood
Wellpinit, Washington
Forrest R. Stone
Spokane, Washington
Henry Sugden
Lapwai, Idaho

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Hickel:

I respectfully submit the following resolution
passed in our recent Board of Trustees meeting:

Motion by Mr. Forrest Stone: "I move that the
Chairman be authorized to send in a letter of
recommendation to the President of the United
States, to the Secretary of the Interior and
to the Chairman of the Senate Interior Commit-
tee endorsing Mr. Robert Bennett for continuing
service in the job he now holds." This motion
was passed unanimously by our Board of Trustees.

In view of the kind of Indian leadership expressed
by members of this board as well as the influence
of non-Indian members, I trust you will give full
consideration to this resolution.

Respectfully yours,

Wilfred P. Schoenberg

Wilfred P. Schoenberg
Chairman, President
Pacific Northwest Indian Center

copy

cc: President Richard M. Nixon
Senator Henry M. Jackson
Mr. Robert Bennett

WPS/ks

Save the First Americans' Heritage!

IN THE LEGISLATURE
of the
STATE OF WASHINGTON



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Resolution No. 69-57 by Representatives Hurley, McCormick, Pardini, Richardson, Kuehnle, Kopet, Harris, May and Gladder

WHEREAS, It is impossible to restore the culture of the American Indians and consequently effort must be expended to preserve the remnants of that culture; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Northwest Indian Center is working for the promotion of Indian studies, the preservation of Indian cultures, and the development of Indian leadership; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Pacific Northwest Indian Center will restore the pride of the American Indian, provide a secure repository for the remnants of his culture and promote cultural equality for his race; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that there is no Indian museum devoted exclusively to cultural display and research and with the establishment of the Pacific Northwest Indian Center, the center will be recognized nationally as a major Indian museum; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Northwest Indian Center will preserve for all time the heritage of our first Americans for the knowledge of our children, for the visual aids and research for all schools, to provide tourism, to give identity and dignity to all Indians and to present a world-famed institution in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives, That recognition and praise be given to the Pacific Northwest Indian Center, presently under construction in Spokane, for its efforts to preserve our Indian cultures by establishing a research center and a storehouse for the relics of "Indian Country."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor of the City of Spokane, and each member of the City Council of the City of Spokane.

ADOPTED April 3, 1969.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution adopted by the House of Representatives April 3, 1969.

Malcolm M. Beath

Malcolm McBeath, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

FROM
STANLEY SMARTLOWIT, CHAIRMAN, REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF NW TRIBES, LACONNER, WASH.

TO
WALTER J. HICKEL, SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C.

RE ROBERT BENNETT COMMISSIONER BIA, ALL DELEGATES ATTENDING REGIONAL
CONFERENCE OF NORTHWEST TRIBES AT LACONNER WASHINGTON ON SWINOMISH
RESERVATION VOTED TODAY TO EMPHATICALLY URGE THE RETENTION OF ROBERT L.
BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF BIA. TRIBES ARE MOST APPREHENSIVE ABOUT
POSSIBLE CHANGES IN INDIAN POLICIES THAT MIGHT RESULT IF NEW COMMISSIONER
IS APPOINTED. THEIR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN COMMISSIONER BENNETT IS SO STRONG
THAT TO REMOVE OR IGNORE THEM WOULD RESULT IN SUCH SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT
AMONGST INDIANS THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER WOULD BE UNDER SEVERE HANDICAP.
CONFERENCE URGES THAT YOU REPLY TO THIS TELEGRAM GIVING REASSURANCE REGARDING
BENNETT BY 3 P.M. APRIL 25 TO ADDRESS AS FOLLOWS: REGIONAL CONFERENCE
NORTHWEST TRIBES, STANLEY SMARTLOWIT, CHAIRMAN, SWINOMISH TRIBAL COMMUNITY,
LACONNER, WASHINGTON.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a conference on Indian Affairs was sponsored by the N. C. A. I. and co-sponsored by the Western Washington Inter-Tribal Council and held on April 24, 25, 1969 at the Swinomish Community Center, La Conner, Washington attended by 14 Tribes, and

WHEREAS, the Indians assembled, adapted a motion to prepare and submit a written statement urging the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, in compliance with said retention, a telegram was sent by the Regional Vice-President of the N. C. A. I., Stanley Smartlowit, to the Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel urging the retention of Robert Bennett and requesting a reply,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Northwest Tribes assembled in Conference at the Swinomish Reservation Community Center, La Conner, Washington on this 25th day of April, 1969, that we do hereby endorse said telegram of April 24, 1969 to Secretary Hickel regarding retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this conference approve and support Resolution No. 2 of the N. C. A. I. adopted in Convention held at Omaha, Nebraska, September 24 - 27, 1968, which also supported Commissioner Bennett,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be furnished to members of Congress, Governors of States, Commissioner of Indian Affairs and other responsible agencies, including N. C. A. I. Executive Council.

Done and dated on this 25th day of April 1969 at La Conner, Washington by the Regional Conference of the Northwest Tribes.

(Telegram Attached) *was specifically request of our support*

Stanley Smartlowit
Stanley Smartlowit, Area Vice President
N. C. A. I.

Bruce Wilkie
Bruce Wilkie, Chairman
Western Washington Inter-Tribal Council

R E S O L U T I O N

NUMBER 98-68

WHEREAS: It has been brought to the attention of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council that under the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, Robert L. Bennett will be replaced as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Bennett has proved, during his term as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to have dealt fairly with all Tribes of American Indians, and

WHEREAS: Since Mr. Bennett was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, much attention has been brought to the plight of the American Indian and many programs have been initiated to better the social, economic, educational, and health problems of the American Indian, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, acting for the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, does hereby fully endorse Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs as said Tribe feels that Mr. Bennett has proven himself one of the most able Commissioner of Indian Affairs ever to have held this office, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council does hereby request its Montana Congressional Delegation and other responsible persons or offices to aid in the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

ATTEST:

Carl A. Kipp
Secretary

THE BLACKFEET TRIBE OF THE BLACKFEET
INDIAN RESERVATION

[Signature]
Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in duly called, noticed and convened special session assembled the 25th day of March, 1969, with eight (8) members present to constitute a quorum.

Carl A. Kipp
Secretary
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

Box 515
Kimball, Nebr. 69145
April 26, 1969

Friend Bob:

Even forgetting the news items we see, Ruth and I have been receiving genuine expressions about retaining Bob Bennett as Commissioner.

(And, believe it or not, we have received expressions from some friends among the Indian People, and their neighboring elements, that I should be the next Commissioner of Indian Affairs)

Of course, that is out of the question, let alone the fact that me surviving in Washington D.C. is about as sensible as thinking of Elizabeth Taylor and her spouse existing in a teepee in what is left of the Big Horn Canyon.

Anyway, Bob, the point of this letter is that we will extend every effort available to us in supporting the views of numerous friends among the Indian people, etc., that you continue in the position.

And yes, very often I still feel the bug! I do not know if you ever obtained the true story as to my resignation from the Bureau. Sufficient to say, that if one is to stand on honest principles, I had no other choice, despite the fact that in my battle I sacrificed the retirement angle, all the sick leave, etc.

Would definitely be interested in any needed, important liaison work between field points and the Commissioner.

Again, assuring you of continued loyalty and, with very best wishes from both of us,

Sincerely,

Carl & Penner

Senator Howard Baker, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

At the Omaha convention of the NCAI last September you read President Nixon's pledges to the American Indians. He pledged that his administration would not go contrary to the wishes of the American Indians. We ask that Robert Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs be retained in office. He is surpassingly qualified for his job. We plead that he be retained.

Francis Wakefield, Chairman, United Tribes of Michigan, Alto, Michigan.

President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D. C.

We are deeply concerned with the rumor that Robert Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs may be replaced. We ask for his retention in office.

We call on your integrity to honor your pledge that American Indians' wishes would be honored by your administration.

Robert Dominic, President, Northern Michigan Ottawa Association, Petoskey, Mich.

Hon. Gerald Ford, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

My administration will be responsive to the American Indians' patient pleas said Richard Nixon in a prepared statement delivered by Senator Howard Baker at Omaha last September at the convention of the National Council of American Indians. Our patient plea is that ~~th~~ Robert Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs be retained in office. He is eminently qualified and has been outstanding in his job.

Francis ~~W~~akefield, Chairman, United Tribes of Michigan, Alto, Michigan.

(Night letters, Sunday, April 27, 1969) sent by Francis Wakefield