

1969
Dear Bob: As you start your
new job: —

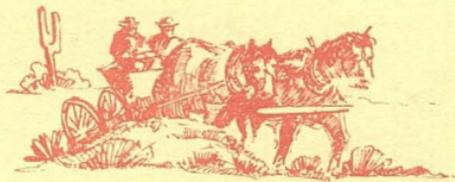


**CHIEF YELLOW LARK'S
FAVORITE PRAYER**
(A Sioux Chief)

Oh GREAT SPIRIT: Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me, I am a man before You, one of Your many children—I am small and weak. I need Your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things You have made; my ears sharp to hear Your voice. Make me wise, so that I may know the things You have taught my people—the lesson, You have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy—myself. Make me ever ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to You without shame.

—Tom White Cloud

Love Affectionately
Essie
& Bob



THIS IS A PRODUCTION OF THE
COOK CHRISTIAN TRAINING SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY DRIVE AT LINDON LANE
TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

— EDUCATION FOR INDIAN LEADERSHIP —
ART WORK BY EARLE DEXTER

RMB



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Inc.



UGWA DEHOLUH YATEHE

Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the Colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

Oneida
ROUTE 2



Wisconsin
54155

Jan. 2, 69

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

Dear Mr. Bennett,

On Dec. 14, 1968 the Oneida Executive Committee passed an important resolution pertaining to the retention of your position as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The resolution reads as follows:

" Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin would like to recommend that Robert L. Bennett be retained as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, so that Federal Government programs now administered for the American Indian Community may be achieved without interruption and without delay."

We sincerely hope that you will remain in your position.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amelia Cornelius
Mrs. Amelia Cornelius
Secretary

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JAN 9 9 26 PM '69

2- file special



Inaugural Committee ★ 1969

The Pension Building • 440 G Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20025

Telephone: Area Code 202 • 386-6501

NEWS

FOR RELEASE

J. WILLARD MARRIOTT,
Chairman

FRED MORRISON
Publicity Chairman

SATURDAY AM'S
JANUARY 4, 1969

SUGGESTED DRESS FOR INAUGURAL EVENTS

The Protocol Assistant to the Chairman of the Inaugural, the Hon. Clement E. Conger, has issued the following guide lines for dress for those who will attend the 1969 Inaugural events.

Mr. Conger, who was the former Deputy Chief of Protocol of the State Department, listed the suggested dress for use in the official Inaugural Guide Book soon to be issued by the Hospitality Committee of the Inaugural.

The Reception for Distinguished Ladies requires street or afternoon attire, gloves; hats optional.

Young America's Inaugural Salute lists long or short evening or cocktail dress for the ladies and black tie, business suit optional for the gentlemen.

The Inaugural All American Gala requires long or short evening dress, and gloves, for the ladies with black tie or business suit optional for the gentlemen.

The Governor's Reception lists afternoon or cocktail dress, gloves, for ladies and business suits for gentlemen.

The Reception Honoring the Vice President-Elect and Mrs. Agnew will require cocktail dress and gloves for ladies and business suits for the gentlemen.

- more -

The Inaugural Concert will require long or short evening or cocktail dress, gloves for the ladies and black tie, business suit optional for the men.

Those attending the Official Inauguration Ceremony are requested to dress warmly, with the Official party wearing club coat, cutaway optional; striped trousers, four-in-hand necktie with silver or gray and black stripes; white shirt with turndown collar; black or oxford gray outercoat, velvet collar optional; Homburg; and gray gloves. Street or afternoon attire, gloves; hats optional for the ladies.

Those attending the Inaugural Parade are asked to wear warm outdoor clothing.

Guests at the Inaugural Ball will find the ladies wearing long, formal gowns, long gloves optional, and the gentlemen in white tie or black tie.

1/2/69

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT
RICHARD M. NIXON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 6, 1969

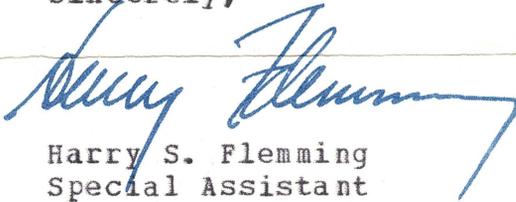
Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Bureau Indian Affairs
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Mr. Bennett:

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

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

Sincerely,



Harry S. Fleming
Special Assistant



department of social justice

Special file
1/30/69
RMB

national council of the churches of CHRIST in the u.s.a.

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

telephone: 870-2438

arthur s. flemming, president

r. h. edwin espy, general secretary

January 7, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Hickel:

As we face the months and years ahead in American Indian Affairs, I and many others are deeply concerned that there be evident the most enlightened leadership available.

We have read with real care and appreciation President-Elect Nixon's position statement on Indian affairs. You should know it has received fairly universal support and approval by those involved in and supportive of a strong constructive approach to this long standing and vexing problem.

Mr. Nixon's statement seems to me to be most consistent with the positive and constructive program we have seen evolving in recent years, recognized as such through recent expressions by many of the Indian organizations, such as the National Congress of American Indians, the N. W. Affiliated Tribes, the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Sioux Tribes of South Dakota, and many others. The Council on Indian Affairs, of which I am Chairman, took action in mid-December to recommend similar action to its constituent membership.

I am of the opinion that in large measure the person responsible for this program is the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, an Indian himself and thus a living symbol of recognition and trust to the entire Indian population to continue and further the program as outlined by Mr. Nixon. I can think of no better assurance than the continuation of Mr. Bennett as Commissioner. I respectfully ask that you give positive consideration to continuing Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and thus give assurance to massive numbers of Indian people, and friends of the Indian cause, that present constructive programs and movements will continue.

Most respectfully,

E. Russell Carter
E. Russell Carter

ERC:hv
cc; Mr. Richard M. Nixon

Dr. David Ramage, Jr., Chairman • Rev. Elizabeth Miller, Vice Chairman
Council of the Division of Christian Life and Mission



Hollywood NATIONAL BANK

6225 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD · HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

January 13, 1969

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

Dear Bob:

The enclosed photocopy of a letter from Richard Nixon was received this morning.

If I can be of help by making additional contacts or telephone calls, please let me know.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Fred Roesch]

Fred Roesch
Vice President

FR:ET
encl.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RICHARD M. NIXON

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 8, 1969

Mr. Fred Roesch
Vice President
Hollywood National Bank
6225 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, California 90028

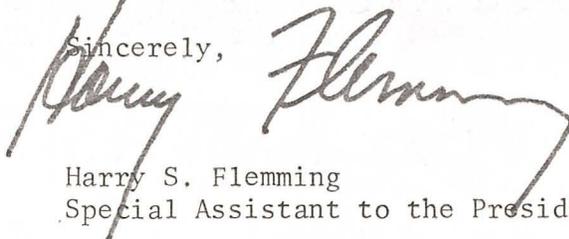
Re: Mr. Robert L. Bennett

Dear Mr. Roesch:

Thank you for your thoughtful recommendation for appointment to the new Administration. Your high regard for the applicant is particularly meaningful to us.

We want you to know that President-Elect Nixon is grateful for your participation in this important program and that your views will be given every consideration.

Sincerely,



Harry S. Flemming
Special Assistant to the President-Elect



Hollywood NATIONAL BANK

6225 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD · HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028

1. / 100
2. /

December 26, 1968

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President-Elect
Key Biscayne
Miami, Florida

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
DEC 31 1 20 PM '68

Dear Mr. Nixon:

A modest, brilliant Indian from Wisconsin, by the name of Robert L. Bennett, has given effective dedicated service to the Indian population of the United States.

I had occasion to observe the effective activities of Mr. Bennett when he and I both resided in Aberdeen, South Dakota and he served the Sioux and other tribes in that vicinity. It was interesting to note that Mr. Bennett is equally familiar with the Reservations on the West Coast.

This gentleman is eminently qualified and I strongly urge the reappointment of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Yours very truly,

Fred Roesch
Vice President

FR:ET



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PORTLAND AREA OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 3785
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Operations

JAN 13 1969

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C. 20242

Attention: Tribal Operations

Sir:

Attached is Spokane Tribal Business Council Resolution 1968-188 recommending retention of Mr. Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the new administration.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Balsiger
Assistant Area Director
(Community Services)

435

Enclosure

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JAN 15 1 32 PM '69

Dec 10 8 58 AM '68

Spokane 1968-188

RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Spokane Tribal Business Council on December 13, 1968 by a vote of 3 for and 0 against under authority contained in Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation ratified by the Spokane Indians on May 12, 1951 and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on June 27, 1951.

Alex Sherwood

Alex Sherwood, Chairman
Spokane Tribal Council

ALASKA STATE SOCIETY

Governing Board 1968-69

DOUGLAS L. EDWARDS, President
MARY LEE COUNCIL, Vice President
BEVERLY F. SATER, Secretary
PETER J. VERDIN, Treasurer



Past Presidents

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RONALD McVICKAR 1965-66
DR. JOHN C. REED 1966-67
JOSEPH M. MORGAN 1967-68

Board of Directors

JOSEPH M. MORGAN
STELLA M. YOUNG
HENRY W. CLARK
WILFRED M. GODING
HENRY ALBERT

1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

13 January 1969

Dear Member;

The many citizens and friends of Alaska who will be in the Nation's Capitol for Inaugural events are invited to a hospitality social and reception in the Senate Appropriations Committee Room 1114, New Senate Office Building between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m., Monday, 20 January 1969.

Refreshments will be served continually and those otherwise occupied, too timid to brave the crowd or the cold, or simply desirous of reminiscing in the fellowship of Alaskans will have color TV to assist in watching the Inaugural Parade and other events.

Governor Walter Hickel, Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Mike Gravel, and Representative Howard Pollock expect to be present for a reception in their honor at 5 p.m., following the Inaugural Parade. All Alaskans and friends are cordially invited.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas L. Edwards".

Douglas L. Edwards
President

P.S. Enclosed for your use is the latest Society membership roster. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Alaska State Society, please contact Mrs. Beverly Sater or Mrs. Evelyn Hayman for a membership application.

DLE/bfs

THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY SYSTEM
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
80 EAST JACKSON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

noted
1/13/69
RFB

G. W. COX
VICE PRESIDENT

January 13, 1969

523

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Having had the pleasure of meeting you at the 20th Annual Governors' Interstate Indian Council in Reno, Nevada, in October, 1967, and having a real interest in the economic and industrial development of the various Indian reservations along our line, I am very hopeful that the change of administration will not bring about a political change in your Department.

We would like very much to see Gordon Evans retained as Chief of Branch of Industrial Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as it is my view that it is extremely important to keep the continuity of economic and industrial development. As a matter of fact, it is my view that the continuity of the Bureau should be maintained, and I am hopeful that it will not be disturbed.

With warm regards and best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

G. W. Cox

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

OFFICE OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
THE COMMISSIONER

1/14/69
5:00 PM

RLB:

Bill Keeler called from Bartlesville. Said Ben Reifel had called him yesterday outlining his efforts on your behalf, and telling him he had made a pitch to Hickel for your retention.

Hickel told Reifel he knew Keeler, who had been working on some deal in Alaska, and that Reifel should pass on any ideas he had to Keeler.

Keeler says he had previously wired Hickel, and had spoken to several other people, re keeping you on and maintaining the status quo. He thinks the chances are pretty good.

He says that if you need, or want to get in touch with him for any reason, to call him. He's at Bartlesville.

ewp



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

JAN 14 1969

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JAN 16 9 38 AM '69

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20242
Attention: Tribal Operations

Sir:

Attached are copies of Kalispel Resolution No. 69-10, and
Coeur d'Alene Resolution No. 84(69) requesting President-Elect
Nixon to retain Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian
Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Balsiger
Richard M. Balsiger
Assistant Area Director
(Community Services)

435
Enclosures



CDA 84(69)

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION

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

Oswald C. George
Chairman

Evangelina Abernethy
Secretary

NOTED:

Thomas H. St. Clair
Thomas H. St. Clair, Superintendent
Northern Idaho Agency
December 30, 1968



CDA 84(69)

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

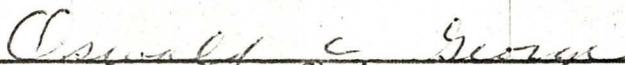
BE IT RESOLVED: That the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians does hereby urgently recommend that the forthcoming administration of president-elect Richard Nixon retain Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

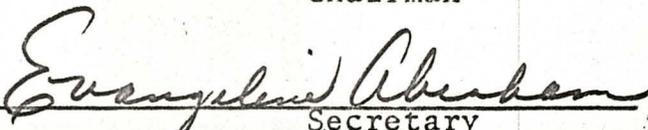
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we recognize Commissioner Bennett as an Indian colleague who in administering the Bureau of Indian Affairs has functioned and will continue to function not as a political appointee committed to the philosophy of one party or the

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

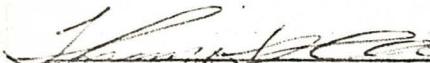
CERTIFICATION

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


Chairman


Secretary

NOTED:


Thomas H. St. Clair, Superintendent
Northern Idaho Agency
December 30, 1968

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Kalispel Indian Community does hereby urgently recommend that the forthcoming administration of president elect Richard Nixon retain Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs as a man who primarily as an Indian dealing in the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has functioned and will continue to function not as a political appointee committed to the philosophy of one party or the other but as a respected Indian leader who will equitably and efficiently fulfill the needs and the responsibilities of both the Indian people and their government, the United States of America, in his administration of Indian Affairs.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Kalispel Business Committee at a meeting held at Usk, Washington December 11, 1968 with the required quorum present, by a vote of 6 for and 0 against.

Allice E. Ignace
Chairman

Susan Ignace
Secretary

NOTED: 12/30/68

Thomas H. St. Clair, Superintendent
Northern Idaho Agency



Inaugural Committee ★ 1969

The Pension Building • 440 G Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20025

Telephone: Area Code 202 • 386-6501

NEWS

FOR RELEASE

J. WILLARD MARRIOTT,
Chairman

FRED MORRISON
Publicity Chairman

IMMEDIATE

300 INDIANS IN INAUGURAL EVENTS

The "First Americans" will play a leading role in the Inaugural Parade and related events, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced today.

The American Indian float will follow the New York, Maryland and District of Columbia floats, which honor the home states of the new President and Vice President as well as the Inaugural host, the Nation's Capital. The theme, "Together In Tradition," matches the Presidential theme and symbolizes the Indians' cultural contributions, hand-in-hand building the American Nation along with the European, African, Asian and other cultural heritages which make up its peoples.

At the head of the float, proudly astride a grey horse, will be Miss Indian America XV, Thomasine Ruth Hill, escorted on either side by distinguished Indian men, also on horseback. Miss Hill, a 21-year-old Crow-Pawnee maiden, is a pre-law student at Mackinac College, Michigan. Her Indian name is Ah-sowa-she-delish -- translated as "She walks to her Lodge" and meaning "Everything I do, I do for the good of my people."

Acting as her escorts will be Earl Old Person, Chairman of

-more-

the Blackfoot Tribe and President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and Donald Deernose of Montana, a Crow Indian, Chairman, All-American Indian Days.

Close behind will be 20 dancers of different tribes, clad in the finest traditional costumes and performing on a specially designed float. An automobile bearing three Indian youths, who represent Indian America's future and symbolize different paths of opportunity, will draw the dancers' float.

And, finally 40 marchers will complete the Indian salute to President Richard M. Nixon, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and their Administration.

After the Parade, an official reception and buffet will be given by the Presidential Inaugural Committee for the Indian participants and other invited guests. The receiving line will include Robert L. Bennett, U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Miss Indian America XV; and other dignitaries. Mitchell Bush, President of the American Indian Society of Washington, D. C., will start the pow-wow. The event will take place between 6:30-11:30 p.m. at the Lawyers Club, 18th and H Streets, N. W.

More than 300 Indians are expected for the Inaugural festivities, representing the hundreds of tribes, bands and groups across America.

Many will attend one or more of the public and "invitation only" receptions, galas and other functions of the Inauguration.

For those unable to watch the Inaugural Parade along the parade route, a hospitality room with television will be provided in the Ebbitt Hotel, 10th and H Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

(On the preceding evening, Sunday, January 19, a "Forward Together" Command Performance will be given, under the direction of bandleader Lionel Hampton. This variety show will include Indian musicians Russell "Big Chief" Moore, the famed trombonist with the big name bands, and "The Chieftones", an All-Indian Variety Band from Wisconsin. The time will be 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Washington-Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.; it is free for Indian participants.).

1/14/69

WILKINSON, CRAGUN & BARKER
LAW OFFICES

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

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

January 14, 1969

Open File
RFB
1/16/69

1616 H STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

NATIONAL 8-4400

CABLE ADDRESS:
"WILCBAR"

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Here is a copy of a letter received from Harry
Flemming, Special Assistant to the President-Elect.

I have been away the past week and have no recent
information. I wish you would give me a ring to let me
know what the situation is. Perhaps something more can
be done at this time.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Wilkinson

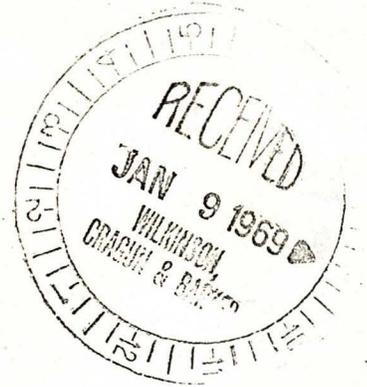
enc.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RICHARD M. NIXON

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 7, 1969



Glen A. Wilkinson, Esquire
Wilkinson, Cragun & Barker
1616 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

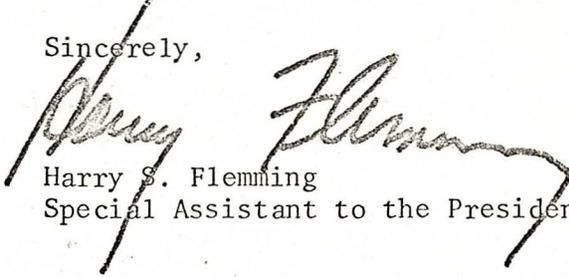
Re: Honorable Robert L. Bennett

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your thoughtful recommendation for appointment to the new Administration. Your high regard for the applicant is particularly meaningful to us.

We want you to know that President-Elect Nixon is grateful for your participation in this important program and that your views will be given every consideration.

Sincerely,


Harry S. Flemming
Special Assistant to the President-Elect

WILKINSON, CRAGUN & BARKER
LAW OFFICES

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

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

RFB
spec file
1616 H STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
NATIONAL 8-4400
CABLE ADDRESS:
"WILCBAR"

January 24, 1969

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

Re: Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Dear Mr. Secretary:

First, let us offer our congratulations on your success before the Senate. Although the eventual outcome was a foregone conclusion, we know that it was a disconcerting experience for you.

On December 20, 1968, Bob Barker of our firm addressed a letter to you on behalf of Robert L. Bennett, present Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He forwarded a copy of a resolution adopted by the National Congress of American Indians at its 1968 Convention in Omaha urging the retention of Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As you know, we have represented several Indian tribes on various problems before the Department of the Interior, the Congress, the Indian Claims Commission and the various courts. We have known Bob Bennett since he was a chief clerk at the Southern Ute Indian Agency in Colorado. We have followed him throughout his career and have gained the highest respect and admiration for his ability, his integrity and his judiciousness. It is our considered judgment that it would be advisable for you to retain Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We therefore urge that you do so.

We can also assure you, based on personal contacts, that retention of Mr. Bennett would meet with widespread approval of virtually all Indian citizens in the United States.

C
O
P
Y



Inaugural Committee * 1969

The Pension Building • 440 G Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20025

Telephone: Area Code 202 • 386-6501

J. WILLARD MARRIOTT,
Chairman

ROBERT G. McCUNE,
Executive Director

SPECIAL GROUPS PARTICIPATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Martin J. McManus
Co-Chairman

Earl Kennedy
Co-Chairman

Celso Moreno
Co-Chairman

Robert L. Bennett
Co-Chairman

Clarence L. Townes, Jr.
Executive Director

January 16, 1969

Welcome to Indian participants in the 1969 Inaugural Events!

In behalf of the Inaugural Committee and the many Indian residents of the Washington area, I extend the warmest of greetings to all of you. We hope you enjoy your stay in the Nation's Capital as much as Washington appreciates your coming here to take part in Inaugural activities.

Enclosed you will find further information and suggestions to help make your stay in Washington a pleasantly memorable one.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Indian dinner and pow-wow which is scheduled for Monday evening, January 20th. It will be held at the Federal Bar Building, 1815 H Street, N. W. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the pow-wow will commence at 9:00 PM.

Meanwhile, my best wishes to all of you for a good year 1969.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Form 5-388
July 1953
45134

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs

INTER-OFFICE TRANSMITTAL

INSTRUCTIONS: For use as transmittal. Attach securely to material and mail through regular channels.

Regular Mail

Air Mail

For Information

For Action

TO

Commissioner.

Superintendent,

Area Director,

FOR ATTENTION OF:

FROM

George P. LaVatta
Portland Area Office

FILE REFERENCE:

MARK ANY RETURN CORRESPONDENCE FOR ATTENTION:

DATE:

1-17-69

SUBJECT Dear Bob: Enclosed are copy of three letters for your personal information which I trust will be of assistance to you and to the Indians.

~~PMT-RLB~~
2. Special file

Administration

January 7, 1969

Honorable Don Samuelson
Governor of Idaho
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Governor Samuelson:

I want to thank you for your new year's greeting which I certainly appreciated and for the information for the American Indian paper of Nevada.

Supplementing information given you regarding Commissioner Bennett and his retention as Commissioner under the President-Elect Nixon, enclosed is a copy of a letter to Mr. Wendell E. Smith, President of The United States Jaycees. Also enclosed is a resolution just received from the Spokane Tribal Council.

You will note on page 3 of the letter to Mr. Smith ^{and} I took the liberty of advising Mr. Artichoker of your interest and endorsement of Commissioner Bennett.

I sincerely appreciate anything you may do that will help assist in the retention of Mr. Bennett as Commissioner. With sincere best regards.

Sincerely yours,

George P. LaVatta
Special Assistant

Enclosures

GPLaVatta:ja



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOISE

DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR

January 15, 1969

The Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
Vice President-elect
Office of the Vice President-elect
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ted:

During the course of our telephone conversation yesterday, I mentioned the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a Mr. Bennett, who was reported to be a full-blooded Indian and a good Republican--the last I can't vouch for. However, I have four very good Indian friends in the Councils of the various tribes who have asked that I do everything that I can to encourage Mr. Nixon and the Secretary of the Interior to keep Mr. Bennett in the position he now holds. They have told me that Mr. Bennett is a full-blooded Indian, that the Indians trust him, and that he has done a good job during his tenure of office.

The spokesman for this group asked me to contact Mr. Nixon and ask if they could have a 15 minute appointment with him sometime during the 17th to 25th of January while they will be in Washington, D.C. to participate in the inaugural festivities. As I stated, these people are all top people, full-blooded Indians, certainly a minority group, and it would be to our new President's credit if he could find fifteen minutes to visit with them. They are not a demanding group. They are very understanding and would only offer their assistance to help him with Indian problems in the future and recommend sound ways to improve the conditions of all tribes of the Northwest, and the entire United States. If it is in your power and you can help in any way to encourage the President to give them a little time, I would appreciate it. I know it is a terrible time to ask, but I also know it would be almost impossible for these people to finance another trip to Washington, and it would be most helpful if they could do it at the same time they are there for the inaugural.

Their names and tribal affiliations, although they will be representing all the Tribes in the Northwest and Alaska, are: Mrs. Angela Butterfield, Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes, Idaho; Mrs. Lucy Covington, Colville Tribe, Washington; Mr. Earl Oldperson, Blackfeet Tribe, Montana; Mr. Bob Jim, Yakima Tribe, Washington.

Sincerely,


DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOISE

DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR

January 15, 1969

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

Dear Wally:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend that Mr. Robert L. Bennett be retained in his present position as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have four very good Indian friends who are in the Councils of various tribes of the Northwest who have asked that I do everything I can to encourage you and President Nixon to keep Mr. Bennett in the position he now holds. They have told me that Mr. Bennett is a full-blooded Indian, that the Indians trust him and that he has done a good job during his tenure of office. I am also informed that he is a good Republican, but this I cannot vouch for.

The spokesman for this group has also asked that they be granted a 30 minute appointment with you during the period of January 17 - 25. They will be in Washington, D.C. during that time to participate in the inaugural festivities. These people are all top people, full-blooded Indians, certainly a minority group and I would appreciate it if you could find time to visit with them. They are not a demanding group. They are very understanding and would only offer their assistance to help with Indian problems in the future. I know this is a terrible time to ask but I also know it would be almost impossible for these people to finance another trip to Washington. It would be most helpful if they could visit with you at the same time they are there for the inaugural.

Their names and tribal affiliations, although they will be representing all the Tribes in the Northwest and Alaska, are: Mrs. Angela Butterfield, Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes, Idaho; Mrs. Lucy Covington, Colville Tribe, Washington; Mr. Earl Oldperson, Blackfeet Tribe, Montana; and Mr. Bob Jim, Yakima Tribe, Washington.

Sincerely,

DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 17, 1969

Dear Bob:

As our association at Interior draws to an end, I want you to know that I appreciate and respect the efforts you have made on behalf of the American Indian.

Much has been accomplished in the last few years, and it could not be detailed in less than a lengthy book. The more obvious benefits of your leadership are seen in added jobs, more housing, and better health and education for Indians.

Achievements even more significant are also more subtle. They are the renewed trust you have helped to instill in the Indians and the much greater measure of self-reliance that is growing within them.

Let us hope that history will judge the last few years' efforts as a contribution to real progress for the Indian people. I am confident we are on the right road and I am proud to have walked that road with you.

Best wishes and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Harry R. Anderson
Assistant Secretary

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



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1969

Dear Bob:

You know how I feel about our collaboration -- and your work and leadership during these Interior years. It has been superb in every way.

When I leave the building Monday, my heart and my hopes will remain here with you who will continue the high task of conserving the human and natural resources of this country.

Finally, I thank you for your loyal and selfless dedication, for the vision you have brought to our common work, for your help in shaping the "new conservation." Above all, I thank you for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Secretary of the Interior

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

To 100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Tribal Operations



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
PORTLAND AREA OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 3785
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

435

~~FALB PDD~~
2. Special file

JAN 17 1969

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C. 20242

Attention: Tribal Operations

Sir:



Attached are copies of Yakima Resolution No. T-31-69, dated January 8, 1969, recommending retention of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This is submitted for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Balsiger
Richard M. Balsiger
Assistant Area Director
(Community Services)

Enclosures

RESOLUTION

T-31-69

WHEREAS, the Yakima Indian Nation was established by treaty of June 9, 1855 between the United States and ratified by the Senate in 1859 and recognized as a sovereign Nation; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Yakima Indian Nation has been working closely with past administrations for resource development, better health and education, bringing in industries for employment opportunities, to protect hunting and fishing rights of its members; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Tribal Council, which is the elected governing body of the Yakima Indian Nation, has had occasion and opportunity to work closely with the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, since his appointment; and

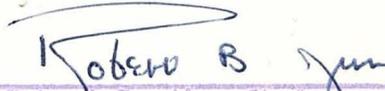
WHEREAS, the Yakima Tribal Council feels and believes that said Robert L. Bennett has stimulated a factor and sustained progress of American Indians in individual enterprise, in bringing to bear a wealth of knowledge and experience in Indian Affairs to involve so many diverse interests and to awaken the potential capacity of American Indians, including Alaskans, for self-improvement and self-help; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Tribal Council further believes that Commissioner Bennett has achieved deep understanding of the American Indian problems and of means necessary to solve them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Yakima Tribal Council, meeting in regular session on this 8th day of January, 1969, a quorum being present, that we do hereby express our gratitude, confidence and urges that his talents and knowledge be utilized so that Federal and Tribal programs now administered may be achieved without interruption and without unnecessary delay by retaining Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the change of administration in January, 1969.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to President-elect, Richard M. Nixon, incoming Secretary of the Interior and Congressional delegates in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

DONE AND DATED on this 8th day of January, 1969 at the Yakima Indian Agency, Toppenish, Washington by the Yakima Tribal Council by a vote of 11 for and 1 against.



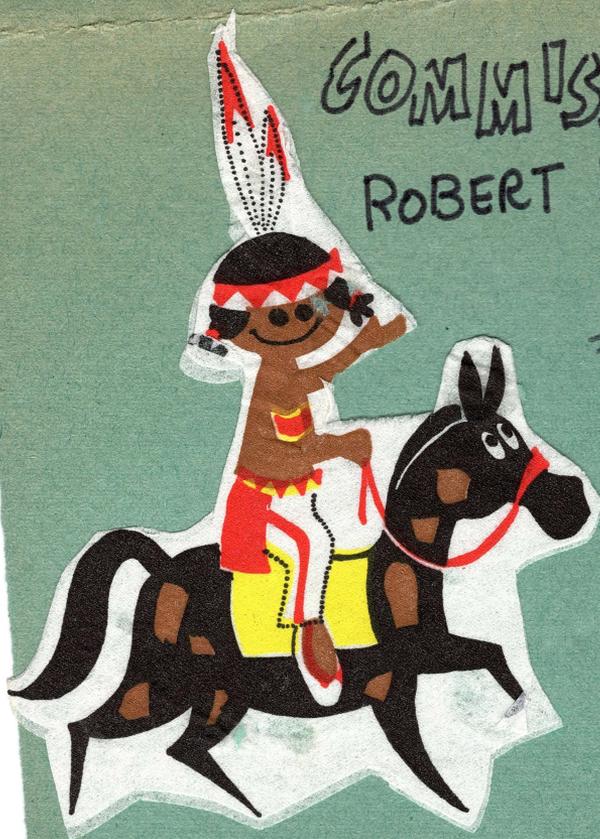
Robert B. Jim, Chairman,
Yakima Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Joe Merrinick, Secretary,
Yakima Tribal Council

COMMISSIONER
ROBERT L. BENNETT



"Chief of Many
Feathers"



The Inaugural Committee 1969
cordially invites you to a
Reception
in honor of
The Distinguished Ladies attending the Inauguration
Saturday afternoon, January 18, 1969
three-thirty to five o'clock
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.

R. S. V. P.
Card enclosed

J. Willard Marriott
Chairman, Inaugural Committee

Please present this card at Constitution Avenue Entrance during the above hours only—Not Transferable



In honor of
The Governors of the States
and
Special Distinguished Guests
The Inaugural Committee 1969
requests the pleasure of your company
at a
Reception
Sunday afternoon the nineteenth of January
One thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine
four to five o'clock
Sheraton-Park Hotel
in the City of Washington

R.S.V.P.

Major General George Umsted, Chairman
Robert W. Fleming, Co-Chairman
Governors' Reception



In honor of

The Vice President-Elect of the United States and Mrs. Agnew

The Inaugural Committee

requests the honor of your presence at a

Reception

Sunday afternoon, the nineteenth of January

One thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine

five to eight o'clock

Smithsonian Institution, Museum of History and Technology

in the

City of Washington

Louise Gore
Charles S. Bresler
Co-Chairmen of the Vice President-Elect
Reception Committee

J. Willard Marriott
Chairman, Inaugural Committee



The Inaugural Committee 1969

*Reception in honor of
The Governors of the States
and
Special Distinguished Guests*



Sunday afternoon the nineteenth of January
from two until five o'clock
Sheraton-Park Hotel
in the City of Washington



INAUGURAL COMMITTEE 1969

J. WILLARD MARRIOTT, *Chairman*

COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION OF GOVERNORS AND SPECIAL DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

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ROBERT W. FLEMING, *Co-Chairman*

R. Webster Chamberlin
Executive Vice Chairman

Francis W. Crary
Executive Vice Chairman

Lily M. Beauchamp
Special Assistant to Chairman

John E. Horton
Special Advisor to Chairmen

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Mrs. Rose Saul Zalles, *Co-Chairman*
James N. Juliana, *Assistant to
Chairman*
Mrs. Frank Kilroy, *Assistant to
Chairman*
William Pitts, *Assistant to Chairman*

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MUSIC

Richard Bales, *Chairman*

PROTOCOL

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Mrs. Perkins McGuire, *Co-Chairman*
Mrs. Charles Bresler, *Co-Chairman*
Mrs. Nord Schwiebert, *Co-Chairman*
Miss Barbara Spillinger, *Co-Chairman*

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Adm. Harold Baker, *Chairman*

FLOOR COMMITTEE

J. Hunter Drum, *Chairman*
Stephen Edwards, *Co-Chairman*

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

Nord Schwiebert, *Chairman*

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2	Alaska	Governor Walter J. Hickel
3	Arizona	Governor Jack R. Williams
4	Arkansas	Governor Winthrop Rockefeller
5	California	Governor Ronald Reagan
6	Colorado	Governor John A. Love
7	Connecticut	Governor John N. Dempsey
8	Delaware	Governor Russell W. Peterson
9	Florida	Governor Claude R. Kirk, Jr.
10	Georgia	Governor Lester G. Maddox
11	Hawaii	Governor John A. Burns
12	Idaho	Governor Don. Samuelson
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14	Indiana	Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb
15	Iowa	Governor Robert D. Ray
16	Kansas	Governor Robert Docking
17	Kentucky	Governor Louie B. Nunn
18	Louisiana	Governor John J. McKeithen
19	Maine	Governor Kenneth M. Curtis
20	Maryland	Governor Marvin Mandel
21	Massachusetts	Governor John A. Volpe
22	Michigan	Represented by Lt. Governor William G. Milliken
23	Minnesota	Governor Harold E. LeVander
24	Mississippi	Governor John Bell Williams
25	Missouri	Governor Warren E. Hearnes
26	Montana	Governor Forrest H. Anderson
27	Nebraska	Governor Norbert T. Tiemann
28	Nevada	Represented by Honorable James Robertson
29	New Hampshire	Governor Walter Peterson
30	New Jersey	Governor Richard J. Hughes
31	New Mexico	Represented by Mr. Robert C. Davidson
32	New York	Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
33	North Carolina	Governor Robert W. Scott
34	North Dakota	Governor William L. Guy
35	Ohio	Governor James A. Rhodes
36	Oklahoma	Governor Dewey F. Bartlett
37	Oregon	Governor Tom McCall
38	Pennsylvania	Governor Raymond P. Shafer
39	Rhode Island	Governor Frank Licht
40	South Carolina	Governor Robert E. McNair
41	South Dakota	Governor Frank Farrar
42	Tennessee	Governor Buford Ellington
43	Texas	Represented by Congressman George H. Mahon
44	Utah	Governor Calvin L. Rampton
45	Vermont	Governor Deane C. Davis
46	Virginia	Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
47	Washington	Governor Daniel J. Evans
48	West Virginia	Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr.
49	Wisconsin	Governor Warren P. Knowles
50	Wyoming	Governor Stanley K. Hathaway
51	Guam	Governor Manuel F. L. Guerrero
52	Puerto Rico	Governor Luis A. Ferre
53	American Samoa	Honorable Owen S. Aspinall
54	Trust Territory	Honorable William R. Norwood
55	Virgin Islands	Governor Ralph M. Paiewonsky
56	District of Columbia	Honorable Walter E. Washington

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Honorable George L. Hart, Jr.	Mr. John C. Whitaker
Honorable George Humphrey	Mr. Charles E. Wilkinson
Mrs. Laddie F. Hutar	Mrs. Ellis Yost
Mr. Howard L. Jenkins	



*The honor of your presence
is requested at the ceremonies
attending the Inauguration of the
President and Vice President
of the United States*

*January twentieth
Nineteen hundred sixty-nine*

*Everett Mc Kinley Dirksen, Chairman
Mike Mansfield, B. Everett Jordan,
Gerald R. Ford, John W. McCormack,
Carl Albert,
Committee on Arrangements.*

*Please present the enclosed
card of admission.*

11:30 A.M.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Colorado River Agency
Parker, Arizona 85344

January 22, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Enclosed are two letters: one I received from Wendell E. Smith, President of the Jaycees, and a copy of the letter that Mr. Smith sent to Walter Hickel.

I realize that the letter of Mr. Smith's is not as extensive as I had initially hope it would be, but his personal endorsement to the Secretary may be of some assistance. At least it is on the United States Jaycees stationery might bear more weight even though it is not as great as otherwise I had hoped.

Sincerely yours,

John Artichoker, Jr.
Superintendent

Enclosures

H. R. L. Bennett
2. Special file

January 8, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to give my personal endorsement of the re-appointment of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs during the upcoming administration.

I have been in contact with many individuals in several states, primarily states with heavy Indian population, and have discovered a very favorable attitude toward Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

His past service and vast background in this area certainly make him extremely well qualified to retain his present position. I certainly hope you will give him your full consideration in your decision, as I feel he will continue to be an asset to our country, and especially the Indian population.

Sincerely yours,

Wendell E. Smith
President

WES:jc

bcc: Mr. John Artichoker; D. C. File



Jaycees

THE UNITED STATES JAYCEES

AFFILIATED WITH JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL

HEADQUARTERS • BOX 7 • TULSA, OKLA. 74102 • LUTHER 4-2481

January 8, 1969

Mr. John Artichoker
Parker
Arizona 83544

Dear Mr. Artichoker:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 20, concerning Mr. Robert L. Bennett. I have enclosed a copy of a letter I wrote to Walter Hickel, Secretary of the Interior Designate, giving my personal endorsement of Mr. Bennett's re-appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As it is against our By-Laws and Policy for the organization as a whole to endorse an individual, I hope my personal endorsement will be satisfactory.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Wendell E. Smith
President

WES:jc
Enclosure

Special file

NP 69-125

1/24/69

RJB



RESOLUTION

JAN 23 12 03 PM '69

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

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has been empowered to act for and in behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, pursuant to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the General Council of the Nez Perce Tribe, on May 6, 1961 and approved by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs on June 27, 1961; and

WHEREAS, because of his outstanding and keen interest in the American Indian people and the Indian Tribes of the United States, Mr. Robert L. Bennett, present Commissioner of Indian Affairs has proven to be of great value towards the said American Indian in planning and implementing beneficial programs; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bennett has endorsed an Indian policy which has been well accepted by a great majority of the Indian tribes of America; and

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribe feels that people of Indian descent are more receptive and aware of the Indian problems and therefore Indian leaders should be given consideration to guide Indians in their problems to better their economic trend, a Commissioner who is sympathetic and understanding to the American Indian,

435

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee hereby endorse Robert L. Bennett to be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and that our Congressional Delegation are urged to act in and for the retainment of Commissioner Bennett.

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be made available to all concerned, including the President of the United States.

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

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee meeting in regular session January 14, 15, 1969, in the Tribal Conference Room, Lapwai, Idaho, all members being present and voting.

ATTEST:

By: Richard A. Halfmoon
Richard A. Halfmoon, Chairman

Walter L. Moffett
Walter L. Moffett, Secretary

NOTED: Bill Bryan
Bill Bryan, Acting Superintendent
Northern Idaho Agency
January 20, 1969

JAN 24 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of Interior
1951 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Bob:

This is to express my sincere appreciation for your participation in the Rural Manpower Conference at Daytona Beach. The conferees were unanimous in their praise of your message.

Again, thank you for your contribution in making this one of our most productive conferences.

Sincerely yours,

Tod Potter, Director
Office of Farm Labor Service

WWVines:bjm
1/23/69
Rm. 512, Ext. 3577 FLOC

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I would naturally have liked the Inauguration program in any event, but I am sure you must be gratified by what seems to be the universal opinion that this was one of the most efficiently organized and executed Inaugural programs in history.

I know what a tremendous burden is placed upon the Co-Chairman of the Committee on Special Group Participation, and I shall always be grateful for the time and effort you devoted, far beyond the call of duty, to making the event such a success.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Richard Nixon".

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



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

RJS

January 24, 1969

Memorandum

Tc: All Employees
From: Walter J. Hickel

I have taken the oath as Secretary and I am dedicated to uphold the duties of the office to the utmost of my ability.

I approach the many major tasks ahead with humility and pride, with confidence and enthusiasm, and I trust you will join me in bringing the work of the Department to its finest hour. With your help, we can achieve that goal.

The job starts now. So let's go to work together.

Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Domingo Montoya
Chairman, All-Indian Pueblo Council
P. O. Box 262
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004

Dear Chairman Montoya:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

January 27, 1969

Mr. Domingo Montoya
Chairman, All-Indian Pueblo Council
P. O. Box 262
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004

Dear Chairman Montoya:

I have received the All-Indian Pueblo Council Resolution of December 14, 1968, which petitions the President to retain me as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I deeply appreciate your support.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ROBERT L. BENNETT

Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

cc:
Area Director Olson, Albuquerque
530
BCCO
~~Surname~~ - 100
chrona - 100
mailroom
Commr Rdg File

PDevereux:vel 1/9/69
r/w RLBennett:emh 1/27/69

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS President-elect Nixon has encouraged the Indian people to participate in planning their own destiny, and

WHEREAS, the policies and direction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs have a crucial effect upon the destiny of the Indian people, and

WHEREAS, the present Commissioner, Robert L. Bennet, has made it his policy to consult with the Indian people on all important matters which affect them and to consider and incorporate their advice and wishes when formulating the Bureau's programs, and has instigated in the Pueblo Tribes an earnest desire to assume more responsibility in planning for their economic, social and educational programs, and

WHEREAS, the Pueblos of New Mexico have been extremely satisfied with the leadership provided by Commissioner Bennett and with the policies and programs he has directed, and

WHEREAS, the Pueblos of New Mexico, during Commissioner Bennett's Commissionership, have made more progress than ever before towards the goals of full development and opportunity under our American system of government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the All-Indian Pueblo Council does petition the President-elect of the United States in behalf of the 19 New Mexico Indian Pueblos, to retain as his Commissioner of Indian Affairs the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed to the New Mexico Congressional delegation; NM State Governor D. Cargo; Commissioner of Indian Affairs; National Congress of American Indians, Washington Office; Area Director, Albuquerque Area Office and Superintendent, United Pueblos Agency.

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

This is to certify that the above resolution was considered and adopted at a duly called meeting on December 14, 1968, at Santo Domingo Pueblo, the vote being 17 in favor and 0 opposed with two pueblos absent.

Attest:

Robert L. Bennett
Secretary

Domingo Montoya
Domingo Montoya, Chairman

1/28/69

Dear Bob -

We thought
you might like to see
these copies of our letters
in answer to the response
we received from these
Senators to our
letters of Jan. 9.



(my Indian father,
Chief One Bull.)

"Gedge" and "Shadye"
Laurin

~~100~~

Special File
RMB

83012
January 9, 1969

[Handwritten mark]

Hon. Gale McGee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Congress of American Indians, ~~is~~ the leading and most important Indian organization in the country today, has voted overwhelmingly to support the continuance of Robert L. Bennett, himself an Oneida Indian, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We hope you will do all in your power to see that he retains the position of Commissioner, for to date he has made an outstanding record and is one of the few commissioners who has ever had the support of the Indian people. We think that it is remarkable that he has won their support, for there are so many different tribes and groups of Indians, with many conflicting problems and many personalities and inter-tribal jealousies that it is difficult to get a majority opinion on anything. The fact that they are behind Mr. Bennett speaks better than anything else for his ability and understanding and should be an inspiration to every American for the settling of the differences that plague us today.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

President Nixon
cc. Clifford Hansen
Barry Goldwater
John Wold
Will Rogers, Jr.

JAN 14 2 08 PM '69

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

January 27, 1969

Hon. Gale McGee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Gale:

We are delighted to hear that you think Mr. Bennett has been a fine Commissioner and hope, as we do, that Indian wishes will be respected and that he will be retained in office.

Thank you for your encouraging letter.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

Spencer

January 27, 1969

Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Cliff:

We are delighted to hear that you are keeping our endorsement of Bob Bennett in mind and are sure the Indians will appreciate your support in retaining him as Commissioner. We know of no one with better training and experience to help his people.

Thank you for your encouraging letter. It was good to see you just before the Holidays and may we compliment you for making the dedication of our beautiful new court house such a memorable success.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

January 27, 1969

Hon. Barry Goldwater
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We are delighted to hear that there has been a great deal of interest and support to retain Bob Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We appreciate, and feel sure that members of the National Congress of American Indians also do, your putting in a word for him with the new Secretary of the Interior.

Thank you for your encouraging letter.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin



Reginald and Gladys LAUBIN

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

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

83012

January 28, 1969

Mr. John Belindo, Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Belindo:

We were happy to hear that N.C.A.I. voted overwhelmingly to support the continuance of Robert Bennett as Commissioner. We thought you might like to see the enclosed copy of a letter to President Nixon, We sent similar letters to three Senators, so enclose also copies of our replies to their answers, which were encouraging.

Our warmest wishes to you and Vine for the continuance of your good work and please remember us to friends in Washington. May this be the best year yet for the Indian people.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin
Reginald and Gladys Laubin

encls.

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

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

83012
January 9, 1969

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The Whitehouse
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The National Congress of American Indians, foremost Indian organization in the country today, voted overwhelmingly to support the continuance of Robert L. Bennett, himself an Oneida Indians, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is one of the few commissioners to have the support of the Indian people, and this is remarkable, for there are so many different tribes and groups of Indians, with so many conflicting problems and inter-tribal jealousies, that it is difficult to get them to agree on anything. The fact that they are behind Mr. Bennett speaks much for his ability and understanding and should be an inspiration to all Americans for the settling of the differences that plague us.

We hope that you feel, as the majority of our Indian citizens do, that Mr. Bennett should be re-appointed as Commissioner.

With all good wishes for success in your great office.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

January 27, 1969

Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Cliff:

We are delighted to hear that you are keeping our endorsement of Bob Bennett in mind and are sure the Indians will appreciate your support in retaining him as Commissioner. We know of no one with better training and experience to help his people.

Thank you for your encouraging letter. It was good to see you just before the Holidays and may be compliment you for making the dedication of our beautiful new court house such a memorable success.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

January 27, 1969

Hon. Gale McGee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Gale:

We are delighted to hear that you think Mr. Bennett has been a fine Commissioner and hope, as we do, that Indian wishes will be respected and that he will be retained in office.

Thank you for your encouraging letter.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

January 27, 1969

Hon. Barry Goldwater
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We are delighted to hear that there has been a great deal of interest and support to retain Bob Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We appreciate, and feel sure that members of the National Congress of American Indians also do, your putting in a word for him with the new Secretary of the Interior.

Thank you for your encouraging letter.

Sincerely,

Reginald and Gladys Laubin

CONFEDERATED TRIBES

Colville Reservation

100
~~125~~



COLVILLE INDIAN AGENCY
NESPELEM, WASHINGTON 99155

January 28, 1969

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Enclosed please find a copy of Colville Business Council Resolution numbered 1969-20, dated January 9, 1969, concerning Mr. George Pierre, a tribal enrolled member, which is self-explanatory. The tribal governing body felt it was necessary to reiterate their previous action as set forth under Resolution 1963-277, a copy of which is also enclosed. The Business Council had no other alternative but to take this action in view of the voluminous news items appearing in various newspapers and brochures implying that he is the "Chief" of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and currently serving in the State Legislature. A recent article also appeared indicating that he is a candidate for the high office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As set forth in the resolutions, the Business Council is on record as not recognizing Mr. George Pierre as Chief of the Colville Confederated Tribes; that he is not currently serving in the State of Washington Legislature and is in opposition to his appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The resolutions are being forwarded your office for the matter of information and files, and we would sincerely appreciate any comments and/or suggestions that you may care to offer which would firmly establish our position on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Harry Owhi, Executive Secretary
Colville Business Council

Enclosures

JAN 31 9 32 AM '69
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

R E S O L U T I O N

1963-277

WHEREAS, George Pierre, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation was installed by a small group of Indians as Chief of the Confederated Tribes, along with two non-Indians who were conferred the titles of honorary chief, one to be honorary chief of the Joseph Band of Nez Perce and the other to be honorary chief of the Moses Band; and

WHEREAS, nearly every band or tribe of Indians on the Reservation already has its designated leaders and are regarded as chiefs of the band because they were so selected before an appropriate meeting of the band for that purpose and these designated are recognized as such on the reservation; and

WHEREAS, the tribal members of the various bands or tribes have a high respect for their individual band leaders and view with disapproval any act by others to be accorded chieftainships, honorary or otherwise, without observing the procedures followed throughout Indian history in the selection of tribal chieftains; and

WHEREAS, many tribal members have protested against recognition of the chief-installing ceremonies conducted at the Indian encampment grounds at Nespelem, Washington, the afternoon of July 6, 1963, and thereby unrightfully assuming authority not properly conferred upon them.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that we, the Colville Business Council, meeting in Regular Session this 11th day of July, 1963, at the Colville Indian Sub-Agency, Nespelem, Washington, do hereby go on record as declaring that the chief-installation ceremonies involving George Pierre, held at the Indian Encampment grounds at Nespelem the afternoon of July 6, 1963, was not officially authorized by the various bands and that the Business Council's decision is that the installation ceremonies did not carry with it the color of authority necessary for tribal recognition and therefore the ceremonies were not legally sponsored and because of it, it has no force and effect on the tribal membership due to the so-called ceremonies' lack of validity.

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of 14 FOR and 0 AGAINST, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians on February 26, 1938, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:

SIGNED: HARVEY MOSES
Harvey Moses, Chairman
Colville Business Council

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

1969-20

WHEREAS, by virtue of enactment of Colville Business Council Resolution 1963-277, the Colville Business Council is on record as not recognizing the self-installation and self-aggrandizement of Mr. George Pierre as the "Chief of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington"; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is governed by a body of 14 members of the Colville Business Council, duly elected by the tribal membership through poll and absentee vote, tribal governing body of the Colville Reservation, which is duly ratified by the tribal membership and sanctioned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and not glorified and/or governed by any one self-proclaimed chief since there are no chiefs on the Colville Reservation; and

WHEREAS, invariable news releases are made by Mr. Pierre proclaiming that he is the Chief of the Colville Confederated Tribes and simultaneously infers by printed articles that he is currently serving in the Legislature of the State of Washington which is erroneous since he was defeated for his second term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pierre is apparently in contention for the position of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the unidealistic philosophies of moratorium entertained by Mr. Pierre is inconsistent with the general attitude of the tribal membership and the tribal governing body as such views will further engulf the American Indian Race in a paternalistic nature to which they have been unduly subjected to in the past; and

WHEREAS, since the Colville Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is validly governed by a duly elected Business Council and not by any one "Chief" the tribal governing body feels that appropriate action be taken to express their opposition to the implication that Mr. Pierre is the Chief of the Colville Confederated Tribes and register their opposition to the appointment of Mr. George Pierre as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

IT IS, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that we, the Colville Business Council, meeting in REGULAR Session at the Colville Indian Subagency, Nespelem, Washington, acting for and in behalf of the Colville Confederated Tribes this 9th day of JANUARY, 1969, do hereby reiterate our previous council action as set forth under said Resolution 1963-277 by redeclaring that Mr. George Pierre is not recognized as the "Chief of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington, and any implication made thereto by said self-proclamation is without validity and/or due respect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is hereby on record as being unanimously in objection to the appointment of Mr. George Pierre as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted forth to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior and appropriate members of the United States Congress for the matter of record and ready reference.

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of 11 FOR; 0 AGAINST, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1 (a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians on February 26, 1938 and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:


Narcisse Nicholson, Jr., Chairman
Colville Business Council

Corrected Copy

Copy

LONG DAY MOON GREETINGS
from the
AMERICAN INDIAN WOMENS LEAGUE

Vol.2 No.1

30 January 1969

AIWL HEARS MR. ARCHIE LACOOTE

THOMAS WHITE HAWK

Our third lecture-discussion of this season featured Passamaquoddy CAP Director Archie LaCoote who was concise and straight to the point. First point: The Passamaquoddy Tribe is suing Massachusetts for \$150 million plus total rights to the two Passamaquoddy Reservations in Maine, which was once part of Massachusetts. In 1820 Maine became a separate state but disregarded the Passamaquoddy Tribal Treaty with Massachusetts, which still has the responsibility of seeing that the Treaty rights are adhered to.

Second Point: "Quoddy Mocs", a commercial shoe firm, is under fire from the Passamaquoddies for lifting the nickname "quoddy" with no recognition of the tribe.

AIWL NOTE: Many people are of the impression that this firm hires and benefits Passamaquoddy Indians. Why not establish a factory on Passamaquoddy Reservation with suitable arrangements for all, "Chief Quoddy"?

Third point: A housing project of 1957 construction has not withstood wear and tear. The contractor for these houses has since gone bankrupt. With a source of income, such as on-reservation industry, renovation of houses would be possible. In 1965 the per capita annual income was \$438.00.

Correspondence can be addressed to Mr. Archie LaCoote, Exec. Director CAP Box 131 Princeton, Maine 04668

On Monday January 20 the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles recommended a 3-month stay of execution to Governor Frank Ferrar in the case of Thomas White Hawk. He had been sentenced to die in the electric chair on February 7 for the rifle slaying of a Vermillion jeweler in 1967 when Thomas was 19.

This stay allots time for a post-conviction hearing when new evidence will be presented by a psychologist and a psychiatrist from the famed Menninger Clinic in Topeka. In Gerald Vizenor's 1968 report on the White Hawk case it was revealed that only slight attention had been given to this aspect of Thomas's tragic situation.

During the two-day hearings on January 16 and 17 before the Board, some 30 witnesses were heard, half of whom were Indians. White Hawk appeared in a 4 hour testimony. Mr. Vizenor informed us that two people supported capital punishment, one a white man and one a half-Indian man.

We cannot rest until the death sentence is officially commuted for Thomas.

All efforts for his defense are being coordinated by Bishop Lyman Ogilby, at 220 18th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

Even though Mr. Nixon was Vice-President under the Termination President, we prefer to stress our new President's identity as Quaker. The Friends have always been our good friends.

But as for Secretary Hickel, we were part of the army objecting to his appointment. AIWL members sent telegrams to Senator Javits objecting to Mr. Hickel because we felt that his Alaskan record indicated that his interests were not to the best interests of Indians. Now it's a matter of watchful waiting. Conservationists and presumably Congress think so, too.

With regard to possible administrative changes in Indian affairs, we join with the National Congress of American Indians and other organizations in urging the retention of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He has made a good hard fight for Indian self-help and self-improvement programs, and he has directed attention to Indian organizations, off-reservation Indians, and non-BIA tribes as no other commissioner has. And most important of all, he's Indian.

ALVIN JOSEPHY JR. HITS CHANNEL 13'S HISTORY LESSON

With his permission, we herewith partially quote from recent objections made by Alvin Josephy Jr. to a Channel 13 WNDT-TV segment on The History of Latin America which was shown on January 4.

" - - prepared by you as a teaching aid. The references by members of the faculty to the Christianizing of California Indians by the Spanish missionaries were misleading and poor history because they did not tell the whole story and, in addition, reflected a point of view that is patently ethnocentric and racist.

The missionaries were hailed without qualification for the immense number of Indians they "converted" in a short period of time. This is a lily-white European-based point of view that overlooks the question of what right the missionaries had to coerce so many people into giving up their own religious beliefs for those of conquerors, and ignores completely the full picture of the methods and results of that coerced "conversion": the repression, regimentation, and punishments of the Indians; the assistance given the missionaries by troops; the destruction of Indian social and religious systems, Indian cultures, Indian family institutions; the introduction of epidemics; the extermination of tribes; the separation of families and the mixing of groups with different backgrounds, languages and cultures; the destruction of lives; and finally, as an end result, the abandonment of thousands of deculturated, leaderless, economically and politically helpless people, bereft of institutions by which they might defend themselves, in the path of the hordes of gold miners who came to California after 1848.

- - - The professors at the State University of New York at Buffalo who participated in the program are of an ilk who for too long have been teaching American history without making known the role or contributions of American Indians to that history. - - - I cannot be quiet when you add to the great harm that has been done by a long tradition of misrepresenting the Indian in American history."

MOVIE ITEMS

Calling all "image" fighters! Universal is going to make a movie out of Mark Twain's unfinished "Indians" story which was in the December 20 Life Magazine. Find it, read it, weep - and then provide Commissioner Bennett with lots of mail expressing objections. This could be the most monstrous Indian image movie yet. Address Commissioner Robert Bennett, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20242. He can make more points if he has plenty of mail. Also write to Universal International Public Relations, 445 Park Ave., N.Y.C. 10022.

Regarding another forthcoming movie "A Man Called Horse" according to what we've been told it would more correctly be titled "A Man Called Cheap". BBC went on a special trip to the Mexico location set to track down the story about the miserable salaries paid to the Sioux actors. If you can supply us with first-hand facts we will write about it. BBC is interested because the movie is headed up by excellent British stars.

CALIFORNIA ENROLLMENT

Write for application forms and instructions to Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento Area Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, Calif. 95825, if you believe you are eligible to share in two awards totaling \$30 million in land claims funds. Completed applications must be on file in the Sacramento office by September 22, 1969.

The eligible tribes are not defined, but if your Indian background originated in California you might qualify.

Possible eligibility includes those Indians:

1. Whose name or the name of a lineal or collateral relative appears on any of the approved rolls heretofore prepared under the Act of May 18, 1928 (45 Stat. 602) and its amendments.
2. Who can establish lineal or collateral relationship to an Indian who resided in California on June 1, 1852.
3. Who were born on or before and were living on Sept. 21, 1968.

ROBERT L. BENNETT



CARD BY SHANE

ROUGH RIDIN'

**BUT THE FIRST THREE YEARS
ARE THE HARDEST!**

William Youper

Francis Buckerton Finney

Henry Old Coyote

Lincoln Baker

Bird Bacon

W. J. Smith
18 Rocky Boy

Henry Bunt

James O.

Jackson

Amuel Robinson

Tom Canan

Mad O. Howison



Inaugural Committee ★ 1969

The Pension Building • 440 G Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20025

Telephone: Area Code 202 • 386-6501

J. WILLARD MARRIOTT,
Chairman

ROBERT G. McCUNE,
Executive Director

SPECIAL GROUPS PARTICIPATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Martin J. McManus
Co-Chairman.

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

IMMEDIATE

Earl Kennedy
Co-Chairman

Celso Moreno
Co-Chairman

Robert L. Bennett
Co-Chairman

Clarence L. Townes, Jr.
Executive Director

AMERICAN INDIAN PARTICIPATION

Chief among the "first Americans" taking part in 1969 Inaugural activities is Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Robert L. Bennett, an Oneida from Wisconsin. He is co-chairman of the Special Groups division of the 1969 Inaugural Committee.

Bennett grew up on a reservation, has served as chief federal executive for Indians since 1966. His career, which includes a World War II stint with the Marines and a law degree earned part-time, has been almost exclusively in the service of Indians. Four years in Alaska and several in the Dakotas, Colorado and Arizona, make him a natural to represent the cross-country American Indian population at this year's Inaugural ceremonies and preliminary festivities.

"I'm only the chief -- don't forget the Indians," Bennett says with the twinkling humor that characterizes his leadership role with the Special Groups division of the Inaugural Committee as well as his role as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Indians to whom he refers are the other major participants in Inaugural events. They are converging on Washington from points as far north as Thlinget, Alaska and as far south as the Florida everglades.

Probably the prettiest one of all is Miss Indian America, Thomasine Hill, a pre-law student at Mackinac College, Michigan. A Crow-Pawnee, she will ride a gray horse in the Inaugural Parade.

Another prominent Indian who has been helping behind the scenes to aid the Indian contingent for the Inaugural celebrations is W. W. Keeler of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, president of Phillips Petroleum Company.

Including pop music artists, including the internationally famous trombonist, "Big Chief" Russell Moore, and the Chieftones from Wisconsin will be featured at a pre-inaugural jazz festival Sunday, January 19 at the Washington-Hilton Hotel.

American Indians have been given a place of high distinction in the Inaugural Parade. Following the floats of New York, Maryland and the District of Columbia -- honoring the President, the Vice-President, and the Inaugural host city -- will be the float representing the first Americans. Miss Indian America, in ceremonial buckskin dress and astride a stallion, will precede the float, escorted by Earl Old Person, chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana and Donald Deernose, President of the All-American Indian Days Pageant in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Twenty Indians (including dancers) on the float and forty additional Indian marchers will complete the Indian contingent in the Parade.

In addition to participating in the general series of events Inauguration Day and the day before, most of the Indian visitors as well as Indian residents of the Washington area will attend an Indian dinner and pow-wow Inauguration Night. It will be held in the Federal Bar Association Building ballroom, 1815 "H" Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

Indians taking part in the Inaugural Parade will be: Angela Butterfield, Pocatello, Idaho; Lucy Covington, Nespelem, Washington; Frank Cucumber, Washington, D. C.; Donald Deernose, Lodge Grass, Montana; Dennis Greybear, Fort Yates, North Dakota; Perry Horse, Alexandria, Virginia; Walter Jackson, Cherokee, N. C., Avery Lewis, Pasadena, Md; Daniel Lopez, Ft. Lee, Va.; others are Solomon McCombs, Arlington, Va; Ernest Maribel, Nambe, N. M.; Edgar Montathchi, Greenbelt, Md.; Ned Nayatewa, Polacca, Arizona; Barney Old Coyote, Bowie, Md; Virgil Poafpybitty, Washington, D. C.; Doyle Red Cloud, Kicking Horse, Montana; William Reeves, Rockville, Md.; Georgiann Robinson, Bartlesville, Okla.; Paschal Sherman, Washington, D.C.; John Shopteese, Silver Springs, Md.; Marti Thomas, Omaha, Nebr.; Watson Totus, Toppenish, Wash.; Linda Tsonetokoy, Greenbelt, Md.; John Washee, Concho, Okla.; Mary Whirlwind Soldier, Arlington, Va.

FEB 12 10 12 AM '69

February 10, 1969

7710

Hon. Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There is attached hereto a resolution adopted at a called session of the Muskogee Area National Congress of American Indians at the Trade Winds Motel, Muskogee, Oklahoma, on February 7, 1969.

This resolution expresses the views of this body, and it is forwarded to you for your consideration and favorable action.

Sincerely yours,

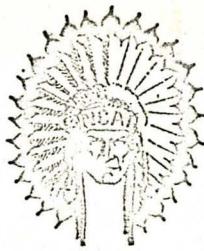
Sgd:
Hampton Anderson
Muskogee Area Regional Vice-President

Enclosure

cc:

✓ Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
Area Director, Muskogee Area Office, BIA
Area Director, Anadarko Area Office, BIA
Muskogee Area Regional Vice-President, NCAI

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
2/13
H. R. L. B. J. B.
2 files



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

FEB 12 10 12 AM '69

HAMPTON W. ANDERSON
MUSKOGEE AREA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
3416 N. GLENOAKS DRIVE
MIDWEST CITY, OKLAHOMA 73110
(405) 732-0034

RESOLUTION

JAMES M. COX
ANADARKO AREA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
3201 SHADYBROOK
MIDWEST CITY, OKLAHOMA 73110
(405) 732-2934

7710

WHEREAS, Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has initiated new programs and has enlarged existing programs and has attained a high degree of cooperation and coordination among Federal, State and private organizations on behalf of the Indian people, and

WHEREAS, he has obtained the support of Congressional committees to assist Indian programs, and

WHEREAS, he has sought and obtained the full support of Indian leaders in planning tribal programs, and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Commissioner Bennett, the Indian people are advancing more than they ever have before in the history of this country, and

WHEREAS, the Muskogee Area of the National Congress of American Indians firmly believes that this momentum developed by Commissioner Bennett should be carried into the new National Administration,

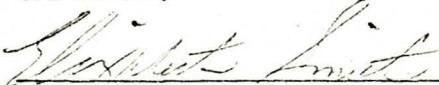
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Muskogee Area of the National Congress of American Indians in called session at the Trade Winds Motel, Muskogee, Oklahoma, this 7th day of February commends Robert L. Bennett for his inspiration and leadership; for his effective operation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs area offices, and for his interest in the Indian people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Muskogee Area of the National Congress of American Indians goes on record urging the incoming National Administration to retain Robert L. Bennett as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Adopted this 7th day of February 1969 by the following named tribes: Ottawa, Peoria, Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Osage, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole, Comanche, Absentee Delaware, Sac & Fox, and Kiowa tribes.


Hampton Anderson, Vice-President

ATTEST:


Elizabeth Smith, Recording Secretary

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

OFFICE OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
THE COMMISSIONER

noted
2/11/69
RLB

2/11/69

3:15

RLB:

I received a call from Mr. Francis Wakefield, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who wanted you to have his new address, following, and the following message:

10887 60th Street, S. E.
Alto, Michigan.

(He says they have moved to "Centennial Farm" in Alto, apparently a suburb of Grand Rapid.)

The message: He had a call this morning from Detroit, from the American Indians--United organization, asking him to be a director on the Executive Board. In the course of the conversation he overheard that you were to be replaced because you "belong to the wrong party." On that information he called the Minority Leader of the House, Gerald Ford, and told him that they (the Indian people) want you kept on, and was told, certainly. He says he has known Gerry Ford since he was a pup.

Wakefield says his son was with the American Indians-United Executive Board, but has resigned, and they apparently now want Wakefield, Sr., to take his place. He thinks he will accept, as he feels the organization is getting off on the wrong foot and needs a restraining hand. Said he drafted a letter sometime earlier (that his son delivered?) to the effect that you should be kept in office.

1. RLBS [Signature]
2. Sp. file

FEB 11 1969

Mr. Edward Edzards

Superintendent, Pierre Agency

Dear Mr. Edzards:

This will acknowledge receipt of Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council Resolution No. 69-47, adopted January 9, 1969.

We are taking the liberty of forwarding a copy to Mr. Bennett for his personal information, but we trust that the Tribe has sent copies to all other persons to whom they wish to convey their sentiments.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) LESLIE M. KELLER

Acting Area Director

cc:

Commissioner of Indian Affairs (w/copy of Res. 69-47)

RESOLUTION NO. 69-47
LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

1. RLB
2. Special file

RETAIN ROBERT L. BENNETT AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council to hereby express our gratitude and confidence in Robert L. Bennett and to request that he be retained as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs during the next administration.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council with quorum present in regular session on January 9, 1969, by the affirmative vote of four members with none opposed and none not voting.

Attest:

Kay Gourneau
Kay Gourneau, Secretary-Treasurer
Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council

Andrew R. Estes
Andrew R. Estes, Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JAN 29 8 23 AM '69

100

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN OFFICE:
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS
ZIP 49502

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

February 12, 1969

Mr. Francis Wakefield
10887 60th Street
Alto, Michigan

Dear Francis,

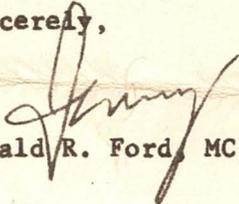
I regret very much that both I and Frank Meyer were on the telephone when you called yesterday afternoon.

I appreciate very much your recommendation that Robert L. Bennett be retained as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

As a member of the House leadership I will be meeting with the President and Secretary of Interior Mr. Hickel, and will have the opportunity of discussing this matter with them.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Gerald R. Ford, MC.

GRF:mr



FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

158 Prospect N. E.

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

10887 - 60th St., S. E., Alto, Mich., 49302

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

When I called your office early last week I mentioned to your secretary that I had been asked to serve on the executive board of the new American Indians-United. My son, John, resigned at the second meeting of the board when he found out that the temporary chairman and two board members had sent telegrams to all the United States Senators protesting the appointment of Mr. Hickle as Secretary of the Interior. John could not abide this arbitrary action by a scant minority. It was strictly against his principles as a member of a democratic society.

I have read newspaper accounts of a press conference held by this organization, and even though I discounted much of the account as being garbled, to me it borders on irresponsibility and does not truly reflect the non-reservation Indian viewpoint.

The aims of this organization are commendable and the officers are young and energetic. They should go far if they were a little more conservative. I would be glad to work with them then. As it is I declined to serve on their executive board.

The inclosed copy of a letter may be of interest to you.

Nin sa,

Francis Wakefield
Francis Wakefield

RMB
1. A. B.
special
2. file

JULIA BUTLER HANSEN
3d DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

Personal File
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN—INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

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

February 17, 1969

7884

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Thank you so much for your letter of February 14 with the list of our Washington State students.

I am delighted with the work that is going on at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, and I would appreciate your stopping by my office some day to discuss some of the facets and a couple of comments from some of the Pueblo leaders.

Incidentally, it has been a great joy going through your schools last week, and I am a little angry to think America does not take the proper credit it can for the job we are doing in many areas. Of course, a lot more needs to be done and this we will discuss very frankly at the hearings, but I did see a lot of excellent work.

With my warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Julia H.
JULIA BUTLER HANSEN, M. C.

JBH:mvt

Dictated before I saw you.
J.

Amelia

PO Box 601
16241 Ivy St
Fontana, Calif 92335
Feb 17, 1969

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Dept of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

There is so much reference on TV, radio and in the press about "Minority Groups." Out in this area the reference usually means Negroes and Mexican-Americans. With the exception of a Resolution recently introduced this session (in Sacramento) urging institutions of higher learning to include cultural and historical backgrounds of the American Indian, not much else involves us. I have a copy of that resolution, and I am greatly concerned.

I would like to help the young Indian to help himself without being pressured or influenced by one of ~~these~~ outside groups. It seems important to prevent, if possible, our young Indian people from "demonstrating and demanding" in the same manner as some other groups. While I do not believe there is much likelihood of similar activities by Indians, generally, I'd surely like to help out if I can, to ward off any unfortunate circumstances. How can I help?

Right now I am concerned enough that I would consider retiring from the Air Force and going to work to help young Indian people. Pay would be secondary -- I'd really like to help. May I hear from you?

I hope you are well and most of all I hope you are permitted to continue the good program you've started and now have under way.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely

Amelia

(Mrs. Amelia Skye Askew)

FEB 18 1969

Memorandum

To: The Files

From: Area Director

Subject: Secretary Hickel's visit to Bismarck, North Dakota

Due to the sudden illness of my Mother, I was unable to go to Bismarck, North Dakota on February 11, 1969 and be a part of the meeting scheduled for the Indian tribal leaders with Secretary Hickel. Don Jensen, Assistant Area Director, Economic Development attended in my place and the following comments relative to Secretary Hickel's meeting with the Indian people are taken from his notes.

The meeting with Secretary Hickel took place on Tuesday, February 11 from 4:03 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. in Senator Young's office in the Federal Building in Bismarck. Tribal Chairman Aljoe Agard, Economic Development Specialist Ted Jamerson and Acting Superintendent Stephens represented Standing Rock. Vincent Malnourie, Tribal Chairman, Ted Bolman, and Superintendent Keaton represented Fort Berthold. Apparently due to weather conditions, tribal representatives from Fort Totten and Turtle Mountain were not able to attend; however, Superintendents Tomhave and Moxon were there. Dallas Brien, EDA Coordinator for the North Dakota tribes, Paul Ewald, Economic Development Specialist from Fort Berthold, and Frank Morin, EDA Specialist were in attendance also. Robert McKay, Deputy Area Director for the Indian Health Service in Aberdeen was present. There were two representatives from the House of Representatives of the State of North Dakota, Lieutenant Governor Larson, and UPI writer and local photographer who also attended.

The Secretary introduced himself and made a few remarks. He stated that this was his first public meeting away from his office. He then compared the North Dakota situation with Alaska and asked the Indian representatives for their problems. Mr. Agard read a statement repeating

the three main points of President Nixon's Omaha message to NCAI. He also presented a statement for the record and a resolution from the United Tribes of North Dakota requesting that Commissioner Bennett continue on as Commissioner. Mr. Agard said, "He is one of us and knows our problems and is helping us find solutions." Mr. Malnourie, Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, presented a written statement and thanked the Secretary for taking the time to visit the group. The statement covered education needs, housing, availability of funds, etc. Mr. Brien explained how the Economic Development Corporation was set up. He mentioned it was not only to help Indian communities but total communities. He gave the Secretary a map of North Dakota indicating that there were some 16,000 people in the designated communities.

Mr. Agard introduced Mr. Jamerson who regretted that Martin Holm was not here because of his Mother's illness and stated the cooperation between the Bureau and the Standing Rock Tribe was healthy, wonderful, and excellent. He traced the progress of the Standing Rock Tribe and presented the Secretary with brochures on industry, the honor farm, and on subsequent irrigation development. He stated a resolution was included in one folder asking that the leasing (oil and gas) minimums be lifted. Secretary Hickel asked if this required legislation. Mr. Jensen answered that in his opinion \$1.25 per acre could be waived without further legislation much as was done at the request of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe two years ago.

Mr. Jamerson went on to talk about cooperation of the tribes with the Bureau and other agencies and said that they were on record in requesting Commissioner Bennett's retention as Commissioner. "He is one of us and needs to remain to help us with our programs." He gave the Secretary a telegram from the Sioux and Assinboine urging Bennett's continuance and stated that he had had a telephone call from Frank Ducheneaux, Chairman of the United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota, asking for Bennett's retention.

Senator Burdick came in for part of the meeting and he asked Secretary Hickel if he was going to follow the President's message as his policy.

During the afternoon press conference, the Secretary was asked if he plans to retain Robert L. Bennett, present Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He was quoted as saying on a 6:00 p.m. newscast, "I know that the Indian problem is very, very important and it will receive my attention. I know Mr. Bennett is a good man but I will have to study the situation and then make my decision. I am not down the line that far yet. I am concerned about what is best for the Indian people." On the 10:00 o'clock telecast relative to the retention of the Commissioner, Secretary Hickel speaking in person said he wouldn't decide yet, that many Indian problems have not

been solved in any one administration and will not be solved by one administration but I want to get it started. He said when I get to that problem (referring to retention) I'll make that decision. He is a good man. He's got good support but I won't say now whether I will or will not keep him. I'm not that far down the line.

Mr. Jensen indicated that the meeting was a very fine one, that it was positive and that he felt the Indian people who were there made a very good impression on Secretary Hickel. The Indian delegates were very much impressed with the new Secretary. It was unfortunate that the other two tribal chairmen could not be there.

(Signed) Martin N. B. Holm

Area Director

cc:

WO-Commissioner Bennett

THE SOLICITOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1969

Dear Bob:

As I leave the Department and close off my career in the Government I want you to know that I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with you and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the advancement of the interests of the only native Americans there really are. We have not always agreed, of course, but our disagreements have been on methodology and not objectives and, of course, they have not involved any personal animosity. I want to wish you every success and I know that whatever the future may hold for you as an official with the Government, with a talent for ragtime piano like yours, you'll never have to worry about starving.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Solicitor

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

LAW OFFICES
DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

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

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

February 25, 1969

FEB 28 10 15 AM '69

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

Mr. Tom Holley
Office of Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Tom:

We were all most pleased to read the story in the Spokesman-Review about your elevation and appointment by the new administration. It gives us all a feeling that we have a "friend in court."

Right at the time of the appointment I received a phone call from Congressman Reifel who said that you had suggested he call me. It had to do, of course, with the retention of Commissioner Bennett as Commissioner. You had told Mr. Reifel that I would know the background of George Pierre. As a result of that talk I wrote to W. W. Keeler sending him copies of the various tribal resolutions supporting Bob Bennett. Enclosed is Keeler's reply.

Secretary Hickel has let it be known that he will place great reliance on the advice of W. W. Keeler. It is therefore encouraging that his letter is such an unqualified endorsement of Bob Bennett.

For your information, I am enclosing copies of the joint resolution of the Spokane, Kalispel and Coeur d'Alene Tribes as well as my letter to the Nixon administration explaining why the tribes are so unanimous in their support of Commissioner Bennett.

Should I get back to Washington I will call on you and you can be sure that we will be calling on you frequently to inform you fully of the wishes and programs of your constituents on your old home country.

Many best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

By: Robert D. Dellwo

RDD:fb

cc: Congressman Ben Reifel
Commissioner Bennett
Area Office, Portland
Superintendent St. Clair, Lapwai
Tribal Councils of Kalispel, Spokane & Coeur d'Alene Tribes
Superintendent Miller, Coulee Dam

100
1. RLB RMD
2. Special file
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

February 10, 1969

Mr. W. W. Keeler
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
74003

Dear Mr. Keeler: Re: Appointment of Commissioner of
Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett

At the suggestion of Congressman Ben Reifel, I am enclosing copies of resolutions from the Indian tribes I represent in which they urge the retaining of Robert Bennett as Commissioner. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter by me to the Nixon Administration in which I point out the need of the various tribes for a continuous, progressive Indian policy which will be best met by retaining Mr. Bennett.

You may recall my meeting you at the time of the Task Force hearings in Spokane in 1961. The result of those meetings was a Task Force Report setting out general goals and objectives. Many of these goals have been reached and accomplished under Commissioner Bennett.

I think that it is particularly significant that substantially all the Indian Tribes and organizations are urging the reappointment of Commissioner Bennett. When Philleo Nash, a very popular Commissioner, found it necessary to resign and Robert Bennett was appointed to succeed him there was a reaction of "wait and see" and even suspicion over what was to come under Mr. Bennett. A kind of cloud existed over his administration which could be dispelled only by actions and programs that would reestablish trust and confidence. The tribes I represent joined in this feeling of doubt and apprehension.

Starting with that cloud it is particularly significant that Bob Bennett has not only succeeded in totally dispelling it but in earning the support and confidence of every Indian tribe and organization I know of. These include such diverse groups as the terminationist and non-terminationist factions of the Colville Tribe. With such an outpouring of support, it would be doubly difficult to understand why a change should be made.

Knowing that as past administrations have, the present administration will turn to you for suggestions and advice, we all hope that you will do what you can for the cause of keeping Robert L. Bennett as our Indian Commissioner.

Sincerely yours,

DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

RDD:fb
Encls.

By: Robert D. Dellwo

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

December 13, 1968

435
President-Elect Richard M. Nixon
Hotel Pierre
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Re: COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ROBERT L. BENNETT

I am attorney for the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Kalispel Indian Tribes and have been associated with Indian affairs all my life. My father, D. A. Dellwo, was the organizing spirit behind the Flathead Irrigation District in Montana in about 1915 and served as its secretary until his death in 1963. My association with the Indian people and their tribes has therefore been a close and continuous thing going back into my boyhood.

This background is mentioned to qualify me as a person whose opinion about the Bureau of Indian Affairs and why Commissioner Robert Bennett should be retained has some basis.

Those of us who have been associated with Indian Affairs over such a long period of time know that the so-called "Indian problem" is the result of two interacting forces or circumstances. The first was the long period of time extending almost to the present during which the Indians and their tribes were so dominated with Federal Indian Policy and its administration that their propensities for self-government and reliance on themselves and their own tribes were not allowed to develop. This is a long sad story of neglect and domination. The other negative force that has prevented the Indian people and their tribes from doing as well as they might have done has been the constantly fluctuating and changing "Indian policy" that has plagued both the tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Until the appointment of Mr. Bennett, the various Commissioners have been political appointees. Often they have had little past association with or knowledge of Indians. The result has been that in this area of delicate human relations involving our First American People, Federal Indian Policy has vacillated and changed in erratic and unpredictable swings to such a degree that no one could count on any single policy matter being there long enough to plan on it.

DEC 19 9 56 AM '68

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

December 13, 1968

One Commissioner would have a policy of granting as many fee titles to allotments as possible, leading to the rapid loss of the tribal land base. The next Commissioner would take exactly the opposite approach. One administration would strain in the direction of termination and withdrawal of Indian services. The next would go to the opposite extreme. Many other examples could be recited.

We have a "middle of the road" Indian policy now and one which the Indians like and can work with. We should not risk another swing to one extreme or the other. This is one of the main reasons why Robert Bennett should be retained. Any other choice will be taken by the Indian people as a "return to the old changes and turns where none of them knew where they stood."

I was an FBI agent for six years (1942 - 1948) and am well aware of the reasons for that Bureau to retain the same director since the middle twenties. An agency like the FBI just has to have continuous, solid direction and supervision. Its policy must be stable. The same is just as true of the Indian Bureau, and for the above reasons and many others I won't take the space to list I urge the retention of Commissioner Bennett.

Respectfully yours,

DELLWO, RUDOLF & GRANT

By: Robert D. Dellwo

RDD:fb

DEC 18 8 58 AM '68

JOINT RESOLUTION
OF
KALISPEL, COEUR D'ALENE AND SPOKANE INDIAN TRIBES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated this 13 day of December, 1968.

THE KALISPEL INDIAN COMMUNITY

By: Alice K. Ignace
Alice Ignace, Chairman

THE COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE OF INDIANS

By: Oswald C. George
Oswald George, Chairman

THE SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS

By: Alex Sherwood
Alex Sherwood, Chairman

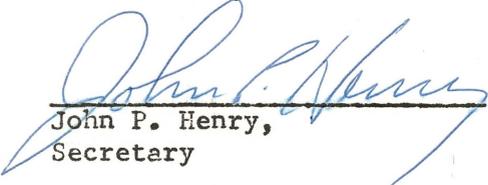
RESOLUTION #277-16
The Tulalip Tribes
of

Be It Resolved by The Tulalip Tribes of Washington, an Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat - 984) as amended, that Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett be retained in that position by virtue of the fact that he has done such an outstanding job in that difficult assignment, and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to this States' Congressional delegation for their information and guidance.

Passed this 1st. day of March, 1969, in regular session, by a vote of 5 for and 0 against, with a quorum being present.

ATTEST:


John P. Henry,
Secretary


Bernard Gobin,
Chairman

103C
6 March 1969

8413

MAR 13 12 50 PM '69

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

The Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
Vice President of the United States
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20042

Dear Mr. Vice President:

We are very much gratified at the interest you have shown in Indian Affairs as Chairman of the National Council on Indian Opportunity.

During Inauguration week we sought unsuccessfully to reach you personally for discussion of our problems and future. We wanted particularly to urge, through you, the retention of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the new Administration. Now we have learned from the Governors conference in Washington, D.C. last week that Secretary of the Interior Hickel does not intend, at least as of the moment, to reappoint Mr. Bennett.

The situation therefore has become critical not only for Indians who see their progress threatened but also as to whether the Secretary's refusal to reappoint would carry out the President's policy.

On September 27, 1968 (Congressional Record October 9) the President said: "The right of self-determination of the Indian people will be respected and their participation in planning their own destiny will actively be encouraged" and "I will ensure that the Indian people are fully consulted before programs under which they must live are planned." Implicit in this pledge is deference to Indian wishes as to who should be their Commissioner of Indian Affairs, other things being equal, to plan and carry out programs.

More industries have been brought on Indian reservations under Mr. Bennett's administration than under any other. In the private sector there is an awakening of interest in Indians mainly because the type of progress being made by Indians is meeting with universal approval. As for the Indians themselves they are doing more in self-help than at any other time to achieve substantial progress in housing, employment, health and education through constructive collaboration with the government and private agencies. We do not want this progress jeopardized by appointment of somebody else even though he may be an Indian like Mr. Bennett, but with unknown insights and inspirational qualities.

May we ask that you personally bring to the attention of the President our desire for the reappointment of Mr. Bennett in behalf of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Congress of American Indians and virtually all concerned Indians, here and in Alaska?

cc: Earl Old Person, President

Yours very sincerely,

Affiliated Tribes of
Northwest Indians

Mrs. Angela Butterfield, Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

6 March 1969

8413

The Honorable Everett M. Dirksen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20042

Dear Senator Dirksen:

During Inauguration week we sought unsuccessfully to reach you personally for discussion of our problems and future. We wanted particularly to urge, through you, the retention of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the new Administration. Now we have learned from the Governors conference in Washington, D.C. last week that Secretary of the Interior Hickel does not intend, at least as of the moment, to reappoint Mr. Bennett. The situation therefore has become critical not only for Indians who see their progress threatened but also as to whether the Secretary's refusal to reappoint would carry out the President's policy.

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May we ask that you personally bring to the attention of the President our desire for the reappointment of Mr. Bennett in behalf of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Congress of American Indians and virtually all concerned Indians, here and in Alaska?

Yours very sincerely,

cc: Earl Old Person, President
Affiliated Tribes of

Mrs. Angela Butterfield
Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Northwest Indians

6 March 1969

8413

The Honorable James A. Haley
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20042

Dear Mr. Haley:

It was our pleasure to see you during Inauguration week to urge, among other things, the reappointment of Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the new Administration. Now we have learned from the Governors conference in Washington, D.C. that as of the moment Secretary of the Interior Hickel does not contemplate reappointing Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In his policy statement of September 27, 1968 (Congressional Record October 9) President Nixon said: "The right of self-determination of the Indian people will be respected and their participation in planning their own destiny will actively be encouraged." It is in consequence of this pledge that we are urging that you do everything possible to reach the President personally, or in the most effective manner open to you, with our desire that Mr. Bennett be reappointed. His reappointment would assure the continuity of the remarkable progress now being made by Indians and for Indians under his able leadership. With clearance and clarification of executive authority and lines of communication, if the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to be reorganized, we are certain that such progress would be greatly accelerated.

Further, since we are at a critical period, would it be too much to suggest that you have colleagues on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Republican as well as Democratic (if possible), join with you in urging Mr. Bennett's reappointment? We know this has been done in the past upon changes of administration, for example, by members of committees on veterans affairs to secure successfully the retention of the incumbent Administrator of Veterans Affairs. What we are saying is by "right of self-determination" for self-fulfillment, but a question of good government to continue progress seen by all concerned, very vividly by the Indians themselves, is also involved.

The reappointment of Mr. Bennett is being sought by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, by the National Congress of American Indians, and by virtually all concerned Indians, here and in Alaska.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. Angela Butterfield
Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

cc: Earl Old Person, President
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

6 March 1969

The Honorable Len B. Jordan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20042

8413

Dear Senator Jordan:

From the recent Governors conference in Washington, D.C. it was learned that as of the moment Secretary of the Interior Hickel does not contemplate reappointing Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In his policy statement of September 27, 1968 (Congressional Record October 9) President Nixon said: " The right of self-determination of the Indian people will be respected and their participation in planning their own destiny will actively be encouraged." It is in consequence of this pledge that we are urging that you do everything possible to reach the President personally, or in the most effective manner open to you, with our desire that Mr. Bennett be reappointed. His reappointment would assure the continuity of the remarkable progress now being made by Indians and for Indians under his able leadership. With clearance and clarification of executive authority and lines of communication, if the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to be reorganized, we are certain that such progress would be greatly accelerated.

Further, since we are at a critical period, would it be too much to suggest that you have colleagues on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Republican as well as Democratic (if possible), join with you in urging Mr. Bennett's reappointment? We know this has been done in the past upon changes of administration, for example, by members of committees on veterans affairs to secure successfully the retention of the incumbent Administrator of Veterans Affairs. What we are saying is by "right of self-determination" for self-fulfillment, but a question of good government to continue progress seen by all concerned, very vividly by the Indians themselves, is also involved.

The reappointment of Mr. Bennett is being sought by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, by the National Congress of American Indians, and by virtually all concerned Indians, here and in Alaska.

Yours very sincerely,

cc: Earl Old Person, President
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest
Indians

Mrs. Angela Butterfield
Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of North-
west Indians

November 13, 1968

Mrs. Angela Butterfield
Executive Director, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Star Route
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Mrs. Butterfield:

I appreciate your very nice letter of October 28 relating to the efforts of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest to continue my tenure as Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the administration of President-elect Richard M. Nixon. It was very thoughtful of the Affiliated Tribes to take this action in my behalf. I hope I am worthy of the support which the Indian people are giving me. Indian leaders like those connected with the Affiliated Tribes and like yourself have been very instrumental in whatever success I have enjoyed as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I will forever be in your debt.

Thanks again for the support and cooperation which has been the best.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Bennett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

✓ RL Bennett/klm 11/13/68
file, chrono, mailroom

distate

1-RLB

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

28 October 1968

PRESIDENT:
EARL OLD PERSON
TRIBAL COUNCIL
BLACKFEET TRIBE
BROWNING, MONTANA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
ANGELA BUTTERFIELD
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBES
FORT HALL, IDAHO

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:
JAMES ELY
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
RONAN, MONTANA

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:
ROBERT B. JIM
TRIBAL COUNCIL
YAKIMA TRIBE
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

3RD VICE PRESIDENT:
ALEX SHERWOOD
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SPOKANE TRIBE
WELLPINIT, WASHINGTON

SECRETARY:
FRANK GEORGE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
COLVILLE TRIBE
NESPELEM, WASHINGTON

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
LUCY F. COVINGTON
TRIBAL COUNCIL
COLVILLE TRIBE
NESPELEM, WASHINGTON

TREASURER:
LYMAN TRAHAN
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
ST. IGNATIUS, MONTANA

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of my most recent letter to Richard M. Nixon asking him to consider continuing in office the Honorable Robert La Follette Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and also asking him to consider the appointment of Dr. Paschal Sherman to the Indian Claims Commission.

I had the opportunity to discuss these matters both with Idaho Congressman George V. Hansen and with Governor Samuelson of Idaho and both readily and enthusiastically agreed to lend their full support. In addition, I have today written to Idaho Senator Len B. Jordan asking that he exert every effort on our behalf.

I received the nicest letter from Hubert H. Humphrey in which he said: "I am also pleased to note that you have high regard for Commissioner Bennett of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I will certainly call this to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior and other appropriate officials."

Sincerely yours,

Angela Butterfield

Angela Butterfield (Mrs.)
Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest
Indians

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCT 31 10 08 AM '68

In the Fall of 1967, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, through our President, Earl Old Person, wrote to the President of the United States strongly urging him to consider Dr. Paschal Sherman for appointment to the Indian Claims Commission.

Dr. Sherman's qualifications and history are briefly stated as follows:

Dr. Paschal Sherman, born December 14, 1895, at Chelan, Washington, is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, State of Washington, and is well qualified to serve as Commissioner on the Indian Claims Commission by reason of:

EDUCATION: Degrees held: A.B., A.M., Ph.D., LL.B. and M.P.L. The doctorate is from the Catholic University of American, Washington, D.C., and the law degrees from Washington College of Law of the American University, Washington, D.C.

PROFESSION AND TRAINING: He is an active member of the Bar of the State of Washington, admitted to the Bar in 1923, and has acquired the judicial temperament and training, through long years of service in the Veterans Administration as an attorney-at-law since about 1920, dealing with professional and all types of people and resolving at the highest administrative level of the Veterans Administration policy and problem questions relating to disability (diseases and injuries), the relationship of disability to military service, the application of VA laws and VA policies, the formulation of policies and regulations, and the draft of veterans legislation. Latterly, Dr. Sherman was Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman of the Disability Policy Board, retiring in 1962.

KNOWLEDGE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS: Involved in Indian affairs during the whole of his adult life, in one way or another generally as consultant, relating to policy and legislation. His Ph.D. thesis was "Our Indian Land Law: Its Origin and Development". This knowledge would be a decided asset, as a member of the Indian Claims Commission.

ASSOCIATIONS: Member, Washington State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, National Lawyers Club, Inc. of Washington, D.C., and the Kenwood Golf and Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland. Member also of the National Congress of American Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and Chairman of the American Indian Civil Liberties Trust. He was Chairman of the Subcommittee of the Inaugural Committee for Indian Participation in the Inaugural Parade in 1965. Member, Indian Committee, Federal Bar Association. Trustee, Pacific Northwest Indian Center, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican. He was a candidate of the Republican Party for the State of Washington, with endorsement by the Governor and the state patronage committees, for Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of Administration in 1952.

LEGAL RESIDENCE: Okanogan, Washington. Washington, D.C. address: Box 708, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044. Telephone: DE2-1106

28 October 1968

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
Nixon Headquarters
Willard Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We were pleased and reassured by your statement of policy on Indian Affairs in the event of your election to the Presidency.

At this time before your election and afterwards, we would like to have you consider continuing in office the Honorable Robert LaFollette Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We think that by his outstanding record in office he has the qualifications, the resourcefulness and the ability to carry out your policy and to make the next administration of Indian affairs preeminently successful from the standpoint of the Indians as well as the Government.

We would also like to have you consider at this time the appointment of Dr. Paschal Sherman, an attorney and member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, State of Washington, as Commissioner on the Indian Claims Commission. There is a vacancy on the Commission to which a non-Democrat must be appointed under the law. Dr. Sherman is a Republican and was backed by the Governor and the Republican Party of Washington State for Commissioner of Indian Affairs when President Eisenhower was elected President. For your information on his background, a copy of Dr. Sherman's qualifications and history is attached.

When Dr. Sherman's availability for the Indian Claims Commission became known, quite massive support developed in his favor. To our knowledge the following tribes from virtually every part of the United States have come out for him; Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (which includes tribes of the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Wyoming); Chippewas of Minnesota; Creeks of Oklahoma, Pueblos of New Mexico, Cheyenne-Arapahoes and Natives of Alaska; a meaningful and significant cross-section of support that should have your most serious consideration.

Congressional members from the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Wisconsin and Minnesota have made recommendations in his favor to the White House. All endorsements are on file in the White House or with Chairman Macy of the United States Civil Service Commission.

The Indians of this nation would be honored to have you urge the nomination of a qualified attorney of Indian descent, such as Dr. Sherman, to the position of Commissioner on the Indian Claims Commission.

cc: Earl Old Person, President

Respectfully yours,

cc: Nixon Headquarters, New York

Angela Butterfield (Mrs.)
Executive Director

29 October 1968

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President
United States of America
Washington, D.C. 20027

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of October 2nd acknowledging the high regard we have for our present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett. Knowing how we feel about Mr. Bennett, we certainly hope you will continue him in office in the event of your election to the Presidency.

At this time before your election and afterwards, we would also like to have you consider the appointment of Dr. Paschal Sherman, an attorney and member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, State of Washington, as Commissioner on the Indian Claims Commission. There is a vacancy on the Commission to which a non-Democrat must be appointed under the law. Dr. Sherman is a Republican and was backed by the Governor and the Republican Party of Washington State for Commissioner of Indian Affairs when President Eisenhower was elected President. For your information on his background, a copy of Dr. Sherman's qualifications and history is attached.

When Dr. Sherman's availability for the Indian Claims Commission became known, quite massive support developed in his favor. To our knowledge the following tribes from virtually every part of the United States have come out for him; Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (which includes tribes of the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Wyoming); Chippewas of Minnesota; Creeks of Oklahoma, Pueblos of New Mexico, Cheyenne-Arapahoes and Natives of Alaska; a meaningful and significant cross-section of support that we hope will have your most serious consideration.

Congressional members from the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Wisconsin and Minnesota have made recommendations in his favor to the White House. All endorsements are on file in the White House or with Chairman Macy of the United States Civil Service Commission.

The Indians of this nation and the Alaskan natives, also of this nation, would be honored to have you urge the nomination of a qualified attorney of Indian descent, such as Dr. Sherman, to the position of Commissioner on the Indian Claims Commission. Wishing you every success in the election, I am,

Most respectfully and sincerely yours,

cc: Earl Old Person, President
Affiliated Tribes of
Northwest Indians

Angela Butterfield (Mrs.)
Executive Director

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

PRESIDENT:

EARL OLD PERSON
TRIBAL COUNCIL
BLACKFEET TRIBE
BROWNING, MONTANA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

ANGELA BUTTERFIELD
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBES
FORT HALL, IDAHO

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

JAMES ELY
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
RONAN, MONTANA

RESOLUTION # 9

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

ROBERT B. JIM
TRIBAL COUNCIL
YAKIMA TRIBE
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

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

3RD VICE PRESIDENT:

ALEX SHERWOOD
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SPOKANE TRIBE
WELLPINIT, WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, never before have the employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, central office and field, engaged consistently in really productive work for Indians and among Indians as now;

SECRETARY:

FRANK GEORGE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
COLVILLE TRIBE
NESPHELEM, WASHINGTON

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

LUCY F. COVINGTON
TRIBAL COUNCIL
COLVILLE TRIBE
NESPHELEM, WASHINGTON

TREASURER:

LYMAN TRAHAN
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
ST. IGNATIUS, MONTANA

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS in convention assembled September 5-6, 1968 go on record as expressing their gratitude to and confidence in Robert L. Bennett as the standard bearer of Indian progress;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of this organization, as well as friends of the Indian, be called upon to urge the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs upon the change of administration in January next, with copies of this Resolution furnished to the Commissioner and to the Presidential candidates and the National Committees of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Attest:

Earl Old Person, President
AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS

September 6, 1968

103C

RJB

Muskogee, Oklahoma
March 10, 1969

8536

MAR 10 9 25 AM '69

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

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

The Da-Co-Tah Indian Club of Muskogee, Oklahoma, an organization composed of women of Indian descent, for the purpose of first, service to the Indian race; second, knowledge for the Indians, and third, loyalty to the American Indian, in session on February 24, 1969, voted unanimously to go on record recommending and urging you to retain as Commissioner of Indian Affairs - Mr. Robert L. Bennett.

We all feel that Mr. Bennett, who is an outstanding Indian, is well-qualified in every respect. He understands the Indians, and their needs. He has done so much to improve the lives of the Indian people through his leadership and the programs he has worked out with the Indian leadership that we feel it would be most unfortunate if he is not permitted to continue his fine works in behalf of the Indian people.

This recommendation is submitted to you for your most serious consideration and favorable action.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Minnie Mannon
President, Da-Co-Tah Indian Club
Box 73
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

MAR 27 A.M.

RECEIVED
MAR 21 1969

By _____

Mary Public School
~~Mary, Nebraska~~

March 11, 1969

8770

Dear President Nixon,

As an Instructor in the School we often discuss worldly problems. We have often agreed^{ed} and again disagreed with some of your opinions. Be that as it may, one assignment in English Class was for each child to write you a letter. As a result this particular letter was chosen as the one that involved us the most.

We are very serious about our problems^{ed} and do wish you could see fit to grant the funds for the construction of a new school building. We all know applications have been made many times but so far have received no favorable reply.

I have taught these Indian Children for the past thirteen years^{ed} and find them most enjoyable. May we invite you to visit us if^{ed} when you are in the Midwest?

Sincerely,

Mrs M. W. Squires
Decatur, Neb. 68020

3

Macy Public School
Macy, Nebraska
Mar. 11, 1969

Dear President Nixon, 8770

We are pupils in the 5th Grade at Macy, Neb. We are living on the Indian Reservation and all belong to the Omaha Tribe except our Teacher, Mrs. M. W. Squires, who commutes from Decatur every day - a distance of 10 miles) whom she thinks you should know as she campaigned in your behalf as a Member of the Republican Central Committee

President Nixon, we as students would like very much for you to investigate the condition of our school Bldg. It is old and in very poor condition. We manage to get along but have three class rooms outside the main bldg., have the library across the street and have no place to accomodate any sports at all let alone space for Audio Visual Aides. Our Gym is too small for any use to us.

Also may we go on record as recommending that Robert Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He visited our Reservation during the Pow-Wow that was held last summer. He has done a real good job according to our Tribal Council and feel as though he should be kept in this particular position.

We would like very much to hear from you on these two issues.

Thank you very much for any or all consideration given to us.

Sincerely, Mrs M. W. Squire
Mrs M. W. Squires and the

Fifth Grade students.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------|
| Doreen Cook | Dena Cook | 8770 |
| Marcie Wells | Vincent Warner | |
| Walter Brent | Vincent Springer | |
| Maggie Porter | Regina Bush | |
| Elaine Gilpin | Gregory Spears | |
| Rozella McAuley | William Tremont | |
| Orlando Vargas | Everett Levering | |
| Larry Blackbird | Curtis Blackbird | |

over
2

Isma Harlan

1913 8770

Edward Cline

Marsha Grant

Oliver Fremont

Samuel Rabbiosi

Kynthia Grant

Vince Lyons

Laurence Merrick

Edwin Fremont

8770

Special file

RAB

Marchh 11, 1969

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

The members of the Cherokee Nation or Tribe of Oklahoma through the Executive Committee and Cherokee community representatives hereby record their recommendation to you that the Honorable Robert L. Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and that his policies on Indian affairs be continued.

It is the general concensus that during Mr. Bennett's administration there has been real understanding of the Indians and of their needs, and programs have been initiated with support of Indian leadership which tend to make the individuals and groups more self-reliant and self-sustaining citizens.

Your favorable consideration of this recommendation will be deeply appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

cc Principal Chief Keeler
Executive Secretary
Chairman, Community
Representatives

Principal Chief

March 11, 1969

Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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Your favorable consideration of this recommendation will be deeply appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Principal Chief

cc Principal Chief Keeler
Executive Secretary
Chairman, Community Representatives



CHEROKEE NATION

W. W. KEELER
PRINCIPAL CHIEF
1118 SO. DEWEY
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA 74003

February 19, 1969

Mr. Robert D. Dellwo
1016 Old National Bank Building
Spokane, Washington 99201

Dear Mr. Dellwo:

Thank you so very much for your letter of February 10. I am delighted to know of your support for continuing Robert Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have contacted Secretary of Interior Hickel by telephone, wire and letter urging that Mr. Bennett be retained as Commissioner. I certainly hope that this will come to pass. Again, thank you for your letter.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

WWK:AC

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

March 14, 1969

8486

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

Thank you so much for your gracious and cordial letter of March 10.

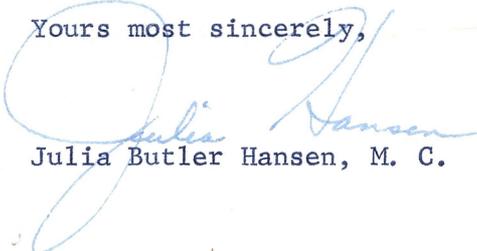
It was indeed a pleasure to have you before us, and I want to express my personal appreciation as well as that of the committee for your splendid review of so many facets of the total Indian picture.

I am so happy to have had the opportunity of working with you and I trust that I shall continue to have the opportunity.

I would like also to express my appreciation to you and the entire staff of the BIA for the cordiality and courtesy extended to me during the trip through the Navaho country.

With my warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours most sincerely,


Julia Butler Hansen, M. C.

JBH:erl

cc: ~~George Evans~~

P. S. Have you seen Robert Kastenmeier's proposal? If not, please advise and I will send you a copy.

FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

The self-styled militant Indian who took aim at the Bureau of Indian Affairs at a recent Senate Committee hearing in which the Bureau was labeled Colonialistic and a National disgrace is not only militant but ignorant as viewed from a reservation area of Indian thinking. We don't know who authorized the self-styled militant Indian to appear before the Senate Committee presided over by Senator Edward M. Kennedy. This is very unfortunate because of all the tribes in Arizona we are certain that a majority do not feel that way about the Indian Bureau.

Realistically the Indians would have to face it. They need the Indian Bureau even though some of them might cuss it out from time to time.

Indian leaders from a reservation level who are knowledgeable about many Indian problems and who have a close working arrangement with Indians will think twice before going on a rampage against the Indian Bureau or any other bureau for that matter.

Perhaps it is logical to recommend that whenever any Congressional Committee wants any information concerning Indians and other Indian questions the Committee should elicit information from tribal leaders on a reservation area for factual and more constructive advice on Indian matters. Last year Senator Paul Fannin personally visited several Indian Reservations in order to get factual information and other data on Indian Education. We think this is the way to get first hand information as it comes from Indians direct and to the point.

Perhaps we Indians from the reservations are at fault for permitting militant individuals or groups at random to get ahead of us in spreading misconceptions without actually acquiring Indian thinking and action that is more representative of the Indian people. There is a need for unity through a strong organization to represent reservation Indians and their leaders to off-set this slanted and simplistic distortions of the actual truths that are often presented by uninformed militant and hot-headed Indians.

From another front it appears that the Indians are going to be sailing through rough waters towards an unknown port. Some of us who are new in this Indian leadership have been told that under a similar administration in the past the Indians have had to fight many changes and terminal policies advocated by the administration.

Recently, when Secretary Walter Hickel was told by a group of Indians that they hoped he would retain Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett in the same capacity, he did not reply. Later when he was asked directly he was still evasive. We know that a majority of the Arizona reservations submitted resolutions asking that Mr. Bennett be retained. Naturally, we would inquire What is wrong? Is the Secretary ignoring or reversing the statements made by President Nixon on September 27, 1968, during his campaign?

In part his statements are as follows:

1. "The special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian People and the special responsibilities of the Federal Government to the Indians will be acknowledged.
2. The right of self-determination of the Indian people will be respected and their participation in planning their own destiny will actively be encouraged."

The other statements are similar with regard to self-determination decision making, increasing authority, and responsibilities over programs affecting them. These appear to be clear and understandable.

But what is wrong Mr. Secretary? Your position so far appears to be that some other person will be Commissioner. Yet Mr. Bennett the present Commissioner is ca-

pable and very competent. He has done more for the Indians in leadership and changes which has given Indian leadership and the Indians themselves more courage and determination to advance in the development of their human and natural resources. In fact he is a real Indian himself and he understands the Indians and the Indians understand him.

Mr. Secretary, let us not hide behind the bushes. If it is something else such as not being a Republican and so-forth, please let us face it squarely.

So far we have not been informed or seen where an Indian has been appointed to a responsible position in the present Administration. Maybe our own Honorable Governor of Arizona Jack Williams is of a different breed. He has some Indians working in various capacities in the State regardless of their political affiliations or party. But as for the other, perhaps this is the sort of thing that very often is the source of militancy and trouble throughout the Country.

It appears that I have reversed myself on this militant attitude of others but actually my personal feeling is that I have presented something constructive which needs to be raised for the enlightenment of those concerned. The Indians have advanced considerably within the past few years and if they are to continue they need to unite more to secure the necessary considerations for further advancement.

This doesn't necessarily mean that the Indians should resort to odious and troublesome movement to secure their need. Our position and approach has never been questionable and unpleasant in the past on previous issues and treatments. Incidentally, no other course is anticipated. All we ask is full consideration for our wish and desire to maintain and continue a good program through excellent leadership without regard to political party affiliation, color or creed.

The opinions and expressions which I feel I have been compelled to express do not represent the opinions and views of my colleagues on the Colorado River Indian Tribal Council at Parker, Arizona.

/s/ Veronica Homer Murdock
Vice-Chairman
Colorado River Indian Tribes

NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!!

NORTHERN YUMA COUNTY FAIR

The Northern Yuma County Fair is just around the corner. For all of you who are interested in the Arts and Crafts Department, you will be happy to know, Mrs. Agnes Savilla will be in charge. She has done a wonderful job in the past and I know she will again do her best. For additional information you may call her at her home. This is a good opportunity to get out and show some of **your** handiwork; We would like to have some help in setting up the booth, if some of you would like to help please let her know, I know she will be more than happy to have you help.

REMINDER!!!! REMINDER!!!! REMINDER!!!! REMINDER!!!! REMINDER!!!!

As you know the Smoke Signals are due on the 15th of every month. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday it will be out on a Monday. We would like to have all articles which are to be printed in our office at least 3 days prior to the 15th.

This issue is a special one and we hope we will not have to many for their is a lot of work involved. So please, in the future, **try** and meet the deadline.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Colorado River Agency
Parker, Arizona 85344

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Special file

1000 PM

March 24, 1969

Through: Area Director, Phoenix, Arizona

Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Forwarded for your information is a copy of the Parker Pioneer, March 6th edition of the local newspaper of Parker, Arizona. You will note that Vice Chairman Veronica Murdock of the Colorado River Tribal Council has effectively expressed her views regarding the Bureau of Indian Affairs and current Indian events.

It is my understanding that she will be sending letters to Senators Fannin, Goldwater and Kennedy, and the President of the United States regarding her views, with a request that she be given an opportunity to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

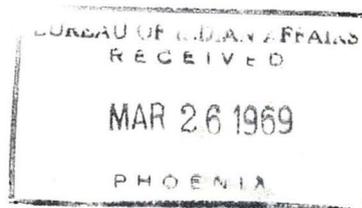
Sincerely yours,

John Artichoker Jr.
John Artichoker, Jr.
Superintendent

Enclosure



NOTED: MAR 26 1969
M. ...
.....
AREA DIRECTOR, PHOENIX





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Operations

BCCO-8282

March 25, 1969

Mrs. Veronica H. Murdock
c/o Superintendent, Colorado
River Agency
Parker, Arizona 85344

Dear Mrs. Murdock:

Secretary Hickel has asked me to thank you on his behalf for the thoughtful article you sent to him concerning Indian affairs.

You may be assured that your views will be considered as policy is developed to assist the American Indian to improve both his economic and social well-being.

Again, your interest is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Bennett
Commissioner

Thank you!

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1969

Bob:

I know you will be interested in
the attached, for your private
information.

The letter has not to my knowledge
been signed yet by the Secretary.



Newt Edwards

Attachment

*You did a great job on
the Education hearing this
morning!*

BLUE ENVELOPE

LM



INTERIOR DEPT.

STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR

MAR 25 1969

BOISE

March 22, 1969

ASSISTANT
SECRETARY
P. L. M.

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have just finished my annual Indian Advisory Council Meeting with the five American Indian Tribes that live in Idaho and they point out that our good President had made the statement that "termination of tribal recognition will not be a policy objective and in no case will it be imposed without Indian consent." I have underlined some of the statements that President Nixon made and I am sending the full text of his speech so that you will have it available.

The Indians are very concerned about Commissioner Bennett and want him to remain in the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Commissioner Bennett tells me that he is a lifelong Republican, he is registered as a Republican in Alaska, and in fact contributed to your campaign, and was co-chairman of one of the Inaugural Committees of Mr. Nixon's Inauguration. He has not increased the personnel under his direct jurisdiction in the Indian Affairs Department and has plans to cut the personnel by five thousand people in the next five years. He believes that this is imperative to good efficiency in government.

Commissioner Bennett attended the meeting here in Boise and it was very apparent that the Indians in the Northwest have a great deal of confidence and respect for Mr. Bennett. I sincerely urge that every consideration be given to the wishes of our real good Indians in the Northwest. I have seen a good deal of progress in the two years I have been associated with them and feel much of the credit belongs to the leadership of this man and the respect that the Indians have for him.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

DON SAMUELSON
GOVERNOR

DS:hk



United States Department of the Interior *RFB*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Special file

Dear Governor Samuelson:

I appreciated very much hearing from you following your annual meeting with the Indian Advisory Council representing the five tribes living in Idaho.

Please tell your Indian citizens I am very much in accord with the statement on Indian matters made by President Nixon on September 27, 1968, including the pledge you especially called to my attention on Indian consent to any termination of tribal recognition. I am sure you will recall my own special interest in the Indian people that the President referred to in announcing my appointment as Secretary of the Interior.

Your comment that the Indian people have made a good deal of progress in the past two years you have been associated with them is most encouraging. I am determined to do all in my power to assure that they have a brighter future, but it will most certainly take the combined efforts of the Indians themselves, the help and friendship of their non-Indian neighbors, and state and local governments.

I was particularly interested in the comments you passed on to me that the Indians have a great deal of confidence in and respect for Commissioner Bennett and would like to have him continue as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Such confidence is not easily earned in this difficult work.

It is very helpful to receive this kind of information and reaction from people such as yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Don Samuelson
Governor
State of Idaho
Boise, Idaho 83702

NWEdwards:gmm:3/27/69

cc: Secretary's Reading File (2)
LIA
LM
IM--Newt Edwards (2)
DCCO

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