

RLBennett:emh 5/9/69

STATEMENT FOR THE INDIAN RECORD
JUNE ISSUE

This is my farewell message as Commissioner of Indian Affairs to all of you who have been so generous in your support and cooperation.

When I accepted the position of Commissioner it was with full knowledge that some day I might be asked to step aside. Now that this time has come, it is time for reflection.

The years in the Bureau of Indian Affairs have been wonderful ones to me. They have given me the opportunity to work with you, make many wonderful friends, and support my family. For these and other reasons, the Bureau of Indian Affairs always will have my loyal support. Recollection of many enjoyable experiences will be a source of future pleasure. Throughout my career of 36 years from clerk to Commissioner, I have had help and encouragement from many sources. My main security throughout all these years has been the steadfast support and confidence of the Indian people. For this I always will be most grateful.

One of my joys has been the wonderful people and associates in the Bureau. While we have joined in partnership with Indian people to chart a new direction based upon their hopes and aspirations, yet so much remains to be done. I regret that I will not be with you as you carry on in the

new spirit and understanding which exists between the Bureau and the Indian people we serve.

I want to mention also the many other people and organizations that have helped make my career so rewarding and to say many, many thanks to them.

So to all of you my heartfelt appreciation. To my successor, my very best wishes and I commend to him the staff of dedicated people whose mission is service to Indian people.

To the Indian people who have been so generous in their support, so patient and understanding of my faults, and so appreciative of my efforts, I pledge my continuing interest and concern. I look forward with enthusiasm to working with you in the future.

noted
RFB

THE AMERINDIAN

AMERICAN INDIAN REVIEW

May-June, 1969

FLASH NEWS

Despite assurances from the new administration that Indian wishes would be given consideration, and despite hundreds of letters, wires, resolutions, and editorial comments from Indians and Indian groups urging that Robert L. Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, this has not taken place.

Mr. Bennett will remain in Indian work, though not in Government service and Indians, by their own say-so, have "lost the best Commissioner they ever had." Too bad! The new commissioner is not yet announced.

• • • •

N. Scott Momaday, Kiowa Indian professor of English at the University of California, has been awarded a Pulitzer prize for his first novel—*House of Dawn*. He is the first Indian to win this coveted award.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

OFFICE OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
THE COMMISSIONER

6/2/69

RLB:

What is there to say?

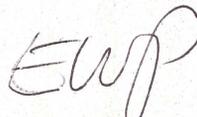
From your swearing-in at the White House over three years ago to your retirement two days ago, it has been an invigorating, interesting, and enjoyable experience working for you. You have been a considerate boss, with a consistent even temper and consistent good humor.

You have also been a notable Commissioner. In your earliest statements to Bureau employees and Indian people, you reiterated your desire to bring about a genuine partnership with the Indian leadership. I think you succeeded. To an extent never known before, both the Indian people and the Bureau of Indian Affairs feel that a partnership does exist. It may be temporarily slowed down, or even halted for a time, but this new attitude will never be turned back. This is your monument as Commissioner.

You were given a rare opportunity that no BIA career civil servant ever had before -- to cap your career with the highest post in the organization, that of Commissioner. You did it commendably, and you outlasted the only other Indian Commissioner by almost a year!

A fringe benefit for me in working for you has been to get to know Cleota so well. She is a unique, wonderful person who complements you in every way.

Our very best to both of you, always.


EWP



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 2, 1969

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

Dear Bob,

I see you have made that big decision. I am sure that whatever you have decided to do from now on you will do well.

It is really going to seem different after you have gone because I have felt that the door to your office has always been open to me. I shall always remember those lovely compliments you have betowen upon me over the years that I have known you.

The best of luck and good wishes go out to you in whatever you do from one good Oneida to another.

*Lots of
Luck
Lillian*



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 2, 1969

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

A lot of years have passed since that day in February 1951 when you plucked Katherine Hogner (now Green) and Rosabelle Wungnema (now Robinson) from HI and took us off to that paradise called the Aberdeen Area Office--in the middle of winter yet. I still remember how you told us, as we approached every two-building crossroads, "there's Aberdeen" and then grinned slyly at our consternation. By the time we arrived at that slightly larger crossroads town, we were well acquainted with the Bennett humor. I've enjoyed it immensely ever since.

I feel very deeply the great common regret that you will not continue to serve as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Along with the others, I hoped against hope that you would stay.

The work that you have accomplished in bringing the Indian people into partnership with the Bureau is now a strong under-current which can only continue to carry the new Commissioner. We can never go back to what has been. And, having had such a particularly close interest in your career, I am very proud to have known you and to have been a part of the Bureau while you were working to effect this change.

I know that you will continue your work for the Indian people so that we are not really losing you. That is our only consolation.

My best wishes to you and to Mrs. Bennett as you begin another chapter in your life. I am sure that it will be an exciting one.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Robinson".

Rose Robinson

3805 Windom Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20016



AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY
of
WASHINGTON, D.C.

519 Fifth Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003
June 2, 1969

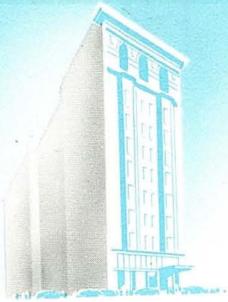
Dear Mr. Bennett,

On behalf of the American Indian Society, I want to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck in whatever the future holds for you. We have enjoyed our association with you and will miss the support and encouragement that you have given us in the past three years. We hope that we will be able to continue the association. We are enclosing the letter that we wrote to the Secretary of the Interior regarding your reappointment as Commissioner. The letter was withdrawn after we learned that you were definitely planning to retire. The list of the persons who supported the Society's action in writing the letter is also enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Mitchell L. Bush, Jr.
Mitchell L. Bush, Jr.
President

Enclosures



CARTWRIGHT HOTEL

524 SUTTER STREET AT POWELL • TELEPHONE 421-2865

San Francisco, Calif., 94102

June 6, 1969

Dear Mr Bennett,

I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your support in my effort to obtain the Area Property and Supply Office position in Juneau. I was not selected, however, your support meant very much to Helen and I. We want you to know it was deeply appreciated. Naturally I am deeply disappointed at the turn of events as I felt I had the qualifications, experience and the feel for the job. A fellow named Harold Witten was selected who was formerly under my supervision. We all have our problems and it seems I have had a good share of my own, but thank God I made an excellent recovery from my heart attack. If it were not for the many fine people it has been our pleasure to be associated with during our tenure with the BJA, I sometimes think it is not worth fighting the battle any more. Despite everything, Helen and I still believe in the BJA and take great pride in our small contribution for the betterment of our



CARTWRIGHT HOTEL

524 SUTTER STREET AT POWELL • TELEPHONE 421-2865

Indian people not only working for the Bta,
but also as Alaskan citizens of long
standing. So much for that.

We are now in ^{San Francisco, Calif., 94109} San Francisco for a
short vacation after which we will be
in Seattle for about 10 days and plan
on returning to Juneau before the end of the
month.

As I mentioned in our telephone
conversation, Helen and I wish you all
the success and happiness in your retirement
which we are sure will be an active one.
We shall miss you and hope our paths
will cross again. Perhaps you will have
an opportunity to visit Alaska again. We
certainly hope so.

With best personal wishes to you and
your wonderful family

Sincerely yours,

Bill, Helen & Linda
Dapcevic

Box 884
Juneau

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN E. HINES
PRESIDING BISHOP, EPISCOPAL CHURCH



815 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

June 6, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Of course it is a great disappointment to us to know that we will not have you as our Executive Officer for the Commission on American Indian Leadership but all of us are grateful to you for giving the matter serious consideration and for taking your time to come and visit with us.

We will continue to look for the most competent and dedicated assistance we can find in this area and will be grateful to you for suggestions you might care to make. Your assurance of continuing support for this Church's program for the Commission on American Indian Leadership we value, and I trust our paths will cross again.

Warm personal regards.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John E. Hines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

John E. Hines
PRESIDING BISHOP

JEH/ml

cc: The Rt. Rev. S. F. Bayne, Jr.
Mr. Walker Taylor, Jr.
The Rev. J. Woodard

6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034
June 3, 1969

The Right Reverend John E. Hines
Presiding Bishop
Episcopal Church
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Bishop Hines:

I wish to apologize for the long delay in responding to your kind offer of April 25, 1969, to be associated with the Episcopal Church as Executive Officer for a new Commission on American Indian Leadership.

One of the reasons for the delay in replying to you is because of my previous uncertain status which was clarified on May 31 when I applied for retirement from my position rather than continuing as Commissioner on a day-to-day basis, unable to make any future plans.

Another reason for the delay was to give conscientious and full consideration to the generous offer in your letter of April 25.

After full consideration of all the merits, along with the personal future plans of Mrs. Bennett and myself, I regret that I can not accept your offer. You may be assured, however, that both Mrs. Bennett and I will continue to support the Episcopal Church in its efforts to develop the program for the Commission on American Indian Leadership, particularly when we move to the Southwest United States next Spring.

With deep appreciation for all the courtesies and consideration shown me, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Bennett

RLB/bhr

THE RT. REV. JOHN E. HINES
PRESIDING BISHOP, EPISCOPAL CHURCH



815 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

April 25, 1969

The Hon. Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

My dear Mr. Bennett:

Your visit with me, Bishop Bayne, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Woodard on Wednesday was most impressive and I appreciate the time you gave us and the insights into what this Church should aim to do in conjunction with American Indian people.

My colleagues and I take the need for higher priority and new directions in Indian affairs for this and other churches with utmost seriousness. We need the best leadership we can obtain, and I believe that is you.

I write specifically to ask you to assume the role of Executive Officer for a new Commission on American Indian Leadership. Our present thinking is that the Commission would be composed of fifteen American Indian and Eskimo persons nominated to me by you in consultation with as many Indian and Eskimo people as proves feasible. It will also include five bishops in whose jurisdictions live major concentrations of Indian and Eskimo people.

I envision seven primary tasks for the work:

1. To define and recommend specific new styles, programs and directions for the work of the churches, especially the Episcopal Church, with and among American Indian and Eskimo people.
2. To find and implement ways of bringing American Indian and Eskimo people into full voice and participation in decision making at every level of Church and society.
3. Greatly to increase the number of American Indian and Eskimo priests.
4. To develop more effective ecumenical cooperation among the churches in Indian affairs.

5. To discover and implement ways of more adequately funding and coalescing the work of churches, foundations and government among American Indian and Eskimo people.
6. To strengthen the advocacy role of the churches in Indian affairs.
7. To guide the administration of the Indian programs and budgets of the Episcopal Church at the national level.

I would want you to help me find and employ a promising young Indian person to serve as a member of Executive Council staff and to be your day-to-day liaison with that staff in order that our human resources and skills might be available as needed to aid you and your work.

Your office and supportive services such as secretarial assistance would be located in the Episcopal Church Center in New York. Although you would report directly to me, your direct connection with the Executive Council line organization would be with Mr. Walker Taylor, Director of Service to Dioceses. My own office door and that of Bishop Bayne would always be open to you.

Your remuneration would be \$25,000 per annum. Your expenses such as travel in connection with the work of the Commission would, of course, be paid by Executive Council.

I would like you to carry this responsibility until after the Episcopal Church's Triennial General Convention in October of 1973, at which time you and I would reassess the situation and come to a conclusion as to your role and relationship after that time.

Let me emphasize that all of this is intended to give you the shape of my present thinking and a definite call to which you can respond as your situation in the government develops. None of it is finally fixed and I would expect that we would want to discuss specifics further if you prove able to do so. Either Mr. Taylor or Mr. Woodard would be glad to come to Washington as my emissary if you should indicate any desire for that.

Finally, I must confess to considerable ambivalence about your future. On the one hand, I shall be disappointed in the judgment of the President should he not re-affirm your appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But, on the other hand, I want you to give your full capacities to the leadership of the churches, especially this Church, in their mission and ministry to and among American Indian and Eskimo peoples.

May God's will be the final determinant.

Faithfully yours,



John E. Hines
PRESIDING BISHOP

cc: The Rt. Rev. Stephen F. Bayne, Jr.
The Rev. G. H. Jack Woodard
Mr. Walker Taylor, Jr.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

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ROBERT L BENNETT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1951 CONSTITUTION AVE NORTHWEST WASHDC

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR BELATED THANKS AND APPRECIATEION FOR THE GREAT SERVICE YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR PEOPLE IN THESE YEARS PAST.

YOUR DEPARTURE FROM THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS IS A BLOW TO THE AMERICAN INDIANS ALEUT AND ESKIMO THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT YOUR YEARS BE FRUITFUL AND HAPPY. YOUR SERVICE TO OUR CAUSE HAS EARNED YOU THIS MANY TIMES OVER. THANK YOU

PAUL YOUNG PRESIDENT ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD ANCHORAGE CAMP NUMBER 33.

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JUN 9 7 44 AM '69

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

June 6, 1969

Hon. Robert L. Bennett
c/o Commissioners Anonymous
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Madison Coombs just handed me the Commentary on the testimony before the Senate Indian Education Committee.

This is extremely good material. Yet here it is buried in a place that may never get printed. This paper deserves the widest dissemination.

Anyway, for the historical record, I want you to know that it is a real good job. I am saving it anyway, for possible future use.

Regards,

Will Rogers, Jr.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

June 3, 1969

Mrs. Robert Bennett
6015 Landan Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

Attached is the list of addresses and information on the gifts presented last evening. Also enclosed are a few items submitted for Commissioner Bennett's book which did not get in. Perhaps you may want to have them for his records.

If you have any questions on any other names and addresses I may have missed, please let me know. My number is 343-8879.

Sincerely

Rose Robinson

Enclosures

Addresses not included in letters:

Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program, Inc. (staff sent card)
P. O. Box D, Sisseton, South Dakota 57262

Arnold Lehlback, c/o Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
P. O. Box 7007, Phoenix, Arizona 85011

Kenneth C. Crites, c/o Intermountain School, Brigham City, Utah 84302

George and Lillian LaVedure, c/o Billings Area Office, 316 No. 26th St.,
Billings, Mont., 59101

Gordon Gunderson, Chilocco School, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chilocco,
Oklahoma 74635

Elijah Smith, 4055 Mescale Road, Riverside, California, 92504

Francis Wyashet, Chairman, Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Council,
c/o Yintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ft. Duchesne,
Utah 84026

Gifts received at dinner:

Set of Hopi overlay pieces from Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Indian
Affairs, P. O. Box 7007, Phoenix, Arizona 85011

Dance shawl from Anadarko Area Office, ~~Fed~~ Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Federal Building, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Candleholders from Indian Affairs Data Center, P. O. Box 2026, Albuquerque,
New Mexico 87103 (also book from the computer).

Painting of Mt. McKinley from Anchorage Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
P. O. Box 120, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Pendleton Blanket from Portland Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
P. O. Box 3785, Portland, Oregon 97208

Fishing gear from Superintendents in Portland Area c/o above address.

Carved antler from Juneau Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Box 3-8000, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Framed drawings of Commissioner Bennett from Central Office staff

Navajo Blanket - Navajo Area office

Black Hills gold - Aberdeen area



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD OFFICE
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET, ROOM 2404
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

June 10, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I was glad to see you during the Economic Development Conference at Rapid City last month. Enclosed are some pictures I took of you at the conference -- thought you would like to have them as a memento.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert N. Huey
Officer-in-Charge

Enclosures 2



United States Senate

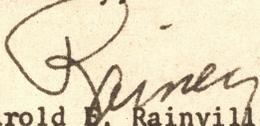
June 11, 1969

Mrs. Marion E. Grindley
Executive Secretary Indian Council Fire
1263 West Pratt Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Dear Marion:

Lou Bruce would make a very good appointment but I am sorry that Bennett is not going to take either position. Yours is the first information I have had to that effect and, while I am sure it is right, I hope it will be corrected. I am passing your note on to the Senator, personally. Maybe he can still help.

Sincerely,


Harold B. Rainville
Special Assistant to
SENATOR EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSE

Chicago Office
Room 1758
U. S. Courthouse

HER:cwb

MILTON R. YOUNG
NORTH DAKOTA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 13, 1969

Dear Bob,

My office staff has advised me that you stopped by to offer your condolences over the death of Mrs. Young.

This certainly was thoughtful of you, and very much appreciated. To be remembered by friends like you is most comforting.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Milton R. Young", written over a horizontal line.

MILTON R. YOUNG

Mr. Robert Bennett
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20023

DOMINGO MONTOYA

SANDIA PUEBLO
Chairman

RAMOS SANCHEZ
SAN ILDEFONSO PUEBLO
Vice-Chairman

ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL

Representing the Nineteen New Mexico Pueblos

Home Address

P. O. BOX 262

BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO 87004

VICTOR SARRACINO

LAGUNA PUEBLO
Secretary

BENNY ALENCIO
SAN DOMINGO PUEBLO
Treasurer

(Office) 907 Indian School Rd., N.W.

• Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

• Telephone 505-242-1891

June 17, 1969

Mr. Robert Bennett
American Learning Systems Inc.
1025 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Bob:

We have just been informed that a deed has been signed by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs transferring 11.6 acres of the Albuquerque Indian School to the New Mexico Pueblos. On behalf of the All Indian Pueblo Council, I should like to thank you for all your help in bringing this dream closer to reality. This has been a long and difficult process, but we believe that the end result will justify the energy devoted by so many friends.

We will next begin developing the final plans for the Pueblo Cultural Center which we hope to build on this property. We feel certain that we can rely on your advice and assistance in the future stages of this project.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,


Domingo Montoya

DM/iv

*Verof - BOT
Don R.
Bennett mtg.
Tue.*

Indians Hold 'Red Capitalism' Meeting

By ROBERT A. WRIGHT

A hundred and twenty American Indians are in town to talk business.

The National Congress of American Indians, representing 350,000 members of 105 tribes, is conducting an exhibition and briefing session in the New Yorker Hotel for businessmen in an effort to attract private investment in the reservations.

Wendell Chino, president of the congress, calls it "red capitalism." Mr. Chino reported at a lunch that attracted some 150 industrialists yesterday that over the last five years, 159 new enterprises have been started on reservations, with an investment of \$100-million from industry.

Such companies as the General Dynamics Corporation, Levi Strauss & Co., and the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company have invested in businesses producing such products as electronic components, tufted carpeting, garments, furniture, plastic pipe and toys.

This investment by American industry will double to \$200-million by 1973, Mr. Chino predicted. "Our increasing proficiency at industrial tasks, our growing inventory of industrial parks and improved transportation links, and most of all our desire to help ourselves, will enable us to meet this goal," he said.

Mr. Chino reported that



Walter Doyle of Texaco, Inc., was one of the businessmen visiting National Congress of American Indians investment luncheon and exhibition at New Yorker yesterday. Purpose was to interest business in investment on Indian land.

the 159 new reservation businesses had created 5,500 jobs and would be employing 10,000 Indians when full production is reached. Indian

unemployment is 40 per cent of the work force, with 50,000 out of work and a third of those employed working

Continued on Page 66, Column 1

INDIANS DISCUSS 'RED CAPITALISM'

Continued From Page 59

part time. Family income is below \$2,000 a year.

Marvin L. Franklin, an Indian and director of special cooperative project for the Phillips Petroleum Company, described in a speech to the gathering the growing desire of Indians to own and operate manufacturing enterprises.

Example of Enterprise

Mr. Franklin held out Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc., of Stilwell, Okla., as an example of tribal enterprise. This company, wholly owned by Indians, is producing electronic components for the Western Electric Company under a three-year contract.

Western Electric is providing the technology and skill training and Phillips is furnishing management training. The company opened shop 60 days ago with equipment lent to it by Western Electric and Phillips.

"At one time," Mr. Franklin declared, "we proudly pointed to the keen manual dexterity as an outstanding feature (of Indians) but now we can proudly tell you that judgment and intellect are the leading characteristics of our Indian employees. I urge you to consider a growing partnership, a partnership with the American Indian."

Robert A. Podesta, assistant secretary of the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce, described Federal programs available to help in establishing reservation business.



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

INCORPORATED

NATIONAL OFFICE

GILBERT F. WHITE, Chairman
HENRY J. CADBURY, Honorary Chairman
BRONSON P. CLARK, Executive Secretary

North Central Regional Office

4211 GRAND AVENUE, DES MOINES, IOWA 50312
Area Code 515 274-0453

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

JANET SOUIRES, Chairman
CECIL E. HINSHAW, Executive Secretary

June 20, 1969

Mr. Robert Bennett
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is our check for \$74.55 in payment of your one-way fare to Des Moines for the visit to the Mesquakie Indians.

It was a real privilege to have you spend the day with us and to get reacquainted with you and I think your visit to the Mesquakies made a real contribution.

On the following Friday, John Hedges and I went up to Minnesota and spent several hours with Mr. Morken and Mr. Melcher. It developed that they were planning to go to Tama this past Wednesday and arrange a contract with the South Tama School District, acting on what they believed was the authority given to them by the ^{Council} Sag and Fox Tribal Resolution a few weeks ago.

I have not yet heard the results of their visit to Tama but I believe they delayed the arrangement of a contract and the matter is under review. Mr. Morken spoke very highly of you, Bob, and I think we do feel his presence in the office there will be an asset in our work with the Mesquakies. He told me he was deeply interested in bi-lingual work and this aspect of our planning seemed to appeal to him.

We should know in a few days whether the school will be operated by a Mesquakie-chosen school board or by the South Tama School District. Even if it is another year of operation by the South Tama School District, it will not rule out the operation of the school by the Mesquakies another year. Also, a strong recommendation would be made by the BIA for the South Tama School District to appoint a member of the Mesquakie Tribe to sit on the school board, and also a request would be made to institute some Indian culture studies. I believe too that the AFSC will likely have a role regardless of which the way the decision goes.

Again, our warm thanks for your cooperation and our best wishes to you in your new work. Please do plan to stop and see us whenever you can in the course of your travels.

Cordially,

Cecil E. Hinshaw

CEH:mjb
Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Bennett:

In your letter of May 1, 1969, you offer your resignation as Commissioner of Indian Affairs effective May 31, 1969. Your resignation is hereby accepted as of the date indicated.

Mr. Bennett, your long career in the service of your government and of your own race are gratefully acknowledged. You have provided an example of dedicated public service as well as an inspiration to all Indian people.

Please accept my best wishes to you in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Nixon", written in a cursive style.

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

File



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY 84112

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
OFFICE: 1129 ANNEX

June 30, 1969

Robert L. Bennett
Room 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I want to thank you for your presentation to the Indian Workshop of the School of Alcohol Studies. Your address on the needs of the Indian people was very good and set up a framework for developing an Indian Alcoholism program.

I believe the school was a successful one and appreciate your efforts to help make it successful.

Sincerely,

Fenton Moss

Fenton E. Moss
Associate Professor

FEM/pas

Camden, Maine
5th July, 1969

Dear Mr. Bennett,

It was with sad regret that I read today of your resignation -

But, I do not blame you. Under the same circumstances, I would have done the same.

I see that you are an Oneida, from Wisconsin -

I'm not familiar with the Oneida Tribe, but I am with the Cherokees of North Carolina. They were chased from the Coast (near Beine, on the Neuse River) to the Territory now known as the Great Smoky^{Mountains} National Park. (Then, before the Park was created, they were chased to the Oklahoma Territory -
(over)

(9.)

But, a lot of them refused to leave the hills of Western N.C., and ~~there~~ they are ^{there} today. "Cherokee Village," a sight-seeing town.

I see that Sec. HICKEL decided to replace you. Well, In my book, he's a Phony. No doubt, he's name a man who will represent Washington against the Indian nation, and not the Indians, Trying to get justice from the U.S. Government.

I'm up here now on Penobscot Bay, Me., once owned by the Penobscot Indians - I think they were chased into Canada.

But, I'll be back soon in North Carolina, the original home of the Cherokee Tribe -

Sincerely Yours,

William G. Womble Jr.

Rt. 1, Box 665,
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

PS - I've been told I'm 1/4 Cherokee, the rest Welch + French.

from Santa Cruz, Calif.
July 6, 69

MRS. RUTH K. HEINEMANN
990 ALICE LANE, APT. 7
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94027

Dear Bob -

I meant to write you when you received the appointment as Commissioner for I was pleased + delighted for you that you were to have a continuing opportunity in that position to work for + with Indian people.

Now, I can only join with your many friends + coworkers to regret the turn of events which you found making your resignation necessary.

I wish you continued success in your work. I am glad to have seen the beginning when we started in Aberdeen in 1950 - With all my good wishes,

Cordially

Ruth K. Heinemann

Dunedin, Florida 33528
1038 Angle Road
July 8, 1969

Washington Evening Star
Washington D. C.

Att: Forum Editor

Gentlemen:

It is regrettable that the Secretary of the Interior has not seen fit to reappoint Mr. Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. As a result of his long and varied experience as a career employee he understood thoroughly the problems of the Indians and put worthwhile programs into effect.

A feature detrimental to the Indians has been the appointment of inexperienced individuals as Commissioners. It would be advantageous if the Commissioner could be appointed for a term of at least ten years so that he could fashion and work out sound programs. Since this is not permitted by law it would seem desirable to appoint an experienced career employee to this difficult position. The friends of the Indians and the Indians should make their voices heard in this respect.

Sincerely

Harold F. Larkin
Harold F. Larkin

*copy sent to Secretary of Interior
near Bob;*

your action in resigning shows

*you have the courage of your convictions
You did an excellent job as Commissioner.*

Best wishes to you & your family.

*We expect to be back in the
Washington area this fall or by
the latest next April.*

Sincerely yours

Harold F. Larkin

July 10, 1969

Senator George Murphy
Senate Bldg.
Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Murphy:

When the present administration took office, I noted with great pleasure that an American Indian, Robert L. Bennett, was named Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Several days ago, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner in a front page article, indicated that Mr. Bennett found it necessary to resign because of an irresponsible statement by Secretary Walter J. Hickel stating that the department "does not need new Indian programs - but new men to run them."

I feel that this is a most unfortunate turn of events. When an American Indian who thinks enough of the progress and welfare of his people as a whole to remain with the Bureau for 33 years and then is forced to resign because of another "foot in mouth" statement by Hickel, I'm sure you will have to agree that this is a ridiculous situation.

I have traveled extensively throughout the reservations of Arizona and New Mexico and was married to an Apache from New Mexico (who, incidentally worked for the motion picture industry). I have seen and heard their problems first-hand. What they need is an American Indian in Washington who also knows their problems. Now, I suppose Mr. Bennett will be replaced by some non-Indian from Connecticut or Kansas who has never been within 10 miles of a reservation.

In spite of the shameful treatment by our government over a period of years, I can honestly say that there is no group more patriotic than the American Indian. They have served this country with honor and many have been heroes in all branches of the military service. Yet, they are not "militants" with their own country or government.

Surely, Senator Murphy, you and Senator Goldwater of Arizona (the state with the largest Indian population) should be able to exert some influence on behalf of the real Americans - The American Indian.

I shall look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Marielouise Sunrise
P.O. Box 492
Woodland Hills, Calif., 91364

cc: / Robert L. Bennett

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 14 3 57 PM '69



Telegram

135P PDT JUL 15 69 PRB106

PR CAA019 (NW SNA065 GE GOVT NL PDB SN WASHINGTON DC 15
MR ROBERT L BENNETT FORMER COMMISSIONER F INDIAN AFFAIRS (DLY
75)

HOLIDAY ROOM COEUR D'ALENE HOTEL SPOKANE WASH
REGRET UNABLE TO ATTEND DINNER HONORING MY FRIEND ROBERT L
BENNETT. KNOW YOU WILL HAVE OUTSTANDING EVENT. PLEASE EXTEND
MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO MR BENNETT AS WELL AS ALL THOSE ATTENDING
SATURDAY EVENT.

HENRY M JACKSON USS.



Telegram

Duplicate of telephoned telegram

1021A PDT JUL 18 69 PRA137
PR SKA056 (PR OLA069) JW NL PD OLYMPIA WASH 17
ROBERT BENNETT, CARE GLENN GALBRAITH

SPOKANE TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNOR INDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WELLPINIT SUB AGENCY WELLPINIT WASH

ALL OF US WHO ARE FRIENDS OF THE INDIANS IN OUR STATE ARE SORRY
TO HAVE YOU LEAVE AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. YOUR SENSITIVITY
TO INDIAN NEEDS AND WELL BEING - ALONG WITH YOUR PHILOSOPHY
OF ENCOURAGING THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF OUR AMERICAN INDIAN
CITIZENS HAS ENHANCED THEIR PRIDE, DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY MY
BEST WISHES FOR YOUR FUTURE
GOVERNOR DANIEL J EVANS.

3	No.	
5	By	W At 9:25 A To Glenn
7		1118

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

814 N.E. 40TH STREET, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 • ME. 2-0502



HENRY VAN DYKE
CHAIRMAN

JOHN A. SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

JOHN W. WILLARD
INTERPRETATION AND FINANCE

July 16, 1969

Robert L. Bennett

Dear Bob:

I would like very much to be able to attend personally the dinner in your honor which is being presented by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians on July 19, and to which they have graciously extended an invitation. Unfortunately I am prevented by a prior commitment which I must honor.

Mrs. Pearl Warren, whom you know, will attend in my place. She will represent me personally and the Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee in expressing our gratitude for your years of effective service in the commissionership, and in expressing also our most sincere best wishes for satisfaction and success in your future undertakings.

The period of your administration in the Bureau of Indian Affairs will go down in history as the one during which Bureau programs have been most attuned to Indians' own knowledge of their problems and most responsive to Indians' judgement of their needs. It is indeed regrettable, although not surprising, that the new federal administration has not seen fit to continue you as the commissioner. I trust that your skills and experience will still be available to American Indians.

I trust also that our paths will continue to cross from time to time as they have in the past. I have enjoyed and appreciated our various associations.

I regret not being able to be present personally at the dinner on July 19, but am pleased that Mrs. Warren will be there in my stead. I know the occasion will be a pleasant and memorable one.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles L. McEvers
Western Washington Field Worker

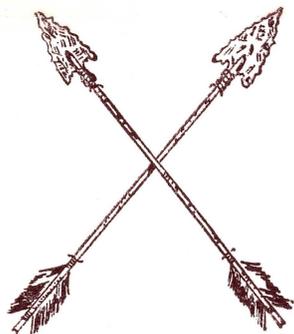
CLM:sb

Indian Festival of Arts, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation since 1961

P. O. Box 193

LA GRANDE, OREGON



Symbol of Friendship

July 16, 1969

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OF DIRECTORS**

(Indian majority maintained)

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- Oregon Federation of Women's
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Mr. Robert Bennett
Coeur d' Alene Hotel
Spokane, Washington 99200

Dear Mr. Bennett,

We have been informed of the testimonial in your honor to be held Saturday, July 19th in Spokane. It would be a real privilege if we could be there personally, but unfortunately this is impossible.

It gives us a sense of satisfaction and pleasure to have this opportunity to add our thoughts and commendations to those of your myriads of other friends. It is with the most profound sincerity that we express our appreciation for your wise and capable leadership, the influence you have exerted in behalf of your people and for the respect you command from our country's citizens of many different origins.

In behalf of this corporation, its officers, directors and trustees, we most heartily wish you continued success in your efforts, which though seemingly unduly interrupted, will we are confident prevail.

Most sincerely,

Indian Festival of Arts, Inc.

By *Gladys B. Price*
Gladys B. Price
Exec. Director

T E L E G R A M

July 18, 1969

JOE MENINICK,
YAKIMA AGENCY,
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

IN BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES TRUST PLEASE CONVEY
TO MR. BENNETT OUR BEST WISHES AND DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF HIS SERVICE
TO INDIANS DURING HIS LONG CAREER IN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PASCHAL SHERMAN,
Chairman

ROBERT B. JIM,
Vice-Chairman

message received by phone from
Mr. Sherman 7/18/69 about 9 a.m.
by mo

ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA., CHAIRMAN

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COTYS M. MOUSER, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 18, 1969

Dear Bob:

I certainly appreciate your writing to me to advise me of your current status.

Bob, I wish you the very best and invite you to call on me whenever you feel that I can be helpful. I have admired the dedication of your service as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and know that your clients are very fortunate people.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



George McGovern

Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on Indian Affairs
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036



Jointly Sponsored by: University of Utah • Utah State Board on Alcoholism • Utah Alcoholism Foundation
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O. BOX 473, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84110

July 18, 1969

Mr. Robert Bennett
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Dept. of Interior
1951 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

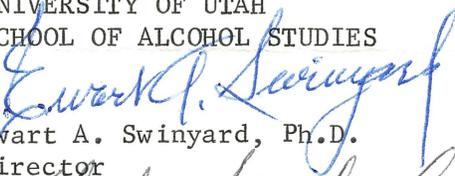
The Officers and Planning Committee of the University of Utah School of Alcohol Studies wish to thank you for the fine contribution which you made to the 18th Annual Session of the School. A total of 773 students attended the School this year and from all reports, academic quality surpassed previous sessions. This is a tribute to you and the other program participants.

We sincerely appreciate the time taken from your busy schedule to serve on the School staff. It was a pleasure to have you with us.

Our best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely yours,

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SCHOOL OF ALCOHOL STUDIES


Ewart A. Swinyard, Ph.D.
Director


Clyde Gooderham
Associate Director

CG:hb

JUL 20 3 05 PM '69

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

NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS

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STAFF DIRECTOR AND CLERK

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

House of Representatives, U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 18, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
American Learning Systems Co., Inc.
Suite 715 Blake Building
1025 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20039

Dear Mr. Bennett: *Bob*

Thank you for your letter of July 15, 1969. I wish
you every success in your new ventures.

Sincerely,

Jim
James A. Haley, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian Affairs

STATEMENT OF THE YAKIMA INDIAN NATION
RE: RETENTION OF ROBERT L. BENNETT
AS COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, on April 27, 1966 proposed a new Congressional Indian Policy Statement when Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs was considering the nomination of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in April, 1966. The Senate Committee members were pressuring Mr. Bennett; whose hearts' were set on termination of Federal Supervision over Indian Reservations as rapidly as possible before they would confirm his appointment.

Mr. Bennett tried to avoid direct answers to termination but statements may have been made to merely satisfy some Senators' but they were also read by many Indian people who looked with distrust at the new Commissioner, and some even claimed that if he had the best interest of his people at heart he should not have taken a job that the Senate had tried to tie so many "termination" strings to. Yet many Indian people began to feel new hope later in the year when they saw their Commissioner and his staff travel around the country to attend regional meetings with Tribal leaders and members to find out just what they wanted in the way of programs and legislation.

On April 27, 1966, President Johnson said, "In 1966, the year that is known as the most prosperous year that the United States of America ever enjoyed, Indians on reservations this year have the lowest living conditions in the United States-- Commissioner Bennett, your President thinks the time has come to put the first Americans first on our agenda. We are going to give you that job this morning as soon as you are sworn in. From this hour forward we are going to look to you to discharge that responsibility--I want (the program) to be sound, progressive, venturesome and far sighted". Senator George McGovern, South Dakota after quoting the President to his colleagues on October 13th said, "In view of these inspiring remarks from our Chief Executive, I deem it timely and essential that Congress consider a new Indian Policy statement which will demonstrate to all citizens of the nations desire to overcome the depressing situation so vividly described by the President".

On July 11, 1966, Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs submitted his first 90-day report to Senator Henry M. Jackson as requested in Executive report #1 from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs accompanying his nomination as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The Committee asked that it be advised within 90 days following confirmation last April 13th the steps taken to begin to meet the problems outlined in the Senate report. In the President's remarks made when Mr. Bennett was sworn in as Commissioner of Indian Affairs he gave particular attention to future goals and programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These reports and other questions basic to the solutions of the Indian problems have been made, but if a new Commissioner is nominated and approved by the new Republican Administration all promises, programs and goals will be forgotten.

Statement made by Richard M. Nixon, 450 Park Avenue, New York City, September 27, 1968; in part quote, "A brighter future for the American Indian" and "The sad plight of the American Indian is a stain on the honor of the American people".

Historically, these native Americans who shared the first Thanksgiving and guided restless explorers' across the American Continent have been deprived of their ancestral lands and reduced by unfair federal policies and demanding paternalism to the status of powerless wards of the confused "Great White Father".

To help the Indian people reach the goals that they themselves have set and will set, my administration will be pledged to the following policies:

1. The special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian people and the special responsibilities of the Federal Government to the Indian people will be acknowledged.
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.
3. The economic development of Indian Reservations will be encouraged and the training of the Indian people for meaningful employment on and off reservation will be a high priority item.
4. The administration of federal programs effecting Indians will be carefully studied to provide maximum efficiency constant with program continuity.
5. Improvement of Health Service to the Indian people will be a high priority effort of my administration.

The Indian people have long endured deprivation and hardship while respecting the processes of orderly change. Many of them have risen above these handicaps to attain positions of prominence in American Society. My administration will be responsive to their patient plea's and will aid them to live in prosperity, dignity and honor. (signed: Richard M. Nixon).

With these statements of the Presidents in mind, we the American Indians through our Indian Organizations now working for the general welfare of Indian people, attempting to create opportunities in order to give the power of choice to the Indian people, helping the Indian people speak with a unified voice so that its voice will be heard, and attempting to gain for Indian people the right of self-determination of its own destiny, to achieve the right to freedom of choice by re-dedicating our own principles and resolutions.

Therefore, we re-submit and re-affirm and support our position as submitted by resolution #7 of the NCAI Convention assembled in Omaha, Nebraska, September 24-27, 1968 urging the retention of Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the Nixon Administration and call upon friends of the American Indians to support our position.

The Yakima Tribal Council of the Yakima Indian Nation established and recognized by the Treaty of June 9, 1855, with the United States and ratified by the Senate in 1859 and recognized as a sovereign nation passed a resolution T-31-69 on January 8, 1969 recognizing that 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-determination, self-help and self-improvements. That our appreciation and gratitude and confidence 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 and to continue as Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the new republican administration.

DATED

July 19, 1969

Joe Meninick, Secretary
Yakima Tribal Council of the Yakima Indian Nation

KARL E. MUNDT
MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA

R. L. MCCAUGHEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ROBERTA VAN BEEK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WALTER C. CONAHAN
PRESS SECRETARY

ROBERT E. RUDDY
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 21, 1969

MEMBER:

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
SENATE INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Consultant
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Bob:

It was mighty good hearing from you under date of July 15
and to know of your present associations.

I appreciate knowing of your connections, Bob, and assure
you that as we continue our efforts in behalf of the Indian
people that I look forward to working with you in our mutual
objective of increasing the economic opportunities and the
living standards of the Indians of this country.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,



Karl E. Mundt
U. S. Senator

KEM:mdw

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

TWT
JLN

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
INQUIRER

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mea

M - 505,173

S - 913,045

JUL 22 1969

A Noisy Silence

The presidential suggestion that we all lower the sound level, helpful and beneficial in most respects, has worked out to Mr. Nixon's real disadvantage in the case of Robert L. Bennett. Protesting the treatment accorded him as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. Bennett uttered no war whoop—even though he is an Oneida—but simply resigned. He stayed silent until, more than a month later, the news slowly became known and interviewers questioned him. The administration and particularly the Department of the Interior have thus had time, if not to appease him at least to replace him. The continuing nonannouncement is a form of silence that speaks, loudly and embarrassingly.

Mr. Bennett, asked to comment, said that the White House "has completely ignored the Indians . . . so far, no top person has even visited an Indian reservation or held a meeting with an Indian group. A Republican, but a Johnson appointee, Mr. Bennett learned that a search was on for a new commissioner by hearing Secretary of the Interior Hickel say so on a television program. Mr. Bennett, who had spent 31 years on the staff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, cleared out his desk and said his good-bys. It was an event, because Mr. Bennett and a Seneca named Eli S. Parker who held the office 100 years ago are the only two commissioners ever actually to have been Indians.

All this happens at a time when ethnic relationships in this country are being looked at under drastically changed illumination; when whites in some number have for the first time expressed doubt as to the political and moral correctness of the occupation of this land and the extermination of many of the reds. Even more to the point, the squalor and limbo of the Indian condition today are weighing upon white consciences. The Administration had better make some noise, in this regard, and effect genuine action.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843



File

College of Education
UPWARD BOUND

July 23, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Let us take this opportunity to thank you for your help in making the Upward Bound Congress, July 17-20, 1969, a success. The interest you have shown our students through your participation is appreciated. We would welcome any suggestions you may have concerning the Congress, it's scheduled activities, etc. Since this is the first attempt at such a get-together, your thoughts will be used as an evaluation.

Again let us thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully,

Edwin L. Madsen

Edwin L. Madsen
Director

Patricia Clyde

(Mrs.) Patricia Clyde
Associate Director

cm

July 25, 1969

Dear Bob,

Enclosed for your scrapbook is an article which a friend sent me from Barcelona, Spain. It appeared in La Vanguardia on June 7 - Barcelona newspaper. The headline says "The Director of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs Resigns Because of the Lack of Interest of the Government in the People of his Race".

The article says "The only Indian who has been Director of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs in this century resigned as a protest because in six months the Nixon administration has shown no interest in the people of his race."

"The new administration has ignored the Indian. In six months not a single high official of the Government has visited an Indian reservation or held a meeting with a group of Indians", said Robert L. Bennett upon his resignation.

"The resignation of the Director of Indian Affairs also has a personal side. Over TV, Bennett found out that the administration intended to replace him despite the fact that practically every Indian community in the United States had requested the Government to retain their only representative in Washington in his post."

So you see American Indian Affairs do not constitute exclusively a local interest.

Best regards,



Robert W. Young

100
X32

EUGENE MILLER
ELEVEN WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

July 28, 1969

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

Dear Commissioner Bennett:

I have been a collector of first-day covers for many years, and whenever possible, I have tried to have enscribed on my covers the signature of distinguished officials who bear a relationship with the new postage stamp involved.

I am enclosing a cover of the first-day issue saluting the American Indian. I would appreciate it very much if you would sign the cover where indicated by a pencil mark on the envelope. A return envelope is also enclosed.

Let me thank you in advance for your courtesy and help.

Sincerely,

Eugene Miller

EM/ak
Enclosures - 2

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUL 31 9 32 AM '69

Driver Identified In Pedestrian Death

Margaret Katherine Kuharski, 16, Route 2, Box 524, Rapid City, was identified by the police department Monday as the driver of the car that killed Marie Edwards, 4, 316 East Boulevard at 10:20 p.m. Saturday.

The child's mother, Mrs. Kthy Edwards, 22 was listed in satisfactory condition Monday noon at Bennett-Clarkson Hospital. Just after the accident, she was reported to be in very critical condition.

The accident occurred just past the driveway corner between Mills Eastside Drug Store and the East Boulevard Safeway.

It was the first pedestrian-vehicle fatality since April 29, 1965, when a three-year-old boy was killed in a truck accident.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL

July 29, 1969

- ~~Area Director~~ *m p*
- Administration
- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Education
- Tribal Op.*
- _____
- Return to: *E. C. Dea*

Bennett Rudely Treated

Kansas City Times

Three spring plantings ago, as his forebears might have phrased it, Robert LaFollette Bennett became the first Indian in nearly a century to occupy the office of commissioner in the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Recently Bennett resigned from the job, implying that he had been snubbed by Interior Secretary Walter Hickel and charging that the new administration has "completely ignored" Indian affairs.

UNDER BENNETT, himself a Republican, the work of the Indian bureau has taken on a new dimension of public importance. Credit belongs at least partly to Stewart Udall, Hickel's predecessor at Interior, who was instrumental in framing the last administration's more aggressive Indian policy.

Accomplishment stands cruelly short of intent. Many of the 380,000 Indians who reside on federal lands still face lives of incredible hardship and stunted opportunity. But new programs have been developed — in education, in housing and sanitation, in job training and in industrial development of the reservations themselves. Perhaps as important, a sense of momentum has been generated.

Since the January inauguration, Bennett charges, no important administration representative has so much as set foot on Indian lands or held a face-to-face meeting with Indian spokesmen. As for himself, his only contact with the new Interior secretary was a perfunctory handshake shortly after Hickel took office.

It would seem from Bennett's remarks that the administration has been guilty of tactlessness or a serious oversight

which has cost it the talents of a man with some 32 years' experience in the Indian service. Or there could be an element of deliberation in the whole affair.

As governor of Alaska, Hickel engaged in a bitter feud with the Johnson administration over federal measures to safeguard the land rights of 55,000 Alaskan Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos. Hickel accused the government of blocking the state's economic development.

Feelings were chafed on both sides, and it may be that the Interior secretary has decided to put his own man in the Indian bureau's top job. That, of course, is his prerogative. But there are more forthright means of doing it than by cold-shouldering a commissioner who has served three years with energy and distinction.

WHATEVER THE REASON for the falling out, Secretary Hickel and the White House will be mistaken if they suppose the pressure that has built up for delivery on the long-deferred promise to the original Americans will pass in due time.

It will not. The Indian plight is a lingering national disgrace. In this day of vocal and sometimes disruptive protest, it will have to be dealt with — or else.

With Bennett enjoying the repeatedly-stated support of the last president and Interior secretary, Indians at least had a feeling that a serious start was being made toward dealing with their grievances. Should the next Indian commissioner fail to generate that sense of confidence, he is likely to hear a great deal more about "red power" than he might care to hear.

Red Elk Oil Wins At Red Cloud Show

Herman Red Elk with his oil painting of Indian symbols took best of the show award and best in oils by popular vote in the Red Cloud Lodge fifth annual Art and Craft Show.

The show was held July 26 and 27 at the Mother Butler Center in Rapid City. Seven divisions of arts and crafts were displayed in this year's show, including two groups for children under 14 years.

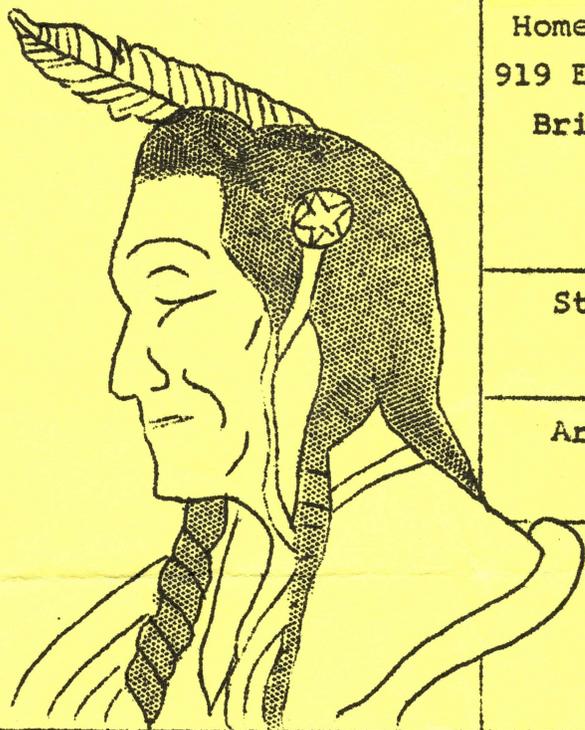
Ellsworth Chase the Bear took first place in watercolor with a work depicting the strife the Indian feels as he is pulled between city and his traditional life.

Dean Comes won first prize in the sketching division, with Ellsworth Chase the Bear taking both second and third places.

The crafts were judged before the show opened to the public with the Indian Originals of LaVerne McGass Heiter and Eldean McGaa Ressler, usefulness, attractiveness of display and worthy use of leisure time.

Second and third place winners in oils were Janet Eberlin, Albert Flying Hawk and Dennis Palmer tying for third. Watercolor second and third place were given to Gloria McBride and Francis Waukazoo.

In the children's divisions Ricky Emery won in sketching and Marilyn Gonrd in painting.



Home Address:
919 Elmhurst Ave
Bristol, Pa.
19007

Stillwell
8-3863

Area Code
215

Office:
Windsor
9-3400

"BOOK OF INDIAN LIFE, CRAFTS"
By O.E. Norbeck (~~Second~~³ Edition)
Published by Association Press
291 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007

"This, the most complete book on
North American Indian crafts yet
issued, concisely covers all
phases of Indian life."

-Library Journal

"Not in many a moon has there
been so complete an Indian 'how
book' as this one."

-Amerindian

"A review cannot do justice to
this book for the simple reason
that the wealth of material it
contains must be seen to be
comprehended."

-The Kansas City Kansan

5 "SUN" (day)

8 "MOON" (month) 1969 "WINTER" (year)

DEAR MR. BENNETT:

My voice joined many others in
asking Secretary Heikel to
keep you on as Commissioner
of Indian Affairs.

All I can do now is to express
a sincere hope that you will continue
to use your body, mind and spirit
on behalf of the North American
Indian. May the Great Spirit
make sunrise in your heart.
My hand and heart. O.E. Norbeck

File

Melwood Farm

P. O. Box 182, OLNEY, MD. 20832

MEDICAL STAFF

EARL H. MITCHELL, M.D.
W. FRANK CRESSWELL, M.D.
JOHN G. LOFFT, M.D.
JOSEPH F. CHAMBERS, M.D.

PHONES: OFFICE 924-5000

GUESTS (301) 774-9793

RESIDENT STAFF

MRS. MARY F. BACON,
DIRECTOR
THOMAS H. WALTERS
BERNARD MCMONIGLE

August 17, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Bennett;

Here is the map I promised to
send you, giving directions on how to reach
Melwood.

We are looking forward to
having you with us Wednesday night, August 20th.

Dinner is at six P.M. and we
hope both you and Mrs. Bennett can make it. The
meeting is scheduled for 8:30.

Most sincerely yours,

Mary F. Bacon

(Mrs) Mary F. Bacon, Director

map enc

File

RMS

night call

A NATIONAL RADIO TELEPHONE CALL IN SHOW ON VITAL ISSUES

NELSON PRICE, Executive Producer
BEN LOGAN, Producer
DEL SHIELDS, Host
THOMAS F. EDWARDS, Director, Community Relations
ANNA KOSOF, Associate Producer

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 420, New York, New York 10027 Telephone: 212/663-8900

August 20, 1969

Robert L. Bennett
6015 Landon Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We are delighted to confirm your appearance on NIGHT CALL on the evening of September 1, 1969.

The material enclosed describes the nature and purpose of our show, and your role within the program format.

On the evening of your appearance, we shall telephone you half an hour before show time (at 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time) to introduce you to our host, Del Shields, check out the circuits, and go over the ground rules.

In case there is some technical problem, you should have the following two numbers: (212) RI 9-5400 (Studio) and (212) 749-3433.

Again, thank you--and welcome to NIGHT CALL.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Hitchen

Carol J. Hitchen
Research and Guest Contact

dj

Enclosure

JULIA BUTLER HANSEN
3d DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

Inle
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN—INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES
FOREIGN OPERATIONS
RAY

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

August 27, 1969

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of Congresswoman Hansen, may I thank you for your letter of August 27 which has arrived while Mrs. Hansen is out West working in her District office during the Congressional Recess.

Your letter is being held out for Mrs. Hansen's attention when she returns to Washington, D. C. I am certain she will be pleased that you have written to her.

Sincerely,

Margarita V. Turner
(Mrs.) Margarita V. Turner
Secretary to
Julia Butler Hansen, M. C.

MVT:erl

RUSSELL B. LONG, LA., CHAIRMAN
CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX. JOHN J. WILLIAMS, DEL.
ALBERT GORE, TENN. WALLACE F. BENNETT, UTAH
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J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK. LEN B. JORDAN, IDAHO
ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, CONN. PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.
FRED R. HARRIS, OKLA.
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.

TOM VAIL, CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 2, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Bob:

Thanks very much for your letter of August 27, 1969, advising me of your new position as Consultant on American Indians. I was very pleased to learn of this, and wish you the very best of luck. I will certainly be contacting you for your able assistance in developing an economic life for Indians.

I hope you will let me know if there is ever anything I can do to be of assistance.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



FRED R. HARRIS
U. S. Senate

FRH/klm

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
House of Representatives, U.S.
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 4, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Consultant
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of August 27 advising me of those you are presently associated with. I appreciate your willingness to help and cooperate with this office in their endeavors to benefit the Indian by developing a viable economy.

Sincerely,



Wayne N. Aspinall
Chairman

File
RB

RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX., CHAIRMAN
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA. JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J. WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
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THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO. WILLIAM B. SAXBE, OHIO
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
HAROLD E. HUGHES, IOWA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT O. HARRIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

September 8, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you very much for your recent letter. We appreciate your apprising us of your continuing efforts in behalf of the Indian people.

We will certainly be mindful of your offer of assistance when the need arises.

Sincerely,

Henry Bellmon
Henry Bellmon

HB:jhc

ROCKEFELLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

File

R. W. VAN DE VELDE
Faculty Secretary

WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 8, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It gives me pleasure to inform you that you have been nominated for a Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of

While you are no doubt aware of the program, I am enclosing a copy of the formal announcement for your detailed information.

In order to simplify the difficult task of the Committee on Selection, I am asking each nominee to fill out and return to me the enclosed Curriculum Vitae form. This will serve, in at least one document in each folder, to give the Committee an organized and similar base from which to start the job of making the necessary comparisons. Your cooperation will be appreciated. *quickly*

Since there are several nominees, and since there will be only one Award, in each field, this letter should not be construed as reflecting one way or another on the eventual determination of Award recipients. The Committee will make its selections this Autumn and those designated for an Award will be informed only after the University Trustees act on the Committee's recommendations. This will probably not be until late October.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. van de Velde

R. W. van de Velde

RWV:pb
Encl.

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

September 11, 1969

Honorable Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you so much for your letter of August 27.

I am delighted to know that you are in business as a consultant on American Indians; I still regret that you have left the Department.

I looked forward to seeing you in Portland the other day at the Navajo Indian conference. However, I understood you did not speak until the next evening. Therefore, I found myself exceedingly disappointed in not being able to personally congratulate you, wish you well, and hear your message.

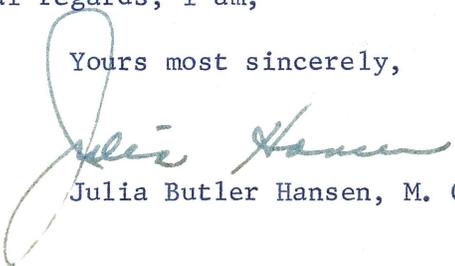
Please do take time to drop by the office now and then.

Very shortly I would like to discuss with you and other American Indians a basic financial support bill for our Indian schools so that we don't have to go through the regged tatters of the Bureau of the Budget for funding according to what whims strike their fancy. We should do it in the same manner that any good state does for their schools and I will be most interested in talking with you at your leisure.

Perhaps you can have lunch with me some day.

With my warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours most sincerely,


Julia Butler Hansen, M. C.

JBH: Ter1

ED EDMONDSON
2D DIST., OKLAHOMA

HOME ADDRESS:
MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

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

September 15, 1969

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ROADS
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT
FLOOD CONTROL

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

MINES AND MINING (CHAIRMAN)
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION
INDIAN AFFAIRS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ATOMIC ENERGY

Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
Suite 715
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

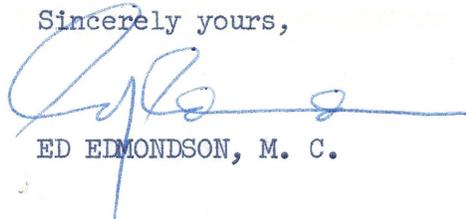
Dear Bob:

Congratulations on your new position as a consultant on American Indian affairs. I feel confident that with your background and lengthy experience in the problems of economic development and job training for the American Indian, your position with the Donner Foundation and American Learning Systems, Inc., will be a most rewarding and challenging undertaking.

I will look forward to calling on you for advice and assistance in matters that come before the Congress, and hope that you will feel free to contact me anytime that I may be of service in any way.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



ED EDMONDSON, M. C.

night call

A NATIONAL RADIO TELEPHONE CALL IN SHOW ON VITAL ISSUES

NELSON PRICE, Executive Producer
BEN LOGAN, Producer
DEL SHIELDS, Host
THOMAS F. EDWARDS, Director, Community Relations
ANNA KOSOF, Associate Producer

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 420, New York, New York 10027 Telephone: 212/663-8900

September 22, 1969

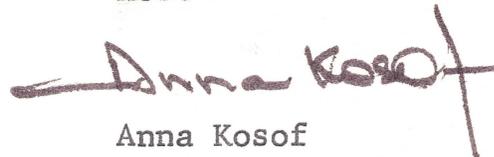
Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank you ever so much for your appearance on NIGHT CALL on September 1st, 1969. You did a superb job, discussing a sensitive topic, - that of the problems facing the American Indian. We are sure that our listeners benefited from the experience - and we hope that you enjoyed your appearance on NIGHT CALL.

Sincerely yours,



Del Shields
Host



Anna Kosof
Associate Producer

DS:AK/dj

Produced by TRAFICO (Television, Radio and Film Communication) The United Methodist Church.
Released in cooperation with the National Council of Churches, the National Catholic Office for
Radio and Television (NCORT), The American Jewish Committee, and The Urban Coalition.



Gonzaga University / SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202 FAIRFAX 8-4220

Oct. 1, '1969

Dear Bob -

Everyone liked your speech at Portland so well that we reprinted it on the back pages of the Indian Times. Sorry I didn't get some copies mailed to you earlier, but here are a few, and I'll have more available at Albuquerque if you'd like some more.

Many of your friends here were very disappointed that the Affiliated Tribes didn't decide to back your candidacy for NCAI, but the Yakima-Makah group were so vocal using Paschal Sherman as their main spokesman, (~~were so vociferous~~) that others didn't want to have a knock-down fight on the floor. So they backed off and decided to stay with earlier plans regarding Old Person and Bruce Wilkie. Had there been any kind of a vote, I'm sure you would have received most of the vote — this will be the case in Albuquerque. You have great support in this area for NCAI Presidential candidate. I hope you will be in the running at Albuquerque. Will see you there.

Most sincerely,
Tom Jonnelly, Jr.

Oct. 7, 1969

to help the Indian American
help himself. Bob and I find
ourselves doing this. Because
we care!! Intend to help Dr.
Reupp. Alt. Assoc - if he calls
on me again - Met him in
Aberdeen Area where I spoke at
a Workshop in Aug. Liked him. Project
necessities ^{as sensitive director} May the Thunderbirds

hover round you and the
Great Spirit lead you and
yours by the hands -
Do stop by and see
us if you are ever in these
parts. Will ^{and your pretty} feed you
wife wild rice! Gratefully and Affectionately,
Joie and Bob
(Joie)

Bob, dear friends:

From one "Haskell Hombre" to
another it has been hard to
formulate a "note" with all the
T-L's we would and should
like to "pile up" by you, for
all you have meant to us -
our race. Just remember as
you read our feeble tribute
that I "only" taught the "Fourth
Grade", a remark made by
our granddaughter when I fattered
on some 6th Grade "Modern Math"
recently. What we do say
comes from the deepest realms
of our affection, without forked tongue.
We realize that your
many years of dedication to
"Our People", the concentrated
selfless & sometimes rewarding,

in other instances frustrating, and yes, often, thankless efforts have been reviewed by countless persons in as many different ways. We say double ditto to all these accolades, as we search for vocabulary. Bob and I hope you realize that all the good you did is not completely known, by anyone, only the future of each individual, child and adult, whom you have touched will bring out in years to come the value of some of your efforts! We have no doubt, if it could ever be measured, it would stagger all imaginations!

You will be missed in the whole Bureau, but the contributions you made and the ideals you established will remain with hundreds of us. You have given Indians as a race an immeasurable amount of

3/ pride. We stand taller, with strong feelings of dignity and worth as individuals, America and Indians, and an ability to speak for ourselves!

We wish you the very best in your new position with the Donner Foundation, not only for ourselves, but for all Indian people, in the country, who love and respect you, but who for one reason or another could not share their "innermost" with you. The same is true of the Thunderbird Guild. It is from all of us "little people" in your Indian Social Cousins or relatives!! Nation Wide

We know wherever your moccasins take you the path will lead to some area where you can



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SANTA FE

87501

DAVID F. CARGO
GOVERNOR

October 20, 1969

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Congratulations on your position. You will certainly be a great asset to our Law School.

I would be most receptive to any suggestions you might have to offer that will help our Indians.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

DAVID F. CARGO
GOVERNOR

DFC:gg

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

ORGANIZED ON FEBRUARY 3, 1950

October 27, 1969



Mr. Robert L. Bennett
Consultant on American Indians
715 Blake Building
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your efforts in influencing the Donner Foundation to provide the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes with the grant of \$55,000.00 to support an expansion of the Indian arts and crafts program in Eastern Oklahoma.

When we lost you as our Commissioner, our first impression was that the Indians had lost a friend with great leadership ability, but your continued involvement and interest in the Indian citizen confirms our confidence in you as an Indian leader.

Sincerely yours,

Harry J. W. Belvin
President

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PRESIDENT
HARRY J. W. BELVIN
302 W. WILLOW
DURANT, OKLA. 74701

VICE-PRESIDENT
W. E. "DODE" MCINTOSH
111 E. INDEPENDENCE
TULSA, OKLA. 74108

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MRS. ELIZABETH SMITH
P. O. BOX 1199
MUSKOGEE, OKLA. 74401

TREASURER
TOMMY RAY MORTON
P. O. BOX 282
STILLWELL, OKLA. 74860

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
ALFRED DEERE
ROUTE 2, BOX 110
WEWOKA, OKLA. 78884

CHAPLAIN
DR. B. FRANK BELVIN
517 S. WOODLAWN
CKMULGEE, OKLA. 74447

memo from R. J. Novogrod



10-29-69

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Carabou was published Oct. 15th & Mrs. Pichett provided your address in order for me to send a copy.

As soon as I receive one from my publisher, will transmit it for your enjoyment.

It was a privilege to have known you, Commissioner.

Professor Novogrod