



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SURNAME:

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FEB 23 1954

Mr. Oscar Archiquette
1815-A North Second Street
Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Archiquette:

We have received your letter of February 1, enclosing a copy of the program developed by the Oneida Fact Finding Board of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which bears the notation of its approval by the Oneida Tribe of Indians of the Wisconsin General Tribal Council. The minutes of the General Council meeting held on February 23, 1952, received here on June 5, 1952, indicate that the program was approved at that meeting.

We can appreciate the regard which the Oneida Indian Tribe holds for its treaties with the Federal Government, and the pride they have taken in their relationship to the Government. It is noted that the Oneida Tribe does have claims pending against the Federal Government for compensation on the basis of allegations that the Government did not carry out its responsibilities under the various treaties made with the Six Nations.

There has been introduced in Congress a bill, S. 2867 in the Senate and H. R. 7680 in the House, which were submitted by the Department of the Interior in response to House Concurrent Resolution 108. This bill is now under consideration by the appropriate committees of each House. If enacted, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$150,000 to be distributed among tribes now sharing in the annuity of \$4,500, based on article VI of the treaty of 1794. Payments to a tribe would be made only upon agreement by the tribe to accept the payment instead of its share in the annuity. The bill further provides that a proportionate share of the annuity shall continue for those groups that do not accept their share of the lump sum payment and specifies that the proposed action shall not be interpreted as an abrogation of the treaty. The bill submitted by the Department is a revision of a preliminary draft of a bill which was discussed with the Oneida Tribe in December 1953.

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We note that a program is advocated to rehabilitate the Oneida Indians at Green Bay, Wisconsin, by providing lands for them, educating them in modern farming practices, providing them with cattle and equipment, encouraging and providing higher education, and providing a social center.

It is our understanding that such a program would affect only a limited number of Oneida Indians now residing in the vicinity of Green Bay, Wisconsin, most of whom lack adequate resource bases for economic farming units. The State of Wisconsin has taken a liberal attitude toward Indians living within its borders by acknowledging their eligibility in common with other citizens for established public services. In view of the foregoing and in view of the demonstrated ability of the majority of the members of the Oneida Tribe, such as yourself, to be completely independent of any need for the type of program being advocated and any need for special services of the Bureau, it is not likely that the program could be approved. Rather, we would suggest the development of a program having for its goal the complete independence of the Oneida Tribe of any need for the special services and supervision of the Bureau.

We have written to the Oneida Tribal Executive Council suggesting that the responsibilities of the Government and the tribal members in such a program could be clarified more readily by discussions with them and members of the Bureau staff. It is our understanding that some discussions have taken place already, and it is our hope that a program may be developed as a result of further discussions. Mr. Don C. Foster, Area Director of the Minneapolis Area Office, is willing to arrange with the tribe for discussions at any time. It is hoped that the Oneida Tribe will give realistic consideration to their situation and work for an acceptable program for the Oneida Indians looking toward a termination of the special relationship between the tribe and the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GLENN L. EMMONS

Commissioner

Copy to: Area Director, Minneapolis

RLBennett:mm 2/11/54, 2/15/54