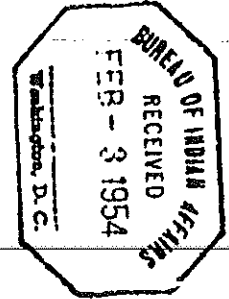


Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
February 1, 1954



Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of, Oneida Indian proposed program, drawn up by the Oneida Fact Finding Board of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and approved by the Oneida tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in February 1952 at Oneida, Wisconsin. We are very anxious that you have a copy in your file.

The reason we are interested about the above is that in July 1953 our tribal Chairman, Mr. Dennison Hill of Oneida, Wisconsin, received a questionnaire from your office, regarding withdrawal of Federal guardianship, which was to be answered at once.

At our semi-annual meeting, January 9, 1954, the Chairman informed us that the secretary mislaid the questionnaire and has just now found it, so the questions asked by your office, therefore, never was answered.

I will appreciate very much having your reaction to the enclosed proposed program.

Very truly yours,

*Oscar H. Archiquette*

Oscar Archiquette  
1815-A North 2nd Street - Apt. 2  
Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin



The history of the Oneida Indians of Wisconsin can only be clearly understood by examining their part as one of the Six Nation Confederacy or the League of the Iroquois. Without the Mohawks however, the founding of the League of the Five Nations, which ~~later became the Six Nations~~, might have been a different story. As it was, it was through the indomitable energy at fore-sight of the Mohawks and the Oneidas, that the League was so speedily promoted. It was with the help of these two Nations first, that the Cayugas were won over to it, and which compelled the Senecas and Onondagas to accept the greatest League of the political unit ever established in North America.

Even Mexico, at the height of her civilization, had not as perfect a political unit as the League of Five Nations, and later Six Nations.

At the coming of the White Man, we fell from the steps as we had taken toward civilization, we fell from our manly character to some degree below zero.

For a while we loved and respected the White Man as much as he loved and respected us, but "for a while" came to an end.

Bravely we faced the guns and swords of the civilized nation: A nation upon whose soil "the sun never sets" as allies of the Thirteen Colonies, at the time of their distress and needed all the help they could muster to win their independence from England.

The Thirteen Colonies received substantial assistance from the Oneida and Tuscarora Warriors during the Revolutionary War. Down through the years the Oneida Indians were always ready to take up Arms in defense of the Republic, and many paid with their lives.


In World War I and II the Draft Law was a part of the law of the land. The Oneida Indians submitted to the draft without protest, the majority of them enlisting before the draft. Even now, our young Oneida Indians are in the Arm Forces, somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, Europe, Pacific Ocean and the Orient or any place the Stars and Stripes may fly. We must not forget the fact our Oneida Indian Women also served in Arm Forces, such as Army Nurse Corp, Marine, WAVE, and WAC.

Now the United States Government has offered the Oneida Indians a cash settlement (the sum of \$60,000) claiming it cost the government too much money to write out the checks, the heads of each Oneida family: But they do not tell us how much it cost the government to write a check in the amount of fifty million dollars to India or the money going to England, the country the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians fought against in order that the Thirteen Colonies might grow and prosper to what it is today.

We the Oneida Indians of Wisconsin have rejected this offer. We call attention to the Six Nation - United States Treaty that was entered into soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, and other Treaties that followed to confirm all engagements and stipulations entered into, in previous treaties.

After all the sufferings and hardships we have been through: Thus, if we were to consider giving up our priceless heritage for a few pieces of silver, we would be untrue and unfaithful to the causes our ancestors had given their lives for, so that Freedom may be born and live. Therefore, we are unable to entertain any thoughts of a cash settlement for our treaty rights of 1794. (Annuity Clause)

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin have retained attorneys from a law firm in Chicago, Illinois to represent them in the treaty claims now pending in the United States Court of Claims.



~~There are many things the United States could do to right the wrong, in failing to~~  
live up to the treaty obligations with the Indians. First, to rehabilitate the Oneida  
Indians near Green Bay, provide lands for them, educate them in modern farming i.e.:  
soil conservation, use of proper fertilizer and animal husbandry, provide modern farm  
equipment and also provide them with cattle, swine and poultry: Encourage higher ed-  
ucation, and for those who do not care for the farms and higher form of education, teach  
them a trade: Also provide a social center where the young folks as well as the elders,  
can find the proper form of diversified entertainment.

The Oneida Indians being a thrifty people and having possessed the civilitation of  
their own for a considerable time, and having always been an agricultural people: They  
strived happily under their own leadership and their own government, until 1838 the  
enactment of the Dawes Bill, which made them a target for their experiment; because they  
were so progressive and so far ahead in the Indian communities. These good homes that  
had no mortgage upon them represented integrity, superior character and intelligence in  
the people far above that of any Indian community.

An allotment came as a result of the Dawes Act, with a clause providing an end to  
an Indian contract after 25 years and when subsequent legislation instigated by land  
speculation shortened that period of the Indian holdings, there was brought citizenship  
with explortation leading the way.

The peace of the well provided Oneida home was gone, liquor was used in these  
transactions and the result was, the introduction of vagrancy and landlessness, from  
65,000 acres down to 106 acre.

One thing we have learned is: A community that is landless and homeless, loses  
its self-respect, independence and its character.

Approved by the Oneida Tribe of Indians of  
Wisconsin General Tribal Council  
Oneida, Wisconsin  
February, 1952

Fact Finding Board Chairman:  
Oscar H. Archiquette  
1815-A North 2nd Street-Apt. 2  
Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin

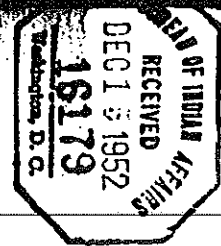
Secretary:  
Morris Wheelock  
945 N. Jefferson St.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mrs. Ruth Baird  
3359 N. 24th Place  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Alphuis Smith  
1328 N. 16th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ONEIDA, WISCONSIN

November 18, 1952



To the Honorable  
Dillion E. Meyer, Commissioner,  
Office of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT : WITHDRAWAL PROGRAMMING

Dear Sir:

We the Oneida Tribal Executive Council of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin are in receipt of your Circular letter of October 10th 1952 and appreciate your good will as expressed in your letter. We have studied and taken full cognizance of its policies and we are herewith taking the initiative to state as near as possible to the Office of Indian Affairs, analysis of our present situation.

First, we appeal to your integrity and good will that whatever existing treaties between the Oneida Indians of Wisconsin and the U. S. Government be honored and kept intact.

Second, it seems appropriate to us to know just what reports and recommendations concerning our state of affairs have been sent into to your office by the Area and Agency offices.

Third, is that our Constitution and By-Laws as set up under the Wheeler Howard Act is far out-moded now that the work of our tribal affairs has been thrown into our lap. We were not prepared to manage our affairs so abruptly.

A - Can the Office of Indian Affairs ofrce this work unto us with out first establishing methods basic to the developement of responsibilities for proceeding with the tasks of carrying on the Oneida Tribal Affairs?

B - Is it necessary for the Tribal Membership and the Office of Indian Affairs to come to an agreement before proceeding into this WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM? To our knowledge no such agreement has taken place between the Oneida Tribe Of Indians and the Office of Indian Affairs through Oneida Tribal vote or communication.

C - We find that changing policies, from year to year, in the Indian Bureau very confusing. We want to formulate our Program policies that will assure us some degree of security and stability.

D - We have concluded then that our chief grievance is inadequate housing for our Oneida Indians and are in dire

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ONEIDA, WISCONSIN

need of a long range economic, and educational programm.

We the Oneida Executive Council of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin merit, and therefore request your assistance in the administration of our Tribal problems.

Very respectfully,

*Dennison Hill, 1205 N. S.*  
Dennison Hill - Tribal Chr.

*Mrs Irene Moore*  
Mrs. Irene Moore, Vice Chr.

*Charles A. Hill*  
Charles A. Hill, Treas.

*Mrs Mamie Smith*  
Mrs. Mamie Smith, Secretary.

Want assurances

~~assurance that special reservation~~  
Oneida Indian of Wisconsin & U.S. Gov't be  
honored & kept intact.

Treaties:

Nov 11, 1799 @ 6 Nations acknowledged title  
of Oneidas to reserves given them by  
Treaty with State of New York. An  
annuity of \$4,500 was to be paid to the  
Six Nations. (7 Stat. 44-47) x

Jan. 15, 1838 @ NY Indians ceded their  
lands in Wis., except certain lands at  
Green Bay (7 Stat. 550-557) x

Feb. 3, 1838 with the First Christian and  
Orchard parties of Oneidas ceded certain  
lands in Wis., set apart under Treaty of

Feb 8, 1831 & Oct 27, 1832 @ Menomonees  
and reserved certain lands near Green Bay  
containing 100 acres for each Indian  
(7 Stat. 566-567) x

Acts -

Act of June 21, 1906 authorized issuance of patents  
in fee to Indians of this reservation, for lands allotted  
to them. (34 Stat. 381, c. 3504) x

IRA - extends trust period indefinitely x