

April 21, 1960

Mr. Mc Clure Mc Combs, Program Director  
American Friends Service Committee  
300 West Congress Parkway  
Chicago 7, Illinois

Re: Oneida Recreation Program

Dear Mac:

When you telephoned me yesterday, I told you that the meeting yesterday evening was postponed because of mud which made it impossible for many participants to get out. At 9:00 last evening I received a telephone call from Oneida saying that "everyone is here except you." It would take too long to explain how this situation came about and to clear my good name, but briefly I got to the meeting and it was good. Mrs. Moore had apparently not been notified of the postponement and she walked through two miles of mud to get to a place where she could get a ride. I mention this only as an indication of the intensity of interest on the part of some people in the Oneida community. Unfortunately, there were some who should have been there but undoubtedly had been notified by Mrs. De Coteau that the meeting was postponed and therefore did not appear. Nevertheless, there were about eight young people, about seven adults, including Mr. Vanden Eng, town clerk, in addition to Mrs. Osborne of the Red Cross and four students from Lawrence College and myself.

Mrs. Moore had Paxton's letter indicating that a written request for a recreation <sup>director</sup> would be in order before the Friends would feel that they should definitely seek a person to fill the position. While it was hard to get opinions freely expressed at first, there was no opposition to requesting a recreation director and considerable enthusiasm. The only uncertainty was what group has the authority to make such a request. Some felt that the group meeting last night itself could do so and the matter was left that Mrs. Moore would talk with tribal leaders and others who should be consulted and if she feels there is general agreement, she will write the letter in the name of the Oneida Area Community Committee rather than in the name of the tribe. It ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> be simple to write it from the tribe, but they feel it would be sounder to make the request from the Oneida Area Community Committee. I indicated that it might be somewhat more wholly democratic to wait until the large meeting could consider the matter and authorize the request, but time is limited if it is hoped to obtain a qualified person for this coming summer. In view of this, I anticipate that Mrs. Moore will probably feel that she can write the letter within a week or so.

The question arose again, how would the service and equipment be paid for. I suggested that many people felt that the project would be more successful and valuable if there was a demonstration of financial effort on the part of the people in the community. I believe this was generally accepted. The young people working with the Appleton students set to work planning a dance to be held at the Town Hall May 21 or possibly May 20 if arrangements can be made. I think the students were inclined to want to buy the decorations and the music and the hall and leave the profits for the Community Committee but I think they are understanding too that these things may be shared, but cannot successfully taken over by an outside group.

I thought it might help you to know immediately that the climate appears favorable and that an effort is already under way to assume some financial responsibility, though it may be limited to funds for the purchase of supplies and equipment.

I think you should also know that our Saturday meeting left some problems although I am certain that the benefits far outweighed them. I asked Mrs. Moore directly about any possible repercussions from the meeting. She indicated that some of the Milwaukee Oneida who had come to attend a tribal meeting were definitely upset by the misunderstanding. Mrs. Moore believes that the plans to have a tribal meeting on that day must have been discussed in Milwaukee at a time when she and Mrs. De Coteau were out of the room and therefore they were unaware of the plan. Mr. Archiquette, however, carefully informed the Oneidas in Milwaukee of the meeting, but there was no communication between him and the tribal leaders at Oneida on the matter. Secondly, I understand that Mrs. Danforth, tribal secretary, became puzzled during the day about who the Friends are and what they really are trying to do. Unknown to me, Mr. Riley of the Indian Bureau, met with the tribal leaders last week and he was asked about the Friends. Apparently he assured them that the Friends had a history of sincere and dedicated service and that there was no question of their interest in constructive work with this community.

The major purpose of this meeting was to plan the next general meeting of the Oneida Area Community Committee and to consider ways of setting up a constitution and of obtaining nominations for a new chairman. It is very difficult to move forward in this kind of organization without us or someone else outside the community making most of the suggestions to which everyone seems to agree or makes no comment. However, a committee was selected to consider nominations and to outline a proposed constitution for consideration at the next general meeting.

Back on the recreation director: We did not discuss any more in detail the kind of person, whether married or single, male or female, nor the kind of recreation the young people want, because these questions are really unanswerable by the community at this time.

I shall try to clear the general idea of a Friends recreation director for the community with the H-H club agent in Appleton and with the Green Bay Recreation Department, which has had some consultative interest in the past. OK

One final possibility which I should explore if I can possibly find a chance to do it:

One of the ladies on the recreation committee mentioned a recreation worker in Green Bay who has not been working for a few years because of small children. She is Mrs. Robert (Gertrude) DeLorit, 2428 South Webster Avenue, Green Bay. I do not know her qualifications nor her interest, nor whether she would want to work full time and for what salary. If the Friends obtain a recreation director, will they pay a full salary or will this be a volunteer service? If there is a possibility of paying a salary, then Mrs. DeLorit might be considered as a candidate. If not, we might still approach her as a possible volunteer but perhaps still working through the Friends Service Committee. I hesitate to approach her until I know how this might be fitted in to the Service Committee program. If she requires a salary, I am sure there would be no way to meet it this particular summer from Oneida Community funds.

I am sorry this is a bit hasty and disorganized, but I shall be out of town the rest of the week and except for Sunday and Monday morning, I shall be in Madison all of next week.

In spite of mud and communication problems, there seems to be progress.

Sincerely,

Walter Taylor  
Community Services Consultant

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WT:emp

cc: Paxton Hart  
Chester Graham

Enclosure: Oscar Anriquez to  
Senator William Proxmire, 29 Dec. 1959.]

Milwaukee Wis.

Jan 5 - 1960

Mr Paxton Hart

300 W. Congress Parkway

Chicago 7 Ill.

Dear Mr Hart

I am enclosing herewith a copy  
of a letter to Senator Proxmire which  
is self-explanatory, the clipping mentioned  
in this letter I mailed to Proxmire.  
I have also mailed a copy of this letter  
to the Onida executive Sec. Mrs. Lester  
Wanfaith asking for a reaction but due  
to Xmas Mail I was told she just  
now received my letter last Sat.  
I was in Onida last week end and  
had a talk with our chairman Mr  
Julius Wanfaith regarding my  
letter to Proxmire, he favored the  
housing project and the 20 year  
loan.  
He agreed the present set up<sup>4</sup> re-

habilitation is not good enough,  
 because an assignee can not borrow  
 enough money to build a modern  
 home instead of just a roof over  
 their heads.

Of course we must remember the  
 Oneida revolving loan fund is  
 a failure, it is very clear that the loan  
 agreement is not enforced for  
 fear the executive committee  
 would have enemies.

There are some 24,000 loaned out  
 and are not being paid back as  
 agreed, the loan business should  
 be under new management  
 without question.

Mr Wheelock and I are planning  
 to attend the meeting in Madison  
 Wis. Jan. 9, 1968.

Yours truly  
 Oscar Luchignetto  
 Phone We 3-6541

3  
Copy

be questioned as to the Indian Bureau  
whether or not, the Bureau is doing the right  
thing for Indians, if not what should the  
Indian Bureau do, to better the welfare of  
Indians.

I intend to have a talk with Ovada  
executive committee about a housing project  
and the 20 year loan business in the  
near future.

I would appreciate any suggestion  
regarding our tribal affairs.

Yours truly,  
Oswald Rediquette

[Enclosure: Dear Mr. Proxmire to Bureau 11-11  
5 Jan. 1960.]

Copy

Wisconsin

Dec 29, 1959

Senator Wm Proxmire

United States Senate

Washington 25-10 C.

Dear Senator Proxmire

Since reading the clipping enclosed within, I cannot help but write to you. I underlined the most interesting part of the news, as far as it is concerned and to many others, the news is also important to low-income families.

As far as we Indians of Wis. are concerned, there are just more and more taking interest in voting and as to whom they vote for. We Indians of Wisconsin need more attention than just being Indians of Wisconsin.

First is to safe guard what few acres of tribal land we have left, second is to put our tribal land to good use and to rehabilitate the homeless families.

The present act of rehabilitation for

Onidas is not enough.

We are suppose to have 35,000 of revolving rehabilitation fund, about 24,000 can be accounted for, this money is loaned to assignees of tribal land.

Would it be possible to have a bill pass by Congress where an Indian could borrow money from F.H.A. to build a modern home on an assignment of tribal land which is held in trust by the Federal Gov. This loan to be paid back over a period of 20 years.

The present living condition of homes on tribal land are not so good, there are no water works, no bath and most homes are crowded.

The only good thing the Indian Bureau is doing for us is education, outside of that they have not done a thing worth while for the last 22 years for Onidas. I would like to suggest that the Indians.



PLANS FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ONEIDA AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

*Parish Hall  
app 2  
S. B. A. 1*

Progress Report  
by

ONEIDA TRIBAL COUNCIL OF WISCONSIN  
Sept. 16, 1959

1. INTRODUCTION

Perhaps, nearly all the people living in various communities in the state of Wisconsin have one in common. This one thing is "The desire to improve their community area and make it a better place in which to live." This purpose have created the initial suggestion for this project originated among the members of the Oneida Tribal Council themselves.

II. COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

At a special meeting September 16, 1959, The Oneida Tribal Council created and organized a " PLANNING COMMITTEE."----- Pursuant to recommendations set forth by the Governor's Commission on Human Rights" that a committee of both Indian and non-Indian be set up to discuss and to take some positive measures in providing more community recreation for the young people in the Oneida area and to invite outside agencies for suggestions, and consultations such as Clergymen, Public School Superintendents, Social Welfare workers, Town Chairmen, county Judges, Attorneys, Youth workers, Recreational Directors and business men of the area.

III. COMMUNITY SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Several Tribal members and others spoke strongly in favor of enlarging the scope of a committee beyond recreation to many other unmet community needs.

WHEREAS, The committee is aware of the rise of social problems and if they are not met, they may eventually impede the development towards a responsible citizenry.

WHEREAS, It is also realized that its basic causes are related to the conditions in the homes, the community, and the state. A concerted effort is needed in confronting this social problems.

#### IV, RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1). To set up an adequate supervised programs, counseling services for the families.
- (2). To establish an advisory counsel on Juvenile Delinquency Health education and welfare.
- (3). To encourage community local law enforcement, teaching techniques of working with youthful offenders.
- (4). Development practice for health improvement.
- (5). Building a community recreational programs;

A. It is suggested that the recreational programs provide something of interest to various age groups in the community.

The following considered;

1. Children
2. Teen-age (and younger)
3. Adult groups.
  - a. Young married couples and unmarried folks.
  - b. Middle age people
  - c. Older folks.

- (6). To investigate the possibilities of organizing a recreational center in the Oneida community area.
- (7). Other group activities of any kind.

The cooperation from individuals, organizations, and agencies, who may be contacted on this project will be appreciated. The committee welcome suggestions and constructive recommendations.

1437 Western Ave.

Green Bay

February 1, 1960

Pat -

Have been down with flu several days following staff meetings in Madison for three days. Sorry for the delay.

In addition to Mrs. DeCoteau and Mrs. Moore you might want to ~~send~~ place Mrs. EVA DANFORTH on the mailing list or else ask Mrs. Moore to share material with her. Mrs. Danforth would have come to the meeting if she could. She is Secretary of the Oneida Tribal Council, Route #12, West De Pere, Wisconsin.

(The chairman is Mr. Julius Danforth, whose address I do not have. He does not seem very active as a leader.)

Mrs. VIVIAN DeCoteau Route #1, ONEIDA

Mrs. IRENE (SIMON) MOORE

Rt. 3 - Seymour

February 20 is not possible for me because of state youth business in Stevens Point. I have the same problem this Saturday, Feb. 6. May have a conflict on March 12 or 19, but this date not settled yet.

(over)

I look forward to some time when we could  
visit a bit more about a number of things.  
There are no few people like you around I hope  
you realize we appreciate you

If you have planned to go ahead with Feb. 20  
that will be OK, but I cannot alter my other  
obligation.

Sometime when we meet in Milwaukee I hope  
Peggy can get away with me. Perhaps Jean can  
do the same. It would be pleasant.

Regards,

Walt

2000 (some) 1000  
10000000 - 8 11

COPY

November 16, 1959

Mr. Oscar Archiquette  
1319 G., West Violet Street  
Milwaukee 5, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Archiquette:

Walter Taylor of the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare tells me that he spoke to you recently about the Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee for American Indians. Perhaps you know that the committee was very active last year in working for the wishes of the Menominee people as they face termination. In addition, we have established a relationship with the Oneidas through Mr. Morris Wheelock, who attends many of our meetings.

The purpose of our committee is to study the problems of Wisconsin Indians, inform members of the Religious Society of Friends and other people in Illinois and Wisconsin about these problems, and to work for good solutions to them.

We would be honored to have you meet with us--to help Mr. Wheelock keep us up-to-date on the Oneidas, and to help our thinking and planning for all Wisconsin Indians. Our next meeting will be held this Saturday, November 14, at 10 a.m., at the home of Mrs. Jack Eisendrath, 3367 North Hackett Avenue, Milwaukee 11. Attenders are to bring sandwiches; Mrs. Eisendrath will serve coffee and tea. We will be discussing a number of subjects, including scholarships (see enclosure) and would be very happy if you would join us.

Sincerely yours,

Paxton Hart, Chairman  
Illinois-Wisconsin Friends  
Committee for American Indians

One enclosure.

1437 Western Ave  
Green Bay, Wis.  
4-12-60

Dear Pax -

This is faster than the dictating machine.

You gave us all a lift this weekend and we appreciated having you with us so much - We almost kept you! I hope your long-suffering family will get some comfort from the pleasure we had in your company and the real contribution you made - both Onida and Neominico.

I wrote briefly to Max about Melissa Cornelius, age 78, sharp as a tack, who walked 3 miles to get to our meeting, but too late to hear about Kingua down. She took me to her home yesterday. She does wonders with it but the roof is practically non-existent and it leaks! She also fears the Neominico will lose their forest

Could you <sup>on the AFSC office</sup> send me one complete set of material on Kingua down (including Arthur Morgan's report) and perhaps several of the special bulletins which I can send to others who might be willing to write. Believe it or not, I cannot locate the original material sent to me in the regular mailing.

~~Also you were going to send me a copy of Joe Melvoin's talk~~ MS

Best wishes. (I enclose copy of letter to Prossime. Would you send copy to Archiguite whose address I do not have.) I have sent copy to Chester.

Come again - bring family.

Walt - -



The State of Wisconsin  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
May 27, 1960

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
CITY HALL - P. O. BOX 333  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Mr. Paxton Hart  
Rural Route #1, Box 1071  
West Chicago, Illinois

Dear Pax:

While I have not yet talked with Mr. Riley, I want to pass on immediately information which seems very important.

Last night I met with a "steering committee" at Oneida, another slow moving meeting, starting late and suffering from a lack of agenda and chairmen. In the course of our undirected discussion, however, some important information came out. Mr. Riley recently met with the tribal executive committee and discussed with them Mr. Archiquette's correspondence with Washington and, according to Mrs. Eva Danforth, he went over with them his letter to Senator Proxmire. It seems clear that Mr. Archiquette does not enjoy the confidence of the small group with whom I met last night which included the four tribal officers. Instead, these people, for whom Mrs. Danforth was the major spokesman, expressed considerable confidence in Mr. Riley and felt that according to their understanding of the rules of tribal organization, Mr. Archiquette has no vote in tribal matters since he does not live in the area and he should have no say about the non-taxable land since he does not live on any of it.

Whether or not the tribal leaders' confidence is misplaced, the fact remains that this is the way they feel and I find it hard to believe that they ever sent a letter to Senator Proxmire in support of Mr. Archiquette's letter, as we did with our rather thin understanding of the whole complex problem of land and housing in this community.

Some time the week of the sixth, I will discuss this matter with Mrs. Moore and Mrs. De Coteau to get their thinking on how the Friends Committee could most constructively respond to Senator Proxmire and whether it would be necessary before responding to go through an open discussion of the letter from Mr. Riley at one of our meetings. Also, before June 11, I hope to have at least a telephone conversation with Mr. Riley to get a little more of his point of view about how the Friends Committee might be constructive with the very real problems which they see in the community.

Therefore, my suggestion for June 11 is simply to ignore this problem on the agenda and to bring it out verbally only if this appears to be in the best interest of the community after I get a little more Oneida education.

In regard to your suggestion that copies of the proposal for an Oneida worker be distributed to the committee, I have to say that it is still in the same very rough draft form in which you found it when you came to Green Bay. I have had the benefit of some criticism since then and have in mind re-writing it

completely and running it through the mill of further consultation. However, I do not believe that it will be humanly possible to put it in shape for discussion at our meeting on June 11.

I can say that my own department as well as Virgil Brown and Martin Cohnstaedt of the University all agree that this project or worker should not operate under the state department. I am reasonably satisfied that the best arrangement would be for such a worker to be set up on foundation funds requested through the American Friends Service Committee.

I think it might be realistic for me to try to get something in reasonably good form by the meeting following June 11, which I presume would be some time in August, perhaps late July.

Hastily, but cordially,



Walter Taylor  
Community Services Consultant

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WT:emp

*Copy enclosed in case for your review, ready for the U.S. Committee.*



LAWRENCE COLLEGE  
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

May 24, 1960

Mr. Paxton Hart  
Rural Route 3, Box 1071  
West Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr Hart:

Thank you for sending the agenda each month for the Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee meetings. None of us have been able to attend the meetings but we will be glad to attend next fall if matters come up at which Lawrence College should be represented. Art and I have been wondering if there has been any progress or have been any further developments concerning a recreational director and recreational facilities for the Oneidas, and we would appreciate hearing any information you, Mr. McClure, or Mr. Taylor may know about this.

Last Saturday, May 21, the Oneida high school group held a dance at the town hall. Lawrence provided a 'rock and roll' band, but the high school group took care of refreshments, publicity, and made arrangements to use the town hall. Other than the band, only two Lawrence students attended. Many of us would have liked to go, but we felt it would be better if few of us attended. From the reports I got, it was a tremendous success. There were many Oneidas there, and since they charged \$.25 a person, they may have made a little money on the dance. We were all pleased to hear what a good job they had done and hope they may be encouraged to plan more dances for the summer.

I am hoping to study this summer instead of getting a job as I have in the past. Since I will probably have some free time and live in Oklahoma, I thought perhaps I might be able to do some volunteer work either through work camps or with the Indians in that area. If you hear of any way in which I might be of service, please let me know. I would love to be able to work further with Indians, for perhaps I could gain some experience which might be helpful for the Oneida project.

My address from June 8 to September 13 will be:  
2635 East 60th Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

My address next fall will be:  
Ormsby Hall #304  
Lawrence College  
Appleton, Wisconsin

Yours truly,

*Anne Pelizzoni*

Anne Pelizzoni

May 24, 1960

Mr. Walter Taylor, Community  
Service Consultant  
District Office  
State Department of Public Welfare  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Dear Walt:

I am writing a brief note to let you know the status of our quest for a recreation program director for the Oneida community this summer.

In a recent telephone conversation with Grace Powers in the American Friends Service Committee National Personnel Office, she informed me that they had no one "on tap," but they are diligently in search for some one. I reiterated the situation with the Oneida and the kind of person they would need.

In answer to her question about financial arrangements, I told her that the Oneida community is willing to assume as much financial responsibility as possible to help defray the expenses of such a worker. I indicated that the young people are sponsoring a dance in the interest of securing funds for the recreation program.


As you know, living arrangements for the recreation worker will have to be the responsibility of the Oneida community. Perhaps, if the worker is a single person, he could stay in the home of one of the Oneida families. This is just a suggestion, but the Tribal Council should be aware of this responsibility.

Regarding compensation for the recreation worker, in the past an honorarium of approximately \$300 to \$400 has been paid for such a person to help with his financial obligations which are on-going during his period of service. I mention this so that the Tribal Council will have some idea of the amount of money necessary. The above figures can be flexible, but it will be necessary to know how much of this amount the Council is able to afford.

I hope we will be able to secure someone for the Oneida community, but Max Har and I feel that June 11th should be the deadline. It would hardly seem fair to the Oneida to prolong the search after that time.

I am always glad to hear from you and hope I will be able to see you again soon.

Sincerely yours,

  
McClure McCombs, Director  
WORK and STUDY PROGRAM

✓ cc: Barton Hart

June 7, 1960

Miss Anne Pelizzoni  
2635 East 60th Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Miss Pelizzoni:

Thank you for your good letter of May 24. I am sorry to have to report that we have been unsuccessful in our search for an Oneida recreational leader for this summer. We will, however, keep looking, and the chances of finding a person for the summer of 1961 are far better. Walter Taylor reports that the dance was a tremendous success. The \$24 that was raised will, I imagine, be used for equipment for this summer. Walter says that the 4-H program plus some other local leadership and the consultative services of his office will at least make some progress this year over past years. I very much appreciate your patience in this project, though I am sure that you share my disappointment at not seeing a program and a Quonset hut at Oneida for this summer. And I am glad to note your interest in continuing work with the Oneidas when you return to Lawrence next fall. Our committee will certainly seek your valuable cooperation again.

I have inquired at the Chicago office of the American Friends Service Committee about Oklahoma Indian projects for this summer. I find that the Austin, Texas office will handle any such projects, and that you should send an inquiry to Garnett Guild (her last name rhymes with wild) at that office. The address is:

Garnett Guild  
American Friends Service Committee  
407 West 27th Street  
Austin 5  
Texas

Have a fine summer. I hope to see you again in the fall.

Yours sincerely,

Paxton Hart

150  
May 27, 1960

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Mr. Mc Clure Mc Combs, Director  
Work and Study Program  
American Friends Service Committee  
300 West Congress Parkway  
Chicago 7, Illinois

Dear Mac:

Thank you for yours of May 24th in regard to a recreation director for Oneida.

Frankly, I must confess that I was surprised and so were the Oneidas in their small meeting last night to learn specifically about the financial obligations which they must be prepared to meet in order to secure a recreation worker this summer.

The dance was a tremendous success. The band from Lawrence College got lost and was late arriving but when they got there the music was excellent and everyone was happy and a good crowd attended. However, at 25 cents per person, the net proceeds, in spite of free music and free hall, were about \$24. The objective was to raise some money for equipment for recreation. No one in Oneida ever had in mind any realistic possibility of raising enough money to pay for a recreation worker this summer. In other words, \$300 or even half that amount seems to me unlikely for this summer. I should not be surprised if board and room could be worked out somehow, although I have no commitment on this.

I am sorry if this was my misunderstanding, but at any rate, I believe it is good to clarify it at this point. It seems to me that we would need to find a wealthy, well-trained, interested recreation worker in order to fill this spot, and I must admit that this would be a rare bird.

I took the liberty of sharing your information with the small group meeting last night because it seemed important that they know the realities early enough to work on alternative plans. I imagine the best they can do now is to use their own leadership and perhaps take advantage of the offers of the Green Bay Recreation Department to provide some brief training or consultative service.

Thanks again and best wishes. I look forward to seeing you whenever possible.

Cordially,

Walter Taylor  
Community Services Consultant

CC: Paxton Hart

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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April 29, 1960

American Friends Service Committee  
Chicago,  
Illinois

Dear Sir:

We want to thank you again for your deep interest in the Oneida tribe and hope you can come out here again in the very near future.

I am sorry to tell you the meeting set for April 20th was cancelled but a number of us did not know it at the time so we had a meeting anyway. The meeting had been called off due to bad weather conditions and bad roads; some of us that evening had to walk 2 miles to get to the car on the main Hi-way. It was fortunate your Committee held your meeting on April 9th; the side roads became impassable about a week later.

I told the members of the letter from you and the part of the recreational leader. I was authorized at this meeting to write and convey our wishes that we ask the American Friends Service Committee to try to find a skilled recreational leader for the Oneida Area Community Committee for this summer. We feel there is enough assurance from the people in the community to want it and I am sure we will benefit from it.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Irene Moore  
Vice-Chairman,  
Oneida Tribal Council  
Seymour, Wisconsin. R.3

COPY

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*I have sent copies to:  
Walt Taylor  
Grace Powers*

*Mac*

1437 Western Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
January 24, 1960

Senator William Proxmire  
Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Oneida Indian needs in Wisconsin

Dear Senator Proxmire:

In his letter to you of 12-29-59 Mr. Oscar Archiquette proposed an F.H.A. type of loan to permit Indians to build "modern homes on an assignment of tribal land which is held in trust by the Federal Government." He suggested the need for a period of 20 years for repayment of such loans.

The Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee for American Indians shares Mr. Archiquette's concern and we hope you will give it earnest consideration. We have been informed that the chairman and secretary of the Oneida Tribal Council also support Mr. Archiquette's proposal for a long-term housing mortgage program.

Neither this committee nor the Indian spokesmen with whom we are acquainted want to increase Indian dependence upon the Federal Government, but we concur whole-heartedly in Mr. Archiquette's appeal for a substantial rehabilitation effort.

While rehabilitation is expensive, it is also economical, since it enables so many of a handicapped group to become independent taxpayers, rather than life-long tax consumers. That the Oneida Indians are handicapped seems apparent from the disproportionate number receiving very low incomes and living in small, crowded, poorly equipped houses, sometimes lacking even a pump for water within a mile or more. That they have become handicapped largely through policies and actions of officials and others in the dominant group seems clear from a reading of the recent corrected version of history, Indians and Other Americans by Harold Fey and D'Arcy Mc Nickle (Harper and Brothers, New York, 1959.)

There will never be a better time than this to pursue an effective rehabilitation program based upon a genuine understanding of the true history of American Indians and of their current plight and their potential

Sen. William Proxmire

-2-

January 22, 1960

strengths. This might require, among other services, capital and expert consultation for economic development.

Very truly yours,

Walter Taylor  
Acting Corresponding Secretary  
ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN FRIENDS COMMITTEE  
FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

Wt:amp

April 16, 1960

Mrs. Irene Moore, Vice Chairman  
Oneida Tribal Executive Committee  
Route 3  
Seymour, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Moore: First I want to thank you and the other members of the Oneida tribe for welcoming our committee so warmly last weekend. The chicken bouya served by the Men's Club, and the wonderful supper a few of us were fortunate enough to share in your lovely home, were both delicious indeed. Best of all, however, was the warm feeling of friendship that developed during the day and the evening. I wish that more of our committee could have shared our experience; but I think that the dozen or so who did undertake the journey are a pretty good indication of our deep interest in the Oneida people.

During the morning meeting, when we were discussing the Kinzua Dam and its threat to the Seneca nation in New York, I said I thought the name of the Seneca president was Cornelius V. Seneca. I was wrong. Although he has served four terms as president, the current president is George Herron. He can be reached, I am fairly certain, at this address:

George Herron, President of the Seneca Republic  
General Tribal Office  
Gowanda, New York

I am sure that a letter to him from his brothers the Oneidas will be a real morale booster in these troubled times. Letters to Washington to protest the dam will be helpful, too, and I am glad that the tribe is considering writing them. The people to whom they should be addressed are named in the literature that was distributed last Saturday morning.

I will certainly be interested in the outcome of the meeting on April 20. May I suggest that if the committee wishes to have the American Friends Service Committee try to find a skilled recreational leader for this summer, the committee write a letter definitely asking the Service Committee to do so. The Service Committee feels that it must have a definite authorization from an



Mrs. Irene Moore

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April 16, 1960

appropriate tribal budget proceed. The letter from the committee meeting April 20 would be such an authorization. The letter should be addressed to:

McClure McCombs, Director  
Work and Study Program  
American Friends Service Committee  
500 West Congress Parkway  
Chicago 7, Illinois

I hope that you will understand that even with a clear authorization from the tribe, the Service Committee cannot guarantee to supply a recreational director. I can guarantee, however, that it will try very hard to do so.

Thank you again for your warm hospitality. Please relay my thanks, and our committee's thanks, to all our Oneida friends.

Very sincerely yours,

Paxton Hart, Chairman  
Illinois-Wisconsin Friends  
Committee for American Indians