

1437 Western Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
April 12, 1960

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

Re: Previous correspondence concerning
Oneida Indians

Dear Senator Proxmire:

Thank you for your cordial response of 2-23-60 to ours of
1-24-60.

You were requesting comment from the Indian Bureau in regard
to Mr. Oscar Archiquette's proposal of federal loans for improved
housing construction for Oneida Indians.

If you have by now received a response from the Indian Bureau
we shall look forward to further comment from you. Otherwise, we hope
the Indian Bureau will soon respond constructively to your request.

We value your appreciation of Friends service work. We know
you share our deep concern for the future of all American Indians,
including the Oneidas to whom the United States has been indebted ever
since its Revolution.

Our committee met all day yesterday at Oneida with many fine
Oneidas. We were even more impressed by their potential for a much greater
contribution to American life than their present circumstances permit.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Taylor
Acting Corresponding Secretary

ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN FRIENDS COMMITTEE
FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

WT:emp

Mrs. Irene Moore

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April 16, 1960

appropriate tribal body to 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
300 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

Rural Route 1, Box 1071
West Chicago, Illinois
May 22, 1960

Dear Walt: (Taylor)

I agree entirely with your ideas about how the Riley correspondence should be handled. I think it would be fine for you to get in touch with him, try to arrange a conference with him, and invite him to our next meeting. (You no doubt noticed in the minutes that I have changed the date to June 11; I did so because of requests from Martin and Chester.) I enclose the copies of the correspondence, as you requested.

If Mr. Riley is not able to attend the June 11 meeting, will you report his reactions? Depending on them, I shall be prepared to recommend that the committee assemble for Senator Proxmire the several studies of the Oneida community that point out the housing problem; and that the committee, in cooperation with the Oneidas, invite Senator Proxmire to visit and tour the Oneida community with some of us this summer to see and judge for himself.

I wonder, Walt, if you still think that the Service Committee may be the proper agency to handle the Oneida rehabilitation program. If so, would you be willing to summarize the proposal at the next meeting, so that the committee can decide what it would like to do about it? It would be still better if copies of the proposal could be made for each committee member--about thirty would do it. If you think this is feasible and possible for your office to handle, I will send you a copy of the mailing list. If you do not think that your office should do the job, I will ask AFSC to do it. It will take AFSC some time to do so; they are very short handed just now. Perhaps I put too much faith in "copies for every member," but I do feel that careful study of proposals and issues in advance of meetings is an important caution. I will, of course, not object if you feel that an oral summary is sufficient.

It was good to get a copy of your May 18 letter to Mac. It was a needed nudging. Mac has done all he can to move Philadelphia, and your letter will help him nudge some more. I plan to call him tomorrow to ask that AFSC say yes or no by June 11. We should not let it drag longer than that, and have the Oneidas continue in a state of uncertainty. It may be that if a suitable person cannot be found for this summer, one can be found for later on. If AFSC continues looking, I am sure a person can be found for the summer of 1961.

Thanks, Walt, for your good work, and please greet Margaret and the younger Taylors for me.

Sincerely,

Paxton Hart

Robert Austin

TO: Grace Powers

FROM: *William* Peckare McGinnis

DATE: April 12, 1960

SUBJECT: Recreational Director for the Oneida Indian Community - Oneida, Wisconsin

The following is an excerpted paragraph from a letter to Paxton Hart, chair of the Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee for American Indians, from Walter Taylor, Community Services Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare, in reference to the need of a recreational director to work with the Oneida community:

"The most urgent recreational need emerging from last night's Oneida Council Committee meeting was for part-time, but well-qualified professional direction for a recreation program. We all recognized the need for a building, but a recreation director could begin right now and make a significant contribution by organizing, directing and training the volunteer leaders available within or outside the community. I was asked to inquire whether the Friends Committee could provide such qualified leadership for this coming summer. In order to be helpful, it may be necessary to be brutally frank in making this request to all. The Oneidas, Walter Taylor and two recreational consultants from the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare agreed last night that anything less than a well-qualified, experienced recreation director who also has the capacity to fit comfortably into a quite different culture from the usual urban recreation program might be a disaster and a net-back for the Oneida community. Even without such leadership there would be a real movement just now toward a better use of the available facilities and a team, primarily with the help of the cooperative extension ball club agents, was felt that it would be better to wait a year to develop some means of employing a competent part-time person than to accept even free of charge any leadership with unproven ability to work in this kind of a situation."

Since talking with you on the telephone concerning the request of the Oneida Executive Committee for a recreation director to work in Oneida, Wisconsin during the summer of 1960, I attended the meeting of the Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee for American Indians which was held jointly with the Oneida Executive Committee at Oneida, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 9, 1960.

Considerable discussion took place concerning the request for a recreation director and, while no one attempted to set forth a description of a recreation worker for the Oneida situation, several factors were offered as being important to the requirements of such workers. The following are factors which relate to responsibilities of a person who would work in the Oneida community during the summer:

1. The Oneida Indian Community does not constitute a "reservation," consists of Oneida Indians who "share" Oneida, Wisconsin with non-Indian residents. However, the Oneida Indians make up the larger portion of the population. While the concern for a recreational program for the Indian youth of the area is mainly that of the Oneida Indians, they do not wish to confine such programs to their own interest, but wish to have it inclusive of other young people in the area, if possible. (Therefore, a recreation director would be expected to be able to develop a program which would be geared toward this point of view.)

2. Several "foci" of recreational activity already exist in the community (i.e., ball club and church related activities). The Oneida Executive Committee feels that many of these activities are worthwhile and in many instances could be incorporated into an effective program for young people. (Therefore it is considered essential that the recreation director work closely with other

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 you have any need of it for AFSC or the IU-Wisc. Committee

Rural Route 1, Box 1071
West Chicago, Illinois
May 12, 1960

Dear Walt:

I wonder about your feelings regarding the Oneida housing correspondence. I myself would hate to see the thing dropped at this time. Riley's letter impresses me only to the extent that it echoes so perfectly the official attitude toward Indians; once they are "free" of federal services, their salvation will be assured.

Here's what I would like to do--subject to your approval. I would like to have the whole correspondence mimeographed for distribution before the June 4 meeting so that committee members can study it and be prepared to discuss it and decide what next to do about it. I myself have a number of ideas, none of them quite so grand as Oscar's, but all of them quite practical and reasonable, I believe. I am sure that other members will come up with more and better ones.

There are two catches in the idea. First, I don't have your first letter indicating the committee's support of Oscar's request. I thought your letter was a particularly fine one and very clever, too--especially in pointing out that what eventually should happen is to make the Indians tax payers instead of tax consumers. Do you have a copy of the letter? If so, may I have it?

Second, Riley's unfavorable ad hominems to Oscar in the letter might cause some embarrassment? We could excerpt the letter, leaving them out, but in matters like these, I prefer to have the whole context. I think the ad hominems are very important in revealing Riley's thought methods. What do you think?

If you don't think this is a good idea, just say so. We could, of course, ask you to summarize the correspondence in meeting or read it, but with the pressure of time, I doubt that the committee would get as much out of it as they would if they had time to study it. On the other hand, having you summarize or read the correspondence would save a lot of people a lot of work and time. Please let me know what you think, and if you have a copy of your first letter, send it along.

Sincerely,

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