



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

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
DISTRICT OFFICE
CITY HALL — P. O. BOX 336
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

Illinois-Wisconsin Friends
Committee for American
Indians Box 1
SHSW, Madison

March 7, 1960

Art Ullian
Beta House
Lawrence College
Appleton, Wisconsin

Dear Art:

I spoke with Mac today about the procurement of a Quonset hut and a recreational leader. Mac agreed that no injustice would be done by the Service Committee looking for a private donor at the same time the Oneidas are petitioning the Army Engineers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc. If the Service Committee should get a lead, it will inform you, and you can inform the Oneidas, who will do the actual asking. Or, if you think it would be better for the Service Committee to notify the tribe directly, that can be done. If the tribe fails to find a hut, the Service Committee may then continue the search.

As for transferring the Menominee summer recreational worker to the Oneidas, no decision can be made for a while. First it will be necessary to make sure that the Menominees do not want such a worker. Then a definite request from the Oneidas--and a fairly detailed idea of what this worker would do--would have to be considered. This could be a topic for discussion on April 9, and I will ask Mac and Anja to make the Service Committee's point of view clear by that time.

You and Ann were very kind to agree to write an article for The Concerned Student on the work of Lawrence students with the Oneidas. I am looking forward to it. I told Ann that it would be very helpful to have the article by the 14th.

It was a pleasure and a challenge to have you and Ann at the meeting. Thank you very much for coming. The long and animated discussion of your concern is the best indication of the committee's interest. Concerns like yours are the kind that will keep the committee from deteriorating into a debating club. It will be good to see you again next month. I hope that you will consider attending meetings regularly.

Sincerely yours,

Paxton Hart