

August 31, 1966

Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

Secretary Stewart L. Udall has furnished me with your letter of June 29th and his reply of August 18th relating to land use policies on Indian reservations.

We in the Bureau of Indian Affairs are happy to have your views, which support the idea that in any development of lakeshore property in Wisconsin consideration should be given to the long-range recreational and tourist potential based upon the natural beauty of the region.

Your views will be forwarded to the agencies of this bureau having responsibility for the development of land programs on Indian reservations, and they will also be asked to make your views known to the tribes involved. As you know, tribal or allotted land on Indian reservations is privately owned and the owners have authority to make decisions affecting the use of their land, subject to bureau approval when the land is in trust status. Unilateral action cannot be taken by the bureau with reference to these lands; but there will be no hesitancy on our part in recommending your views to the Indian people involved.

While there may be some shortcomings in the proposals submitted to the Indian owners for the use of the land in question, I can assure you that we would be happy to receive any specific suggestions which you might have about the development of this area. Your interest in bringing this to the attention of the Secretary so that we might have the benefit of your views is very much appreciated.

RLBennett:ewp 8/31/66

Sincerely yours,



CC: 300--Asst. Commr. Fryer: For followup with Minneapolis Area. RLB

350 - w/incoming

Mail Room

Commr. --chrony

--files

Robert L. Bennett  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

May 6, 1966

Mr. Glenn R. Landbloom, Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1312 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Dear Mr. Landbloom:

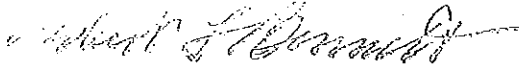
I enjoyed reading your remarks at the dinner following the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Oneida housing project on April 23rd. It was a very fine statement and I am especially appreciative of the plug which you put in for me.

As you know, I have been away from Oneida pretty much over the last 40 years, and any good words such as those you gave me in your remarks are appreciated.

With best wishes, I am,

RLBennett:ewp 5/6/66

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Bennett  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

CC: Branch of Housing: w/cc inc. -- you might like to have this for your records.

MAIL ROOM

Commr. --chrony

--file

Remarks at the Dinner following the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the Oneida Housing Project, April 23, 1966, by Glenn R. Landbloom, Area Director, Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Proxmire, Bishop Brady, Officers of the Oneida Tribe and Oneida Housing Authority, Other Distinguished Guests, and Friends:

It is indeed a pleasure to accept Mr. Artley Skenandore's kind invitation to participate in the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the Oneida Housing Project of 24 units.

Mr. Louis Thompson, the Area Housing Development Officer, and I flew into Green Bay late yesterday afternoon. We rented an automobile and took the opportunity to look over the two reservations in this area, The Oneida and Stockbridge Reservations. It became dark before we completed our tour so we did a little more looking this morning before the ceremony.

Both reservations are beautiful places to live but I am glad that you are getting more and better housing. As most of you know, former Commissioner Nash of Wisconsin, the congressional delegation from this state, Secretary Udall, and the Bureau have been interested for some time in better housing for our Indian citizens. I am real happy to be here today and have a part in your celebration. Although I have been your Area Director for only a short time, I have known of your interest and courage and patience in working on this project, for about three years.

I am certain that you may remember some of the important dates in the history of this project. Some of you have perhaps forgotten a number of them. In any event, I would like to recall them for the record.

On April 20, 1963, the Tribal Council enacted the ordinance or resolution which authorized the formation of the Housing Authority. This was the first important step and the Tribal Council should be commended for their foresight in planning for their fellow members of the Tribe. On June 21, 1963, the Housing Authority had an organizational meeting and elected its own officers.

The next necessary step was a survey of the Reservation by the Housing Authority. I understand that other members of the Tribe also

assisted in this house-to-house canvass. An architect was then employed to start the design work and on October 28, 1963, your request for a housing program was approved by the Public Housing Administration.

The next important date was August 15, 1964, when your development program was approved after the details had been worked out. Specifications were drawn, advertising was done, and on April 1, 1966, the Housing Authority issued the notice to the contractor to proceed with construction.

So that brings us up to this wonderful day when we can all see and know that this Housing Project is a fact and a reality.

I sincerely wish that it would have been possible for our new Commissioner, Robert LaFollette Bennett, an outstanding member of the Oneida Tribe, to have been here today and shared in this wonderful occasion. I have known Commissioner Bennett for many years, having worked with him in the Dakotas. I am proud of him as I know you must be. He carries a heavy responsibility at all times in his new job. It should be an inspiration to all of you to know that one of your own members has been able to assume the No. 1 post--the highest position in the Bureau--the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I would like to commend the Oneida Tribal Council, Oneida Housing Authority, Public Housing Administration, officials of the Public Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the architect, the generous church that donated the land to make this project possible, and the many other interested citizens and companies of nearby towns --also keeping in mind the people who represent you in the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives and a generous Congress. It is a long list and indicates that many people and agencies have been of assistance to you.

It also demonstrates that the Oneida Tribe has many fine qualities of proper interest. There will no doubt be other ways in which you can work together for your mutual and individual self-improvement--additional housing programs, high school for all your children, college and special training for many of them, and a philosophy that every Oneida person is important--he or she can assume responsibility and make a working contribution to this great society and world in which we live.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Minneapolis Area Office and Superintendent Emmett Riley and his staff at the Great Lakes Agency, may I again congratulate the Oneida Tribe and the Oneida Housing Authority and wish you all every possible success with this and other housing projects.