

RESOLUTION OF THE HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE
 HOOPA INDIAN RESERVATION
 HOOPA, CALIFORNIA

COPY

RESOLUTION NO: 894DATE APPROVED: 1-15-69SUBJECT: REQUEST RETENTION OF COMMISSIONER BENNETT

~~WHEREAS:~~ The Hoopa Valley Tribe did on May 13, 1950 adopt a constitution and bylaws that was approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on September 4th, 1952 and Article VIII, Section 1 (a) to administer all tribal property by ordinance or resolution subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or his authorized representative (g) to negotiate with the Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of the tribe.

WHEREAS: The Hoopa Valley Business Council of the Hoopa Valley Tribe have been able to see the notable change in the attitude of the employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the policies affecting their reservation, and;

WHEREAS: Said change has resulted in the necessary motivation for the tribe to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to a comprehensive program that would insure the intense development of Human and natural resources of the Hoopa Reservation and;

WHEREAS: never before has such a start been made for the substantial and sustained progress of Indians in individual enterprise, in bringing industry to the reservation, and in concerted efforts for improvement of health, education, and employment of the Hoopa Indians, and;

WHEREAS: The Hoopa Valley Tribe credits the wise decision of Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall with the choosing of a man of Indian Ancestry, Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the Tribe credits Mr. Bennett as being a contributing and stimulating factor that was necessary to involve so many diverse interests and to awaken the potential capacity of Indians for self improvement and for self help, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Hoopa Valley Business Council hereby express our gratitude and confidence in Robert L. Bennett as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Hoopa Valley Business Council respectfully requests the Secretary of Interior, retain Robert L. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs as the Hoopa Valley Business Council deems it necessary and in the best interest of the tribe.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Hoopa Valley Business Council hereby certify that the Hoopa Valley Business Council is composed of seven (7) members of which 7 constituting a quorum were present at a Special meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed and convened and held this 15th day of January, 1969 and that this resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

DATED THIS 15TH DAY OF JANUARY 1969.

ATTEST

Mary E. Davis
 Mary E. Davis: Secretary

Charles J. Moon
 Charles J. Moon: Chairman

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Hoopa Valley Business Council
Hoopa Valley Tribe

Charles J. Moon
Charles J. Moon: Chairman
Hoopa Valley Business Council
Hoopa Valley Tribe

RECEIVED
JAN 16 1969

HOOPA AREA FIELD OFFICE

NOTED: January 16, 1969

Vincent Little
Area Field Representative

RECEIVED
BUR. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.Attachment #9
OCT 28 2 18 PM '68

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is established for the purpose of enlightening the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; to enhance and promote the general educational opportunity among members of the Five Civilized Tribes; to seek an equitable adjustment of tribal affairs; to secure and to preserve rights under Indian treaties with the United States; and otherwise to promote the common welfare of the American Indians, and

Whereas, Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has initiated new programs and has enlarged existing programs and has attained a high degree of cooperation and coordination among Federal, state and private organizations that are helping Indian tribes, and

WHEREAS, he has obtained the support of Congressional Committees that can assist Indian programs, and

WHEREAS, he has sought and obtained the full support of Indian leaders in planning tribal programs, and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Commissioner Bennett the Indian people are now developing more than they ever have before, more than at anytime in the history of this country, and

WHEREAS, The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes firmly believes that this momentum developed by Commissioner Bennett should be carried into the new administration, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bennett's appointment will expire on January 20, 1969,

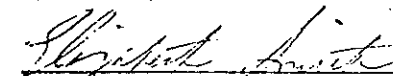
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes strongly recommends that Robert L. Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs so that the programs under way will be achieved without interruption and without delay.

Adopted this 11th day of October 1968 in a regular quarterly meeting held at Sequoyah High School, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



Overton James, President

ATTEST:



Elizabeth Smith, Executive Secretary

*Special file**RAB*

March 11, 1969

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

The members of the Cherokee Nation or Tribe of Oklahoma through the Executive Committee and Cherokee community representatives hereby record their recommendation to you that the Honorable Robert L. Bennett be retained as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and that his policies on Indian affairs be continued.

It is the general consensus that during Mr. Bennett's administration there has been real understanding of the Indians and of their needs, and programs have been initiated with support of Indian leadership which tend to make the individuals and groups more self-reliant and self-sustaining citizens.

Your favorable consideration of this recommendation will be deeply appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

cc Principal Chief Keeler
Executive Secretary
Chairman, Community
Representatives

Principal Chief



Department of Social Justice

1/30/69
RMB

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

Telephone: 870-2438

Arthur S. Fleming, President

R. H. Edwin Espy, General Secretary

January 7, 1969

The Honorable Walter Hickie
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hickie:

As we face the months and years ahead in American Indian Affairs, I and many others are deeply concerned that there be evident the most enlightened leadership available.

We have read with real care and appreciation President-Elect Nixon's position statement on Indian affairs. You should know it has received fairly universal support and approval by those involved in and supportive of a strong constructive approach to this long standing and vexing problem.

Mr. Nixon's statement seems to me to be most consistent with the positive and constructive program we have seen evolving in recent years, recognized as such through recent expressions by many of the Indian organizations, such as the National Congress of American Indians, the N. W. Affiliated Tribes, the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Sioux Tribes of South Dakota, and many others. The Council on Indian Affairs, of which I am Chairman, took action in mid-December to recommend similar action to its constituent membership.

I am of the opinion that in large measure the person responsible for this program is the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, an Indian himself and thus a living symbol of recognition and trust to the entire Indian population to continue and further the program as outlined by Mr. Nixon. I can think of no better assurance than the continuation of Mr. Bennett as Commissioner. I respectfully ask that you give positive consideration to continuing Mr. Bennett as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and thus give assurance to massive numbers of Indian people, and friends of the Indian cause, that present constructive programs and movements will continue.

Most respectfully,

Russell Carter
R. Russell Carter

ERC:hv

DR. DAVID RAMAGE, JR., Chairman • REV. ELIZABETH MILLER, Vice Chairman

cc: Mr. Richard M. Wilson, Director, Division of Christian Life and Mission

*LRB:1
Special File*



**Zeta Psi Fraternity
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

TELEPHONE (212) 736-0992

FOUR WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

Janua 9, 1969

Mr. Robert Bennett
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Bob:

Just a brief note to let you know how much I appreciated your taking time from your busy schedule to join us for dinner at the Cosmos Club. This kind of a session for us was overdue and I certainly enjoyed being brought up-to-date on Indian Affairs. You can rest assured that I will do all I can to bring support for your appointment. I think you have done a very fine, excellent job as a commissioner and, of course, all of us are very proud of the fact that for the first time in 90 years or so that we have had a real "redskin" to represent us. Since I saw you I made some contacts here in New York and in Detroit on your behalf.

Keep in touch and I hope you can arrange to have a real nice day for January 20th for the Inaugural Parade. I'd hate to have you get your Indian bonnet and tepee soaked on the float.

Good luck to you and let me know if there is anything more I can do to help. All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Louis R. Bruce
Executive Secretary

LRB:1
cc: Forrest Gerard

P.S. Incidentally, our host at the Cosmos Club, Dr. William Duryee, Research Director, Warwick Clinic, 2300 "K" Street, Washington, D.C. was very pleased to have a chance to meet and talk with you.

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.432 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10016

MU 9-4770

December 3, 1968

Oliver La Farge, *President*
(1931-1963)Roger C. Ernst, *President*Benjamin C. O'Sullivan, *1st Vice President*Edward P. Dozier, Ph.D., *2nd Vice President*Mrs. Henry S. Forbes, *Secretary*Thomas Shaw Hale, *Treasurer*William Byler, *Executive Director*Arthur Lazarus, Jr., Richard Schärer, *General Counsel*

Mr. Richard Kleindienst
Staff of the President-elect
Office of the President-elect Richard M. Nixon
450 Park Avenue
New York City, New York 10022

Dear Dick:

Although I use this letterhead I write as an individual. I come to you with comparatively limited knowledge of American Indian affairs since my exposure has been only during the last ten or twelve years.

It is my opinion a period of mutual trust between Indian leadership and the Bureau of Indian Affairs exists at present, as it has few times since the initiation of the "Peace Policy" of President Grant, the centennial of which will take place along with the inauguration of President Nixon in 1969.

Grant's Indian policy, and that of each subsequent national administration has sought Indian social, economic and political adjustment with the larger community so that special Federal protection and support of Indians and their property could be eliminated. The methods by which the national objective of Indian self-sufficiency have been sought differed markedly from administration to administration, and have changed with confusing regularity. Its legacy has been bitterness and misunderstanding between Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Congress and the American people, observing this conflict, along with continued Indian poverty in the face of increased Federal Indian budgets and bureaucratic expansion, have, in their mutual frustration, urged the Indian problem be solved by terminating the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But Indians and their non-Indian friends have not wanted the Bureau eliminated. They have consistently jumped to its vigorous support and a relatively static, custodial relationship between Indians and the Federal Government has continued on decade after decade.

National opinion in the area of Indian Affairs is both powerful and unpredictable. In the early 1920's, reactions to Indian policy by church groups and by national women's organizations led to the significant reforms of the Hoover Administration in 1928. These were consolidated into major Indian legislation in the 1930's. Adverse Congressional and popular reaction to New Deal

Mr. Kleindienst

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December 3, 1968

policies and programs were violent in the period of social and political change after World War II. The expansion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs which took place during the depression years was curtailed, and Indian self-determination was made an option rather than the single goal of Federal Indian policy. This mood hardened with time and was formally expressed in early 1953 by Joint Concurrent Resolution 108, which stated that the intent of Congress was to terminate unilaterally the special Federal relationship over organized Indian Tribes as rapidly as practical.

Later, in 1957, the unilateral approach to termination was withdrawn in favor of termination based on Indian consent. But real damage had already been done. Distrust by Indian leadership of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and of Congressional intent, growing since 1946, continued and had reached a peak at the time President Kennedy entered office. He continued the latter-day Eisenhower program, and attempted to demonstrate by deed as well as by word, that the Indian consent would guide Indian Affairs. This grew into an emphasis on partnership between the Bureau and the Indian people which since has become the keystone of Indian policy.

Thru this doctrine of "partnership", an environment of mutual trust and respect between the Indian Bureau and the Indians has been created which the Nixon Administration is indeed fortunate to inherit. This must continue if we Republicans are to avoid being labeled the party of "termination".

The Republican Party can assure continuity in Indian Affairs by retaining Robert L. Bennett, the present Commissioner, for a year or eighteen months, if not longer. As the first Commissioner of Indian blood to serve in this century, Mr. Bennett is greatly admired and respected by Indian people. Quite apart from his not inconsiderable ability, he is a major symbol of the principle of partnership between the Indian people and the BIA.

Mr. Bennett brings more strengths than his mere "Indianness" to the job. He has developed and is putting into operation a unique approach in Indian Affairs. He feels that Indians best can cut the cord of dependency by themselves by taking over and administering programs which have for generations been provided for them by the BIA. Tribal service contracts with BIA under the so-called "buy Indian" clause of the Act of 1910, provides the means for making this shift. His ultimate goal is to redefine the Federal-Indian relationship, within the full protection of the Federal Trust, into one in which Indians have maximum authority while accepting increasing responsibility for decisions they make.

Mr. Bennett's program implies that as Tribes assume the administration of programs, the number of BIA employees will decrease. This leads to a second and vital ingredient which Mr. Bennett brings to the Commissioner's job. As a long-time career employee, he knows the Bureau and its many foibles. He is admirably suited to the difficult task of getting many Bureau employees to work themselves out of jobs.

Finally, and most important, Mr. Bennett brings to the Commissioner's job an intimate acquaintance with National Indian leadership. This group is the Commissioner's special "constituency". He knows them and trusts them. They, in turn, tend to trust and respect him. Experience has clearly demonstrated program success depends on this support by the Indian people.

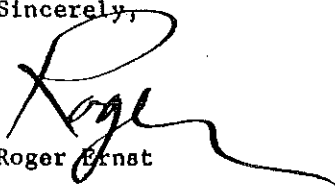
Mr. Kleindienst

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December 3, 1968

I have known the Commissioner for many years through his work as an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His actual assignments during his career are documented within the Department of the Interior. If I recall correctly he changed his political registration from Democrat to Republican in 1960 so he could vote for Ben Reifel, Congressman from the 1st District in South Dakota, and is presently a registered Republican.

Sincerely,



Roger Ernst

RCE:b