

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION

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November 26, 1968

Lyndon B. Johnson President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Johnson;

On, October 21, 1968, i received a letter from Mr. Harry R. Anderson, assistant Secretary of the Interior, in regards, to the United States of America, to intervene in behalf of the Oneida Indian Nation for the grave injustices and inadequate prices paid for their land, in Treaties between the State of New York and the Oneida Indian Nation.

Your administration has tried to institute this case for us. I Believe their efforts were not to the fullest of their ability, thus their efforts were failing.

Does not the conscience of your mind and of your administration realize this failure. Doesn't this gap bring terrible guilt to your mind. The, Justice Department refusal, is on the grounds of conflict of interest and that in effect, the interest of the United States as a defendant, is being placed above the interest of the Oneida Indians as wards of the government.

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We ask that you contact the Secretary of the Interior and urge that our attorney, and our President, be granted a personal conference with him. We enclose a copy of our letter to Mr. Udall requesting such a conference.

Very respectfully yours,
ONEIDA INDIAN NATION OF NEW YORK

By Jacob Thomason

President

Raymond G. Elton

Vice President

Mr. Ruth L. Burr

Secretary

Post Mark,

Medina, N. Y.

10 Street Address

November 26, 1968

We are advised that we have a remedy in a claim pending against the United States, before the Indian Claims Commission. Yet the United States denies liability in that forum also, and beyond that liability would be equity, and beyond that?

We, of the Oneida Indian Nation, could prove beyond the word of doubt, the tragic injustices that our white neighbors have perpetrated against the Oneida Indian Nation. We will continue to keep our promises and we will continue to appeal to the conscience of the United States and New York State, rather than their fears.

To clear the conscience of your peoples past and present, of their injustices and liabilities perpetrated against us, it would be a loyal and fitting act for you, to close your administration with an act of responsibility for the Oneida Indian Nation.

Enclosed herein a copy of letter of October 21, 1968.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Thompson

Jacob Thompson President.

Oneida Indian Nation of New York

RD#1 Rt. 11A

Nedrow, New York 13120

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION

March 26, 1968

Mr

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20025

Attention: Mr. Matthew Nimitz

My dear Mr. President:

On February 9, 1968 the Oneida Indian Nation presented to your representative, Mr. Matthew Nimitz, a petition for help and justice. This petition was presented pursuant to the Iniquis Treaty of 1794.

We now learn with deep sorrow that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has declined to help the Oneida Nation in our claim against New York State and has not afforded our counsel an opportunity to appear and represent us. This is only the latest in a series of tragic injustices that our white neighbors have perpetrated against the Oneidas and other Indians.

The United States in formal treaties has promised to help us and has promised that our lands will be ours forever. General George Washington promised:

"The General Government will never consent to your being defrauded, but it will protect you in all your just rights."

We have asked for help relying on the "sacred word of the United States". In these times of turmoil and unrest, whose word can we rely on, if not formal treaties, the promises of men like George Washington, and your recently stated concern for the rights of Indians.

We are advised that we have a remedy in a claim pending against the United States before the Claims Commission. Yet the United States denies liability in that forum also. We wonder also if the United States can abrogate its treaties by payment of money damages.

The Oneidas are hurt by this treatment as though a father had slapped his son across the face for no reason. We should know better by now! We will continue to keep our promises and we will continue to appeal to the conscience of the United States and New York State, rather than their fears.