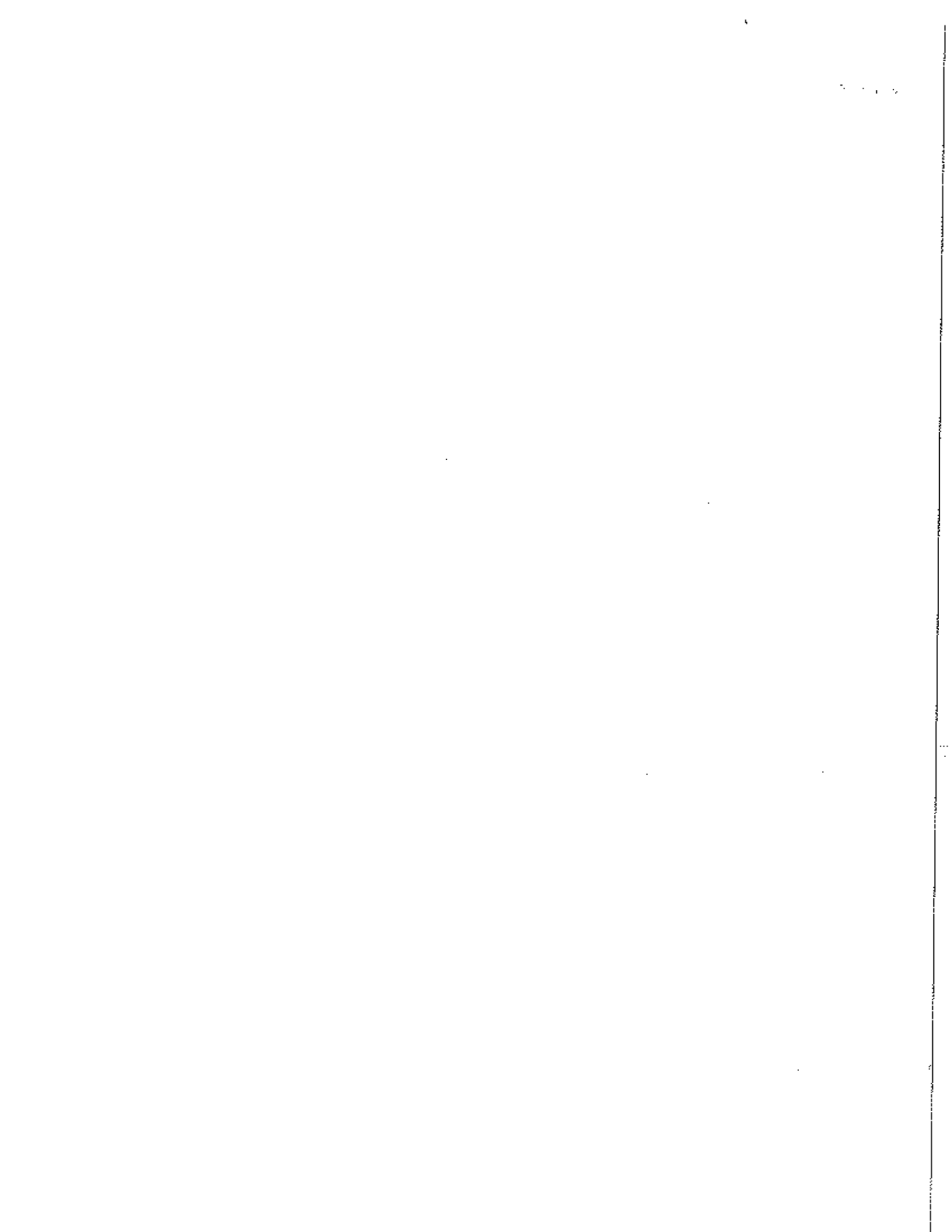


Background: Seminary Planning Committee

On June 17, 1919 a resolution and petition were unanimously adopted to protest the closing of the Oneida Indian School located at what is now called the Sacred Heart Center. The main points of the resolution and petition are as follows:

" RESOLVED, that the order issued by the Indian Department for the permanently closing of the school has come as a great surprise to the Oneida Indians, and has caused profound sorrow to us, therefore be it Resolved that the above fact as set forth, that when the Government of the U. S. abandons said property as a school, the rights and titles of said school should and does revert to the original owners, and whereas the desire of the Oneida Indians is, that a school shall be maintained for the education of their children and children's children, therefore, be it RESOLVED,

That the Oneida Indians here assembled do PETITION, the Senate of the U.S. and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, setting forth the above fact and request the U.S. Government as, represented by the Senate and the House of Representatives, that the 80 acres of Claim No. 145 and 35 acres of pt. Claim 146 purchased by the U.S. Government, and the Live Stock and all equipment pertaining thereto shall be left intact and that no part or parcel of the property or equipment, shall be disposed of or dispersed by the Indian office without first a thorough understanding and consultation with the Oneida Indians and that the final disposition of said property shall be by full consent of the lawful and qualified Oneida Indians. "



Ignoring the continuing protests of the Tribe, the Department of the Interior sold the Oneida Indian School buildings and lands to the Murphy Land and Investment Company of Green Bay on October 2, 1924. Just a month or so before the sale (August 24, 1924) members of the Oneida National Committee, "duly authorized to act in behalf of the people", listed their grounds for protesting the sale of the Oneida School property in a communication to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Those listed were:

1. That the title to the major part of the Oneida School property is vested in the Oneidas.
2. That the property was set aside originally by the Oneida Nation not as a commercial proposition, but as an educational center.
3. That the Tribe objected to any sectarian interest getting control of the last natural site for a community center remaining.

Protests from the tribe continued, but history shows that the Green Bay diocese developed a series of programs at the site once they took it over. These programs included a boys school, a seminary and finally a coeducational high school.

In January, 1976 the official notice of the closing of the school at Sacred Heart Center was publicised. It was shortly after this time that a committee was formed by the Oneida Business Committee to study tribal uses for the Sacred Heart building. The following is a brief chronological history of the steps that the "Seminary Planning Committee" has taken in the last year to come to the concept of a Community Education Center for Oneida.

February 4, 1976-first meeting of the Seminary Committee

Ideas from the community were sought through Kali?Wisaks.

Most of the ideas tended toward education and training for all ages within the Tribe



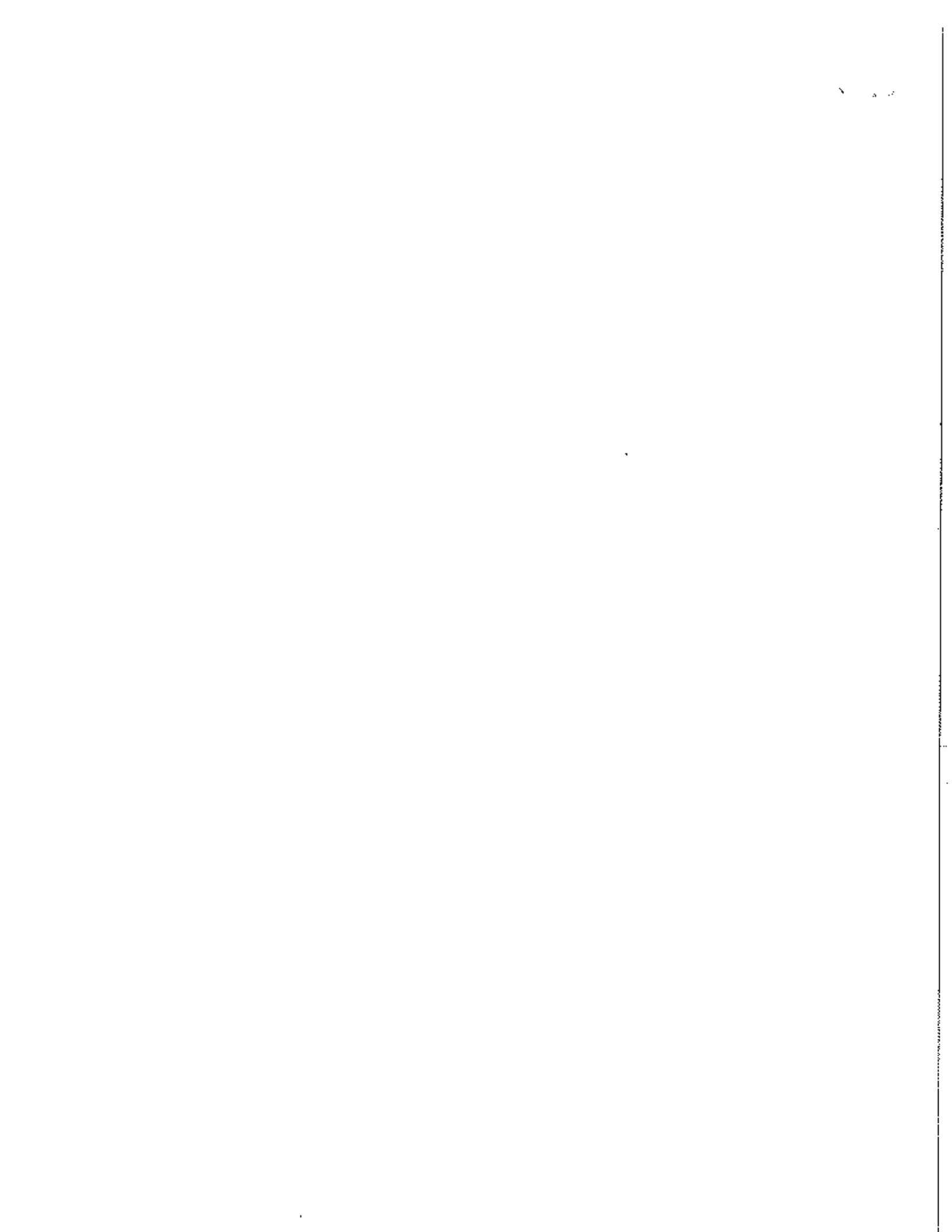
March, 1976-a meeting was held with Hobart and Oneida Town Board members and more suggestions were given for the use of the building. Many economic development projects were suggested, but the consensus from this meeting was that the building was best suited for a school. The question was also raised as to whether several schools could exist within the same building, and the capacity of the building was stated as being a maximum of 700 to 800 students. Further meetings indicated we should have a study done to determine the needs of the community.

April, 1976-as recommendations and community statistics were collected, the Committee began to focus on the area of Education as a need within the Oneida community. But the question was "where do you start?"

At the end of April, Don and Rosemary Christensen from St. Paul, Minnesota were asked to work with the Seminary Committee to assess the Oneida Community's opinion on the priority use for Sacred Heart. Both Don and Rosemary are education consultants who have worked on many Indian education programs.

May, 1976-meetings were held with the Christensens to design a community survey on Sacred Heart.

A meeting was held with Bishop Wycislo, Business Committee members and Seminary Committee members to inform them of tribal plans for the Sacred Heart and discuss the possibility of the Oneida Tribe acquiring the property. Bishop Wycislo gave the Tribe a commitment for full use of the building as programs were developed. Further meetings with Bishop Wycislo were anticipated once a program proposal was developed.



June, 1976-The community assessment was completed and the results can best be summarized in a paragraph from the Christensen's report:

"The return of the Sacred Heart facility to the Oneida people and its use for education services is really the unanimous choice of the people. Generally, all topics included on the questionnaire are reviewed as important and people favor these services at the Center. Generally, people do not favor a separate school district or a school limited to only Oneida enrollment.

July, 1976-The concept of a "Community Education Center" was presented to the Business Committee which would include the following aspects:

1. A k-12 community school
2. Broad vocational-educational services to Oneida people of all ages (college courses, technical training, GED, etc)
3. Recreational and craft development for all ages.
4. Counselling services
5. Community participation and control.

The concept was accepted as well as the planning for a K-12 school as being the first step in developing the Education Center.

August-December, 1976-Weekly meetings began to be held. Resource people were invited to discuss the development of a school with the committee, and came from such programs as UW-GB, Menominee Community School, Milwaukee Community School,





Coalition of Indian Controlled School Boards, Department of Public Instruction, Oneida education programs, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the community.

A philosophy for the Community Education Center was gradually developed, and the goals and objectives of the Community School began to take shape. These were again presented to the Business Committee with the recommendation that the General Tribal Council be given a report on these activities and also asked for support before further planning is done.

At the January 29th General Tribal Council meeting there are three areas that support will be requested for:

1. The concept of a Community Education Center at Sacred Heart.
2. The development of an Oneida Education Board to implement a Comprehensive Education Plan for Oneida.
3. The development of a K-12 community school as the priority program at this time.

.

.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Background: Seminary Planning Committee

On June 17, 1919 a resolution and petition were unanimously adopted to protest the closing of the Oneida Indian School located at what is now called the Sacred Heart Center. The main points of the resolution and petition are as follows:

"RESOLVED, that the order issued by the Indian Department for the permanently closing of the school has come as a great surprise to the Oneida Indians, and has caused profound sorrow to us, therefore be it Resolved that the above fact as set forth, that when the Government of the U. S. abandons said property as a school, the rights and titles of said school should and does revert to the original owners, and whereas the desire of the Oneida Indians is, that a school shall be maintained for the education of their children and children's children, therefore, be it RESOLVED,

That the Oneida Indians here assembled do PETITION, the Senate of the U.S. and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, setting forth the above fact and request the U.S. Government as, represented by the Senate and the House of Representatives, that the 80 acres of Claim No. 145 and 35 acres of pt. Claim 146 purchased by the U.S. Government, and the Live Stock and all equipment pertaining thereto shall be left intact and that no part or parcel of the property or equipment, shall be disposed of or dispersed by the Indian office without first a thorough understanding and consultation with the Oneida Indians and that the final disposition of said property shall be by full consent of the lawful and qualified Oneida Indians."



Ignoring the continuing protests of the Tribe, the Department of the Interior sold the Oneida Indian School buildings and lands to the Murphy Land and Investment Company of Green Bay on October 2, 1924. Just a month or so before the sale (August 24, 1924) members of the Oneida National Committee, "duly authorized to act in behalf of the people", listed their grounds for protesting the sale of the Oneida School property in a communication to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Those listed were:

1. That the title to the major part of the Oneida School property is vested in the Oneidas.
2. That the property was set aside originally by the Oneida Nation not as a commercial proposition, but as an educational center.
3. That the Tribe objected to any sectarian interest getting control of the last natural site for a community center remaining.

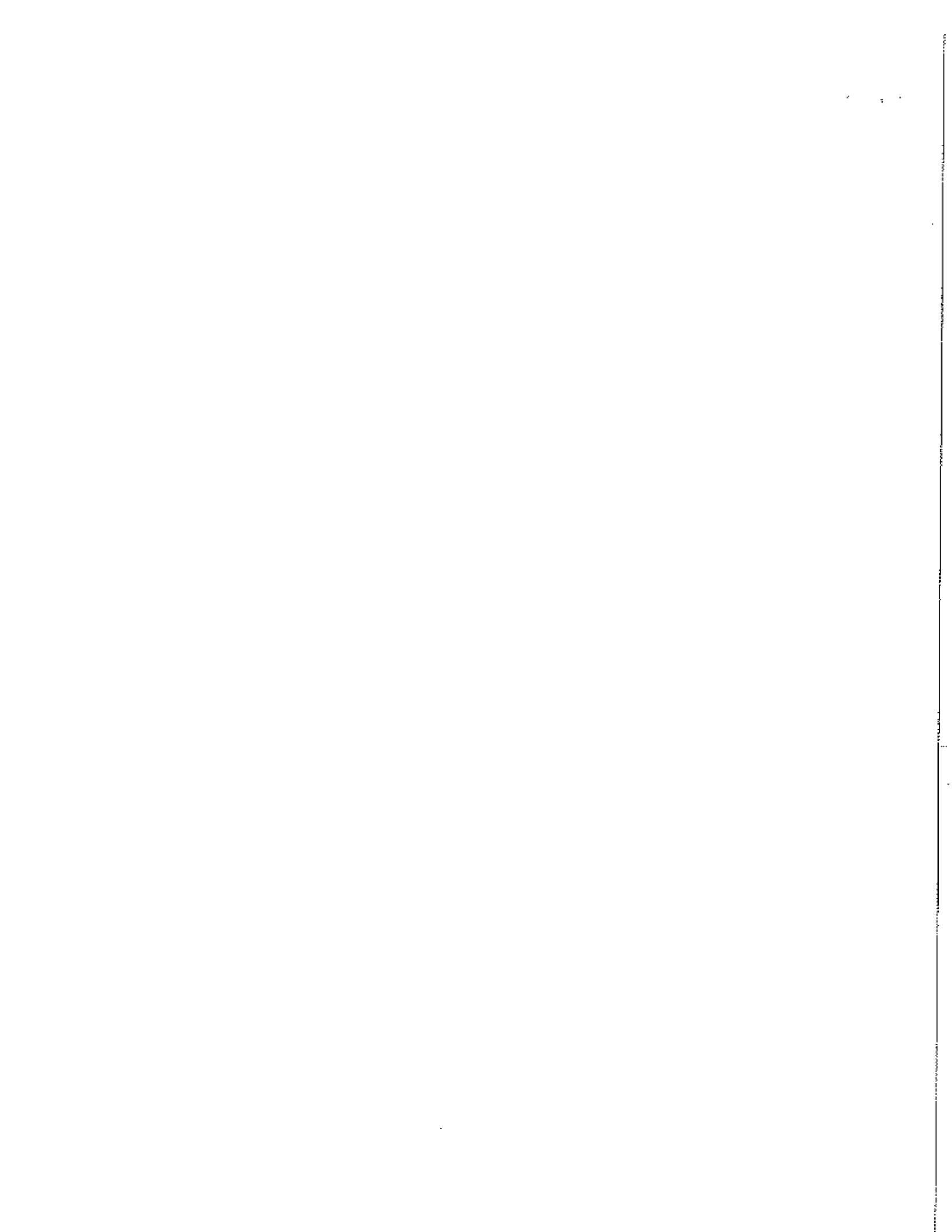
Protests from the tribe continued, but history shows that the Green Bay diocese developed a series of programs at the site once they took it over. These programs included a boys school, a seminary and finally a coeducational high school.

In January, 1976 the official notice of the closing of the school at Sacred Heart Center was publicised. It was shortly after this time that a committee was formed by the Oneida Business Committee to study tribal uses for the Sacred Heart building. The following is a brief chronological history of the steps that the "Seminary Planning Committee" has taken in the last year to come to the concept of a Community Education Center for Oneida.

February 4, 1976-first meeting of the Seminary Committee

Ideas from the community were sought through Kali?Wisaks.

Most of the ideas tended toward education and training for



March, 1976-a meeting was held with Hobart and Oneida Town Board members and more suggestions were given for the use of the building. Many economic development projects were suggested, but the consensus from this meeting was that the building was best suited for a school. The question was also raised as to whether several schools could exist within the same building, and the capacity of the building was stated as being a maximum of 700 to 800 students. Further meetings indicated we should have a study done to determine the needs of the community.

April, 1976-as recommendations and community statistics were collected, the Committee began to focus on the area of Education as a need within the Oneida community. But the question was "where do you start?"

At the end of April, Don and Rosemary Christensen from St. Paul, Minnesota were asked to work with the Seminary Committee to assess the Oneida Community's opinion on the priority sue for Sacred Heart. Both Don and Rosemary are education consultants who have worked on many Indian education programs.

May, 1976-meetings were held with the Christensens to design a community survey on Sacred Heart.

A meeting was held with Bishop Wycislo, Business Committee members and Seminary Committee members to inform them of tribal plans for the Sacred Heart and discuss the possibility of the Oneida Tribe acquiring the property. Bishop Wycislo gave the Tribe a commitment for full use of the building as programs were developed. Further meetings with Bishop Wycislo were anticipated once a program proposal was developed.





June, 1976-The community assessment was completed and the results can best be summarized in a paragraph from the Christensen's report:

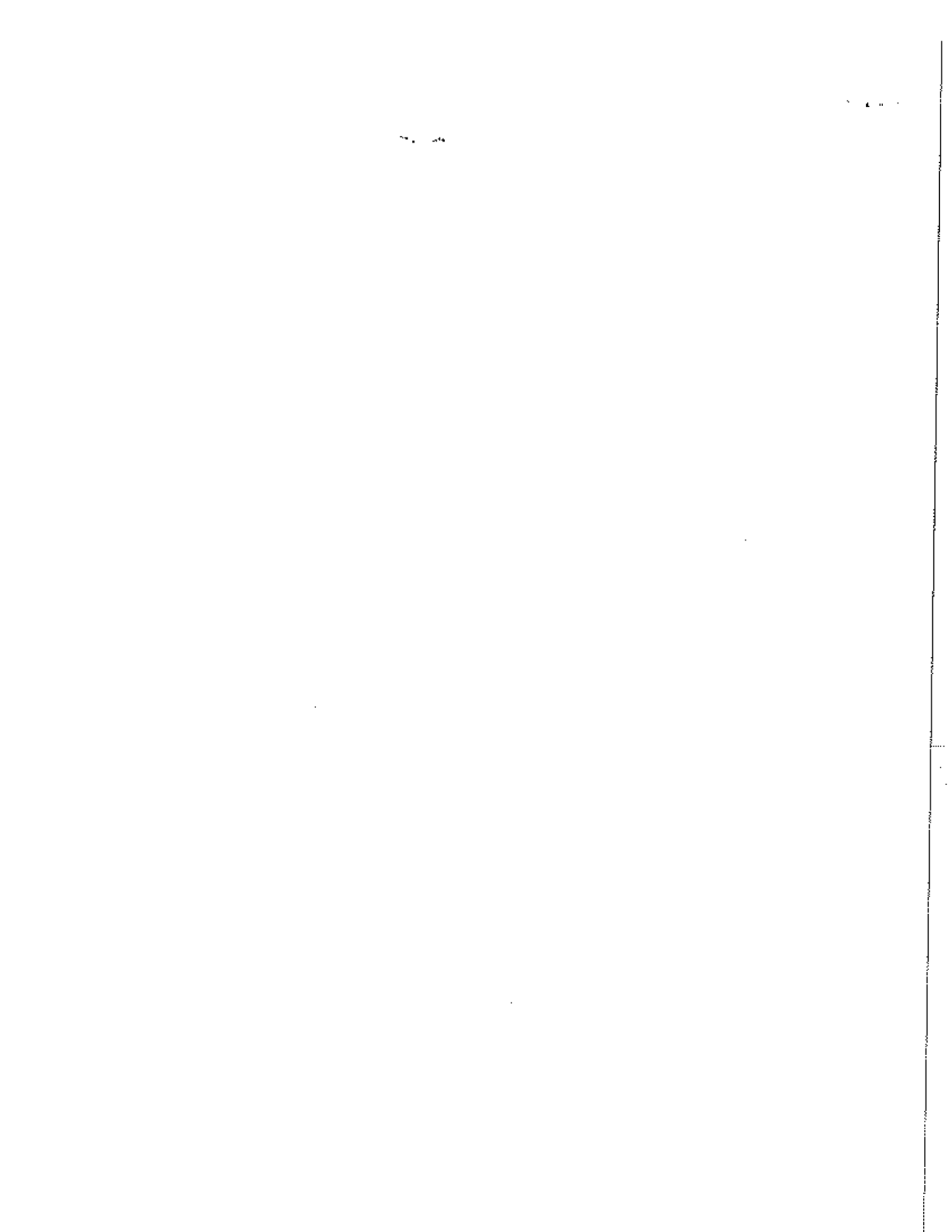
"The return of the Sacred Heart facility to the Oneida people and its use for education services is really the unanimous choice of the people. Generally, all topics included on the questionnaire are reviewed as important and people favor these services at the Center. Generally, people do not favor a separate school district or a school limited to only Oneida enrollment.

July, 1976-The concept of a "Community Education Center" was presented to the Business Committee which would include the following aspects:

1. A k-12 community school
2. Broad vocational-educational services to Oneida people of all ages (college courses, technical training, GED, etc)
3. Recreational and craft development for all ages.
4. Counselling services
5. Community participation and control.

The concept was accepted as well as the planning for a K-12 school as being the first step in developing the Education Center.

August-December, 1976-Weekly meetings began to be held. Resource people were invited to discuss the development of a school with the committee, and came from such programs as UW-GB, Menominee Community School, Milwaukee Community School,



Coalition of Indian Controlled School Boards, Department of Public Instruction, Oneida education programs, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the community.

A philosophy for the Community Education Center was gradually developed, and the goals and objectives of the Community School began to take shape. These were again presented to the Business Committee with the recommendation that the General Tribal Council be given a report on these activities and also asked for support before further planning is done.

At the January 29th General Tribal Council meeting there are three areas that support will be requested for:

1. The concept of a Community Education Center at Sacred Heart.
2. The development of an Oneida Education Board to implement a Comprehensive Education Plan for Oneida.
3. The development of a K-12 community school as the priority program at this time.

1.1

1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5