

January 22, 1985

Mr. John D. Abts
494 Cty. EE
DePere, Wisconsin 54155

Dear Mr. Abts:

I read your comments recently and I would like to react to them. I disagree that the whole Oneida Community is in a tax free status. This shows a lack of information and understanding. Some Tribal members are exempt from State income taxes and some do not pay property tax. This is true, but many do pay all taxes. This includes State, Federal, Property, Social Security, Unemployment, etc. Indian Children residing on Trust land do not pay for their education directly, but are covered by Impact Aid, Title IV, and JOM. I think you need to research your 25% figure. It is true that Federal money is not free, but all Native Americans pay it.

Although it is true when new cars are purchased by a Tribal member and delivered to the reservation, they do not pay state tax, but ask car dealers if they will turn down these sales. Also, if you research tax laws, you will see that all Wisconsin residents can take a tax deduction on all sales taxes they pay. The taxes of this country have numerous special groups. Churches are exempt from many taxes, Military personnel are exempt, wealthy individuals and businesses pay little or no taxes. These are just a few examples. Please don't blame us for the tax problems of this country.

If you talk to Native Americans, you will find that our Reservations are our last refuge and our ancestors paid for these rights with their lives and signed treaties which all agreed to and were binding.

I beg to differ on employment. It is not readily available. Racism, lack of education, lack of training, and lack of of jobs are contributed to unacceptable unemployment rates on the reservations. Only since Native Americans have asserted their rights have they developed economies and employment for themselves as well as non-Indians in their area.

Treaties were good for 130 years, but if something is no good because it is old, then throw out the Constitution, Bill Of Rights, Works of Shakespeare, etc., and every five years or so we will start all over again.

If you will research who has destroyed the fish and wildlife in America and the world, it was not aboriginal peoples. We did not destroy the buffalo. We did not deplete the eagle population. When 600,000 hunters go out and kill 250,000 deer and all Wisconsin Native American Tribes tag less than 1,000, why are we the ones blamed for depleting our resources?

If you are tired of paying taxes, tell your legislator to cut taxes. This has occurred in California. But be prepared to have less services. Bingo is the best thing that has happened to the Green Bay area. Thousands of people per week come to this area and spend their money, not just on Bingo, but at restaurants, hotels, etc. Ask the hotel owners, bus services, gas stations and local vendors who supply our Bingo Enterprise, and they will tell you the positive impact on the local economy.

In essence, we are developing taxes for the Green Bay area by employing people, purchasing goods and services that bring people into the area. We employ people and take them off Welfare, AFDC and other public assistance.

In summary, don't put the blame for increasing taxes on Indians. We generate Federal, State and Tribal revenues to strengthen the area economies. If we work together and support each other we can make the Green Bay area a better place to live or we can oppose each other and everyone loses.

I am including reference material for your information.

Yours truly,

Lloyd E. Powless, Jr.
2896 Commissioner Street
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

cc: Paul DeMain

Says tired of paying taxes for Indians

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Attention, Wisconsin Taxpayers:

If there is one thing we do not need in these days of high taxes, it is a whole community with tax free status.

This is just what we will have with the Oneida "Reservation" if something isn't done soon. These people live in a community and do not pay property tax. Their children go to the schools complete with free lunches and do not pay any school tax. A little over 25 per cent of the actual cost is paid for them by the federal government. Federal money is not free, it is paid by taxpayers. New cars are delivered to the reservation to avoid paying state sales tax.

If there ever was a purpose for a reservation lifestyle, it no longer exists today. The Indian has every opportunity for employment now. There is nothing wrong with holding on to your heritage but others can't be expected to pay for it.

These treaties involving hunting and fishing rights were made over 130 years ago. Everyone should be able to realize that times have changed and there is no longer any need for these ancient treaties. Some of these people abusing our wildlife in the name of their heritage are actually less than 25 per cent native American. Our natural resources are for every American to use, not for a small per cent of the population to abuse.

I am tired of paying high taxes so someone else can live on their land free. The more tax free homes the Indians have, the more burden there will be on the taxpayers. Everyone that supports "bingo" is contributing to the problem because the more money the Indians have, the more land they will buy, thus creating more tax free land. The more tax free land that exists will increase the strain on the taxable land.

In short, taxpayers will be paying higher taxes forever, unless something is done. These are some of the things I propose:

- Propose legislation to repeal reservation status;
- Support the proposed Brown-Outagamie Commission to deal with the Oneida tribe.
- Support Judge Steinmetz's disapproval of the decision exempting Indians from state traffic laws on reservations.

We need congressmen and senators who will realize the importance of this issue and act accordingly. I believe in equality for everyone. Laws are made for all citizens and

that means every citizen is responsible for paying taxes.

Taxpayer,
John D. Abts
Member-Equal Rights
For Everyone
Member-Citizens Organized
For Responsible Equality
De Pere, Wis.

John D. ABTS
494 City EE
DEPERE, WIS

Attn:

1-10-85

Purcell Powless - Tribal Chairman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
Branch of
Land Operations
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Lakes Agency
Ashland, WI 54808

Percy - Happy New Year!

Regards,
Chuck M.

RECEIVED BY TRIBAL
SECRETARY

JAN 14 1985

ONEIDA TRIBE OF
INDIANS OF WISCONSIN

John D. Abts



State of Wisconsin \

Equal Rights Council
RECEIVED BY TRIBAL SECRETARY

January 24, 1985

JAN 25 1985
ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN

Please Reply to:
(414) 962-3635
201 E. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8928
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

The Wisconsin Equal Rights Council conducted a meeting at the Sawyer County Courthouse in Hayward, Wisconsin on Saturday, January 19, 1985.

Speakers representing the educational community, businessmen, political leaders and religious leaders discussed the problems of racism in Northern Wisconsin and the history of the Indian treaties and their relationship to hunting and fishing rights.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the attached resolution was passed unanimously by the council.

The council hopes that community leaders of every type will do their part to improve communication between the parties involved in this controversy and to help eliminate racism in Northern Wisconsin.

Harold Schwartz
Chair

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Press Gazette
Post Office
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State of Wisconsin \

Equal Rights Council

Please Reply to:

201 E. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8928
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

INDIAN TREATY RIGHTS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State Equal Rights Council has received and reviewed a substantial body of information with regard to Indian treaty rights in northern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Council has had a variety of public statements and communications made to it on this matter.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows: The State Equal Rights Council supports the affirmation of Indian treaty rights.

The State Equal Rights Council further supports the recommendations of the report of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Ad Hoc Commission on racism in Wisconsin dated November 30, 1984.

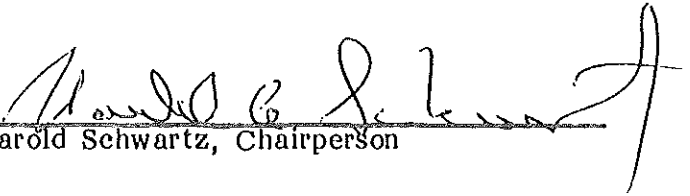
The State Equal Rights Council deplores the racism, race hatred and hysteria which has accompanied the implementation of the treaty rights. The Council further deplores the efforts of those individuals who are encouraging activities which stereotype Native Americans and stir up racial animosity.

The State Equal Rights Council applauds the efforts of all sides of the treaty issue who have encouraged and established communications between the parties involved.

The State Equal Rights Council encourages the citizens of the State of Wisconsin to educate themselves about the history of the Indian tribes which inhabited this State before settlers from Europe and other continents came here. The Council encourages all citizens of this state to educate themselves about the history of Native Americans in Wisconsin and the history of treaty relations between the United States and these Indian tribes and to learn to appreciate the very distinct set of rights and responsibilities

which the Indian tribes and their members have within the context of our system of laws and government.

Dated this ____ day of January, 1985.


Harold Schwartz, Chairperson