

Notes on

MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER EMMONS

September 17, 1954

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackhoop who turned the meeting over to Superintendent Wellington.

Mr. Wellington greeted all officials and visitors from other reservations, as well as those from Standing Rock. He introduced Commissioner Emmons, Representative E. Y. Berry, Area Director Roberts and other officials.

Also present were Tribal Council members and representatives of each of the Districts. Chairman introduced a representative of each District and allowed each five minutes to speak.

Cannon Ball Representative (Charles Shell Track): Gentlemen and Council and also Commissioner Emmons. A few things I would say today concerning the veterans. It will sound funny to talk about veterans at this time. By coming down we will find out where the Indian, the veterans, concerning their needs. We understand that it is responsibility of America, the War Department, Veterans Administration, we know that. But when they won the War in 1876 and again in World War I, World War II and World War III, some laid down their lives for their good friends the American Indians, and also in foreign countries. And I have the great respect today to talk about the Indian veterans as well as myself; I am not a veteran. How much hard time I have in this Standing Rock Reservation; probably not only here but all over the United States where there is an Indian veteran he has the hardest time to live, to have a home, to provide his living conditions. Why? Because he has no security, he has no land. Why not at least an acre in Korea and Germany or any other place where he won the war. And the reason we know we want the Old Glory to wave between here and Heaven, that's why they laid their lives for the good Indians as well as the good friends the white people. So I would say that the United States government put out such different loans to Indians. We have one never came out among the Indians where make a remark of that. At least in the United States maybe but here in Standing Rock. Here it laid since November 29, 1945, when the bill passed Circular No. 3610 such loan guarantee provisions of servicemen readjustment act 1944. As I said, United States put out different administrations for veterans when they could go into a G.I. Bill of Rights. When it is read that he is an Indian, he is empty handed. He has no chance. So when he came back to Standing Rock the Indian veteran he made a loan here and he fall back because he has no security, no land. So today I want to make a few remarks concerning, while we have a Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We of Standing Rock and several tribes here together meets concerning the Black Hills. The Sioux Indians supposed to be the richest Indian in America. We have to beg for loans - we can't go into any national bank, any federal banks because we are Indians. So I want to ask you help the Indians here in Standing Rock, at least the veterans, whether he is veteran, whether married or not,

so he can have a loan to get a one-room house, 20 acres of land where he could have a peaceful rest, a home of his own, and I am sure the Indian could pay this back as well as we have been doing. Thank you.

Shields Representative (Jack Iron Boulder): Chairman, Commissioner, Representative Berry: I come from the smallest district on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation - Porcupine. We have 60 able bodied - no work. We have 12 help from the state of the government. 9 cattlemen. 15 families left the reservation never come back to the reservation. 7 boys in the Army today. 4 of our Indian boys killed in the War. 2 policemen we have. 3 people work in the office here. 3 teachers from that district teaching in the school districts - not the school department on the white side. What I would say we would like to have a relief project so that these people could get out, earn a living for their family. Some of those able bodied got a big family but no job. Farm country in our district, dry from the drought, drought hit us too hard. Combiners from Texas come into our district, brought their laborers along. . . . . And took everything away from us and our boys couldn't get a job. That is the reason why we should have relief in our district. I am talking about the Porcupine District alone, not the other districts. I think there is a lot of things we could discuss here but our time is short so I will cut mine short. I thank you.

Bullhead Representative (Henry White Bird): Mr. Chairman and the rest of you gentlemen and ladies: I haven't got nothing to say very much but we had a meeting with the people and they had a review about Fort Yates and was . . . . . supposed to discuss with Mr. Emmons. That is all I want to say.

Little Eagle Representative (Mr. Brown Eagle spoke with Mr. Jim McLean interpreting): He said that he just want to say a few short words. He said he want to say some things concerning some of us old people. He said when we old people want to say something we are not familiar with the law so we are like a single barrel shotgun, we just let her shoot. What I mean is that we have a resolution from Little Eagle and we are bringing that to Mr. Emmons, presenting it to Mr. Emmons. He said that's a very unusual and very strenuous on us people. He said how here at Blackhorse Butte the reservation was thrown open and settled by white people but the drought got it. He said all the settlers left there and on the Standing Rock Reservation there are two or three thousand young people that are landless. We want these young people to have this land and that's the question we are presenting to Commissioner Emmons. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Wakpala Representative (James McLean): Congressman, Commissioner and Superintendent and Area Director: We had a meeting in Wakpala very recently and the people of Wakpala, that is, their younger element, would like to see some project or industrial work created so that the younger people that are unable to leave the reservation could make a living. With the help of Congressman Berry and with the help of Commissioner Emmons we think this could be done easy. We'd also like to have some representative who has plenty of time from the Indian Department, who is not biased or prejudiced, to go around to the homes of all the Indians, see the conditions in the homes and see for himself

and you will agree that some of us are pretty hard up, including myself. I don't want to take up too much of your time as some of the things that I wanted to say has already been said. I thank you.

Kenel Representative (Sam Rough Surface, Sr.) Well, I just want to say a few words. They had a meeting the other night in Kenel District and I never seen a meeting there for so long and I don't know. I couldn't keep the words that some of the people said because I got kind of little hard of hearing. I am getting a little old now, you people look at me, I am 71 years old but I look younger than a lot of them. When I came to the meeting they brought it out this rehabilitation program. I made a loan one time, 150, you know what 150 could buy. I had to fix a home, half lumber and half dirt. And that shows anybody go there he can see they don't have enough money to furnish anything or have any help or anything and there's something that hold things back and I want too much that ..... Now we have several girls and boys here on this reservation. They went to school; they want them to go to school and get education. When time for them to get a job here, what they do, they push them off and get someone else from some other reservation and put him in here. We could get along that way. Our boys and girls, they're familiar, they know everything, even the roads, everything. .... We can get by and manage but this other way they push them back, get help from other reservations and that we can't get along that way. Our boys and girls are more familiar than they are. We have boys and girls education ..... and in every district they should get out and push your boys and girls into a job. Here there is one position opening here. I have a boy, well educated man, got children and everything. Needs job very bad, is a soldier boy and everything. But I wish he get this job. But I heard somebody said that it is got to be somebody from another reservation. But this boy is mine from Kenel. He's in here now. He works on the police force. Another boy from another reservation does not care about this country and does not care about us. I want him to get this job that is vacant. .... Otherwise we could get along. A stranger don't care about us or this country. Nobody will help us. It is always that way, we never have the chance to have the floor longer so that is all I want to say. Thank you.

Fort Yates Representative (Jesse Graybear): I have herewith a resolution which is lengthy and three pages. That it reveals the conditions of the Standing Rock Indians. That came from the general council of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation of North and South Dakota. But since we have a limited time I will give you the various points of the resolution and the balance of the resolution I shall submit direct to your office and maybe we will include some petitions with it. I have here the Bill HR 9533 which is intended to take away the 14 million dollars that the Oahe Dam is due the tribe and the other members of the tribe who owns the land. Now the tribe of the reservation, and that isn't the Business Council but the Indians at large, they wishes that the 14 million dollars be paid direct in per capita payment and not used for rehabilitation program whereby the tribe will sit back and wait 70 years and to get their per capita payment. The Indians need this today. They protest this bill of 9533. .... and the other is the Business Council of the Indian Reservation of North and South Dakota ..... by abolishment

for the simple reason - there is a long story of that. The Standing Rock Business Council has taken the tribal funds and used it as they pleased extravagantly, dishing it out in all directions, and the whole story is not here. The Indians, the tribe has elected the council with their power ..... We are asking to abolish it and the tribe wishes to be transferred all the rights to the State jurisdiction with their vested rights of trustee enclosed with it.

Wm. L. Gipp (representing the Tribal Council): I would first like to comment just shortly on things the representatives of the various districts, what they brought up here today. Mr. Shelltrack's comments on the assistance to the veterans is something that could be looked into. We realize the Veterans Administration is handling it. I think the white boy is suffering just as much as the Indian from .....also on loans. We would like to comment shortly on Mr. Brown Eagle's statement concerning allotments. We do have a lot of unallotted Indians ..... also Mr. McLean concerning industry and housing, and Mr. Rough Surface on rehabilitation. .... all good points, and on behalf of the council we thank you for bringing these things to us at this time.

We feel it is a privilege to have the Commissioner and Congressman Berry with us today. On the 3 occasions I have had to be in Washington on tribal business and tribal matters, we have often had to go to our Congressmen and Representatives for advice, and I want to assure all the people from South Dakota that are here that Mr. Berry stood at our side at all times. We got all assistance we needed.

Concerning the Oahe bill, the official delegation went to Washington and presented the bill which Mr. Berry helped very much to drawing up and drafting, and we have approved here by the Council. This council at that time felt that ..... from our contract which we had approved by the negotiating committee. There was a per capita payment listed in there. This council felt that the rehabilitation did not mean per capita. We felt that in order to rehabilitate ..... the money would then be divided equally among each Indian. It would be practically a per capita payment with the exception that when you wish to use your money to have a sound program, the money would be released to you ..... building a home, garage, restaurant or whatever it might be. I talked to one of our very intelligent Indians and asked him, "What do you think of this bill, if 14 million should be divided equally?" "What do you think if each individual submit a good sound program for the use of this money?" He said, "If they will deposit my share to my account, I will favor the program."

The expenditures of our tribal money is ..... the resources, the rentals that we get off of our lands, approximately 65 to 70 thousand we get each year, which we, as a budget committee, draw up each year. We have approximately 10 clerks in this office drawing salaries, each drawing approximately \$2900 a year - 7 tribal police at \$100 per month, tribal car for help to enforce the law on the reservation. We have a plan of operation to spend 50 per cent or more of this money to purchase other land. If you wish us to make an account of this money, we will be glad to make it, and I am sure we can make it. We have been very careful of every cent we have expended.

The next part of my agenda - the council selected me as the spokesman for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as a whole. I believe that I speak for all the committeemen. The thought foremost in the council's mind is the Standing Rock Sioux Indians in general.

We have listed the most important part of our program ..... need for long range planning for education. We feel that education is a very important factor in withdrawing at this time. .... heard remarks made that the Indian Service ..... if we are going to plan for withdrawal, education is a very important factor. Cannot express too much on education. .... at this time, I believe since the Congress and the Indian Service has tendency to withdrawal, I think education is our only salvation. We have a school here that is not up to par. Plans were drawn up some time back. An appropriation in the amount of \$26,000 for a gym was made by Congress but it hasn't come yet. I contacted the office the last time I was in Washington. They informed me it would be along about the first of September. The gym now proposed is inadequate. It seems that the funds we have now are not adequate. If we have an Indian school housing 30 and 60, say this school houses 60, then we would need another 30 room school because of the increase in students. By the time the appropriations are granted and blueprints are drawn, and actual construction starts, until completion, our enrollment has jumped to 90 instead of 60. The plan is not far enough ahead. We should set our plans and raise our sights on a 10 year basis. Our present plans for a new gym, a floor 48 by 75 which does not meet high school standards. State High School recommendations are 50 by 84. Seating capacity 360. 286 enrolled in Fort Yates and 240 outside the area.

The total amount of children school age on our reservation last year was 1392. This year it is now 1461, a raise of 69 enrollments. Results of the War which is proving true throughout the United States. By the time it is completed it will be inadequate. We would like to request to have Mr. Berry request a small additional sum which would be appropriated to make this gym a little bit larger. .... will make all this a part of the letter which we will submit at a later date.

We also might mention in the enlargement of our school - we are at the present time two teachers short and with the evacuation of our neighboring districts concerning the Oahe Dam which I believe is going to kick the enrollment up again, some from Wakpala may move into the agency which is, of course, natural due to the fact that we have some facilities that they don't have. .... a lot will move here. Bullhead district at the present time is using a trailer house as a classroom. That is practical in some places but not here. They are in dire need of a new school - no running water, no winter facilities, little house in back, no modern facilities, etc. If our Indian people are going to be requested to take their place in American Society they are going to have to be shown what they are first. We haven't done that. All of our schools are badly in need of playground equipment and recreational facilities. Should have the schools as attractive as possible to entice our children. We have lost children to other schools. Basketball is the only recreation we have in the winter. Water in the Kenel District and Bullhead District is a terrible thing. At the present time pumping water out of the river with a hose. ....

Little Eagle has had trouble from the time it first started and Bullhead is likewise. Water is terrible in all these districts.

I would like to thank Mr. Emmons and all responsible for the Reservation Principal coming, Mr. Gray. Find he is a very good man, a man of action, and is doing plenty of things concerning our schools.

..... Need lots of land and need to develop it and settle those people who wish to stay here and not be relocated. Plenty of land not in use. Feel if facilities are granted every acre should be good for something. Like long range land purchasing program - If reservation is even open when Indian Service closes out, our Indian stockmen who don't own the land when that time comes, the white man is going to crowd him out. We buy one quarter and two are sold. We are losing ground. No one can tell me that in a thousand years from now there will be no Indians. There still will be. We would like to have a bill presented in Congress authorizing or permitting the tribe to sell tribal land to individual members. We would, of course, demand there would be strings attached to that for certain length of time. Say for example, the land couldn't be sold for a period of five years. .... let an individual have it so he will feel it is his home.

Placement and Relocation - have a very outstanding gentleman here, Mr. Leonard Lay, very interested in Indians. Sometimes does a lot of overtime work other than his job. Works between here and Cheyenne River. Would like very much to get Mr. Lay stationed here permanently so that he could give us all of his time. We feel that with no industry coming in here, we feel Placement and Relocation is the next step to take care of the children going to school and college. Also shortage of funds in that department. That is a very important department if you are going to do your part and our part for our withdrawal.

Law and Order - We have cases here where ..... three examples here that anyone would like to see those records I am sure they are available ..... said insufficient evidence submitted but nothing done. They are planning a meeting of all U. S. Attorneys throughout the United States for a conference October 14 - 16, I believe. Let us have a shake-down in our attorneys so that when we have people commit offenses we should like to have some action. When no action is taken, our law enforcement officers are stymied. Our Law and Order also has an inadequate fund. Indian Bureau furnishing two policemen and one car. County furnishes cook. As a tribe we furnish one car, 7 police and two judges. Federal Code 25 - the Judge is to be paid by the United States Government Indian Bureau and not by the tribe. Also like to have a position of Clerk of Court. Judge is doing his own clerical work. Have information - handling from 75 to 100 cases per month - most minor but take time. Jail has a capacity of 12. We have had as high as 63 in there at one time. We need a new jail. .... if you would go in that 12 man jail and find 63 of them bedded down there like sardines. Must have adequate space to provide for prisoners.

Welfare - Able bodied men have desire to get on general assistance. These boys have indicated they are very willing to work if they could possibly

work for a few dollars during the winter to carry them through the spring. I wonder, Mr. Emmons, if it is possible to set up such a thing. We cannot require able-bodied people to work for emergency relief assistance. Lot of boys working for farmers and construction and as soon as winter comes they are done and then will starve until spring. Most are farm, pick and shovel boys. . . . . The overhead is too great for them in cities . . . . . cannot go to cities and live. . . . . Also like to have surplus commodities. We have had very good use of our surplus commodities. Mr. Berry, we can use all that you can give us and anything you can give us. The State is placing liens on our lands. . . . . They now have the right to put a lien on trust property. We are questioning the legality of it.

I want to say, to Mr. Berry, on the competency bill - . . . . . had a chance to read it lightly. Didn't appear that it was serving the purpose for which it was drawn up for. The competency bill stated that if the husband was granted a decree of competency his wife and all of his children would also come in that same status. We don't feel the husband has the right to come into it. . . . . by signing a decree of competency - but still he could die tomorrow, could desert his wife, anything can happen.

Berry: He couldn't file a petition unless all of them would join.

Gipp: If the children are married, can he jeopardize their rights?

Berry: I would think so . . . .

Gipp: . . . . . no criticism on the man who wrote it except that the . . . . . someone should have been consulted on it. We have some Indians who feel they don't want no part of the Indian Service, no part of the tribe. No object to drive the whole tribe under water because I feel I am competent and want to go my way.

Submarginal land - 10,965 acres of submarginal land we rent from the government at one cent per acre. Would like a bill to grant title to the land since the majority of the land is now used by the Indians.

Last fall when Mr. Emmons was here he stated there would be no changes made without consulting the Indians. We find we have lost Extension. Through the grapevine we heard we are losing our hospital. It is going under Public Health. Those things might be all right but we have never been informed as to just how Public Health would work - whether our Indians would get preference for jobs there, whether we would be forced to pay for hospitalization. I predict every few years comes a hospital bill. Of if I have a land sale, there will be a lien and I will get a hospital bill. Public Health is not part of the Indian Service. . . . . but we will not be allowed preference. We have ward attendants who are all Indians - our ambulance drivers. That makes our relief rolls a little smaller. They get preference now but we think we will lose it. Someone explain to us what Public Health is and whether we will be granted some of these things we are asking.

Getting back to Extension,

Emmons: The Extension bill didn't pass.

Gipp: Hospital at the present time in very dire need of funds. Operating way ahead of schedule - up into their 2nd quarter, almost out of the 2nd quarter in expending their funds. Poor equipment.

The heating problem is another thing now. The central heating plant - I suppose we could take care of that at home.

Last night Supt. Wellington, Chairman Blackhoop, Mr. Gray, Mr. Lay and myself, we attended a conference in Mobridge, South Dakota, pertaining to small industry on reservations. We are working hard towards that goal because we feel it will absorb a lot of unemployment and give work here to our Indians. We are very much for it. Anyone being opposed to such a thing - certainly request that Mr. Berry and Mr. Emmons help to get such a thing. The industrial specialist who spoke gave us a lot of facts and figures that even on the reservations a lot of people thought it wouldn't work but it is working today.

Our rehabilitation - we have, of course, that 14 million dollar rehabilitation bill pending in Washington. We do hope that you gentlemen will do all in your power to see that we get rehabilitation here so far as our homes, etc. are concerned. Any time you want to send a representative from Washington, come here and I will be glad to show you myself homes on the reservation. Most of them are terrible. They are just coasting on OAA of approximately \$35 to \$40 a month. .... living in these types of home. These homes could be made to house them properly in their last days with us. .... There would be no loss.

One thing I want to bring up while Mr. Roberts is here in the slow service we get out of the Area Office. People in general claim they have applications, etc. pending and it takes so much time before they get any action and we would like more prompt action. We would like to satisfy the people.

That's about all, gentlemen. In closing, would like to say that in behalf of the council and all representatives, we enjoyed having you here. It was a privilege, an opportunity to get together .... We will try to get transcribed in a letter to you and we would like very much to get the action for the benefit of the people. Thank you.

Commissioner Emmons was then introduced.

Emmons: Chairman Blackhoop, members of the council, Congressman Berry, and all my good friends: You know, I didn't start out on this trip to make any formal speeches. The purpose of this little swing is to just meet face to face with you. I think a whole lot more can be accomplished by listening to what your problems are and meeting you individually. After all, we are partners in business. I think partners in business should understand what the problems are. As they say, in the true spirit of partnership, our



problems sometimes can be solved. I don't think they can be solved by getting up and making a formal speech but man to man facing each other.

You know, my friends, it was just about a year ago that I started out on a little tour that took me two and a half months. It was in October. I hadn't been Commissioner very long. I was asked to take this trip. .... In that year's time a lot of things have happened. I have traveled many many thousands of miles. I have seen, I have talked to representatives of all the 250 tribes and tribal groups in the country. I think I have gotten a pretty good idea of the circumstances existing on the reservations. I think I said in my talk with you last year that it was my pre-conserved opinion you couldn't use the same yardstick on all tribes as they are all different. My trip confirmed my previous opinion I had. I find there is tremendous poverty in certain tribes, and find a degree of prosperity in others. Some have been disintegrated.

..... land for withdrawal. I despise that term withdrawal; would rather use readjustment. When they speak of withdrawal programs, it gives the wrong impression. Think it is a brutal term. Think it sounds like the government is just stepping out and forgetting the Indian people. Would rather say readjustment.

I found in my conclusions, my friends, after I got back from this trip, that there are three very fundamental things for us to press in our services in the Bureau. Those three cardinal points - better health, education, and the very thing you have heard - economic development.

Without health the mind is not receptive to education. There are some places that the health standard is so low the standards are pitiful. No water whatsoever that makes personal hygiene possible.

Education, very, very necessary for our children, our Indian children, to have the same tools as my own child or any white man's child, in order that the child may get off the reservation and compete for jobs. I challenge any statement that anyone says the Indian is inferior in his ability and intelligence. That is a challenge I will accept any minute of the day. I think all of our tests we have made on national scales shows the I.Q. of the Indian child is above the national average. Some tribes remote, 50 miles off the railroad - very small tribes. Members of that tribe, children of that tribe tested this last spring above average. One of the things we are trying to do in lots of areas is trying to get the Indian children in with the non-Indian children in the public schools so that child will lose its fear. If I was a white farm boy living 60 miles off a railroad where I was on that farm and never came in contact with others, I would be very timid to go away from that farm to look for a job. I would be timid just like an Indian child. I say that the Indian is entitled to employment the same as anyone else when they have the same training as my own boy. I am very sincere in that, my friends. I want to see the days gone forever when the Indian is denied employment because of lack of training.

Let's get down to economic development. Say we have some areas, some reservations where the reservation will absolutely not support the present existing population, much less the increasing population. There are no resources visible or apparently any invisible. I say we have to make a research, and I mean a real research, an economic research on what assets are on that reservation. .... our visible assets to determine if it is feasible we develop that for the people who want to stay on the reservation. .... create a good living for those staying on the reservation. If, on every reservation in America that a good living could be established for every Indian on that reservation - I think that would be wonderful. How are we going to make a research? The things under the ground - what might exist under the ground. We are realizing we have to be practical on this thing. I might say that something is feasible or practical to bring in. The experts would come in and prove I am wrong on this old theory. .... Say if some plant starts up and goes broke. We want to be sure it is going to be permanent. Consequently, I have formed outside the government a non--profit corporation and thank goodness I have been able to get five of the most able Americans to serve on the board of directors without pay.

I took the job as Commissioner of Indian Affairs to try and do something for the Indian people. I have deep high regard .... now I want your help also. Every single last one of those men I asked agreed to serve at their own expense and at their own time. They will come into Washington and come into New York to discuss these things. The government doesn't even pay their car fare or railroad fare. I might tell you the names of those men: One is a childhood friend of mine, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce year before last. Another, a long time friend of mine, David T. Beals, is President of Interstate National Bank of Kansas City; Dr. Clyde Kluckhohn of Harvard, a noted authority on Indian Affairs and a friend of mine. Wm. Given of New York City, that Rev. Clark knows, is President of the American .... receives a salary of \$125,000 a year as President of the Board of that Corporation. Floyd Out---, my attorney, ----- also a big New York attorney who has 150 lawyers in his firm, is acting as attorney in this non-profit corporation. You have a lot of good friends outside of the government to try and help you. We have a weakness in America, trying to do something constructive for the Indian. I don't want the Indian people to live on false hopes. I want to be sure it is going to be a help and not a disappointment.

One wrinkle we haven't overcome, to do the job. That corporation I spoke of, we have to receive grants of money from foundations because I believe it is much better for foundations to furnish this money rather than ask Congress. This corporation will employ .... group of American men .... that doesn't have a standing .... but the highest type group in America so that when they make a report that they come out here and check your assets or your resources to know that when that report is made by a firm like that it is sound. It would be something that Congress would accept because they know it is sound. You can't get anyone else to get out and make it because that is the ultimate. .... It is going to take time of course because it will take a lot of money for each research. We will only have to take tribes as we can get the money. I assure you we are not forgetting your area here on this. I have great hopes for it.

Relocation, I think, is also something that we have to consider, and we have to put lots of emphasis on that. We want the Indian people to get relocation if they can't make their living in their own area. We want to assist the people to get relocated and get re-established to make their own living. That is a very human approach too.

Now, on Health. This Bill 303 passed Congress which will transfer, as of July 1, 1955, our medical services to the Public Health. But, my friends, I can't believe that that is going to be a detriment to the Indians. I think it was the only solution when you think that in the health service now that 72 per cent of our doctors are borrowed from Public Health anyway. And next July 1, 1955, the doctors draft act expires and that is where Public Health has been getting a lot of its doctors. Now Congress has given a mandate to Public Health that they have to take over Indian health. By Congressional Act, Public Health is given that instruction. And I believe that Congress will also appropriate the tool so that Public Health can do the job, can pay a salary that will induce more doctors to get into the Public Health Service. We are unable to pay doctors what a doctor is worth. We have to pay very small salaries. We have no inducement. I would say that the doctors who are helping us out in the Bureau have great hearts to help the Indian people, to work for the Indian people. My hope is we are going to get better service for our Indian people. ....

..... new program ..... trying to show people what causes sickness that cause having to go to the hospital. Public Health goes and puts great emphasis on this and tries to explain to people out in the field. We try to do everything from a humane approach. People have to learn how to keep from going to a hospital.

As I mentioned last year, we have got to realize we are dealing with human beings in this job and believe me the Bureau personnel is approaching this thing on a human angle. I never want to know of any of our personnel that forgets the fact that we are dealing with human beings, trying to help them, help them to a point where you can take your places without any government restrictions. When that time comes, we want to help you do it. Certainly the six tribes that were terminated by the last Congress ..... all of you will agree that they certainly were ready. Some cases the tribe drew up their own bill. The Klamaths of Oregon, unusual, the two factions of the tribe got together and insisted the bill be passed. But, my friends, when you realize, and I think Congressman Berry will bear me out on that, I think that ..... there are some Indians that are no more Indian than I am. Extremely wealthy. Some have a tremendous income. One Indian I know of has an income of \$150,000 a year. He takes up one tenth of the Superintendent's time taking up his business. Is it right for a person like that to require the services of our Sioux people and our older people that need services when so many of our older people need services, People like that are not demanding appropriating money for their services. I think the Congress have something when they are considering the competency bill that it would take care of so many people that could take care of their own business.

Here I wasn't going to talk and here I am ..... I want to talk off the cuff, want to talk to you as a friend, not as a stranger. Forget I am an

Indian Commissioner right now but a friend here to listen to your problems which you have given to me. Hope to have a transcription of this when it is typed up. I feel I have been highly honored just talking to you and shaking hands with you this afternoon. I am supposed to be on a vacation. This is the way I do it. When I went to my own home in New Mexico, the doctor told me to rest up. I took 2 week, and traveled, after I got home, 4128 miles by automobile and visited in person every single one of the 19 pueblos in New Mexico. Drove 403 miles to get to Arizona to talk to all tribes of Arizona. You see where my two weeks vacation went. Drove to Albuquerque and spoke to the Apaches, .....

Thank you tremendously for the fine honor you have paid us in letting us appear before you. You have a great group of people here. Hope some day when I am not Commissioner any longer you will let me come back and see you again. Thank you.

Congressman E. Y. Berry was then introduced.

Berry: (Addressed group) I am mighty proud of the representation that was made this afternoon and the presentation of our difficulties to the Commissioner. We have got the finest folks in the United States here - good tribal council, good organization. I think it is only a matter of time until the Sioux people will not be bothering you too much. We do have our problems and I know, as you said, working out this program for a study of the assets of these reservations we're going to have to be able to bring industry on these reservations. We have these four reservations that are to lose their land from the water of the Oahe and Fort Randall reservations - five reservations to be exact - one has already been taken care of. In that program we are going to have a rehabilitation program as was set up on the Cheyenne. I want to mention the thing that seems to me to be so important in this program. Your Commissioner Emmons, in the program of this administration, but a new program has been developed that is a good program, and he talked about education. We all talk about education. As the Cheyenne bill was set up, a large amount of the 5 and 1/2 million dollars was set up for education, not on a loan basis, but a straight grant for higher education, for vocational training, and then after our young people - and after all, that's all we have to live for is our children - when these people have the tools that the Commissioner was talking about, we set up funds to help them finance the purchase of a business, the purchase of a home in the new location where they could practice their new trade. That seems to me to be a new sun coming up in the east. Because certainly that is the hope of all of us.

I'm not going to take up any time - I make speeches every time I come around you. It is a quarter to five - I'm going to say - Commissioner, it is a great pleasure to have you come out here and visit with these people and give us an opportunity to present to you our problems. I know from having watched you operate for two years, I know they are reaching sympathetic ears. Thank you an awful lot and thank you too - gentlemen - Area Director -

Superintendent. It has been grand to have you here. I hope and I know this has been a productive meeting. Thanks.

Emmons: That is one thing that has been a pleasure for me to be in Washington, that is where I got to meet Mr. Berry here.

Area Director W. O. Roberts was then introduced.

Roberts: Mr. Chairman, we have heard so many good things this afternoon that I don't need to say too much except to agree with you that we have had a profitable afternoon and I am sure that the remarks and the discussions here this afternoon will lead to productive thinking among us all in the direction that we are going and must take to meet these needs as stated this afternoon - health, education, etc. I see you folks often and I will continue to see you often and if there is anything to discuss, we want to discuss it some time other. We are glad to have you here this afternoon, Mr. Emmons, Mr. Berry, Mr. Langen. I thank you.

Wellington: Mr. Chairman, I don't have anything further to say. What time we have left is up to Commissioner Emmons.

~~Chairman then thanked the group.~~

Emmons: God bless all of you folks.

Chairman: I want to say a word of thanks at this time. This meeting has been constructive and

Meeting adjourned.