

MINUTES

of

STANDING ROCK

TRIBAL GROUP CONFERENCE

With

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

July 20, 1956

Omaha, Nebraska

July 20, 1956
Standing Rock
&
Commissioner Glenn Emmons

Delegation present:

1. Dan Howard, Chairman
2. James McLain, Vice-Chairman

J. W. Wellington, Superintendent

BY MR. EMMONS:

This morning I wish you would all carry the ball and let your hair down and tell me anything you want to and anything that you have in mind for the improvement of the Indians of the Standing Rock reservation; in other words, this is just a little family gathering in here to talk over our mutual problems, so you all go right ahead.

BY MR. HOWARD:

Well, Mr. Commissioner, on behalf of Standing Rock, we are certainly glad to have the opportunity to have a meeting of this kind and we enjoyed and were interested in your speech yesterday and to really find out your policy, the three things you stated there, education, health and economic development. We can see where education is picking up. I think more of our people realize they have to go to college. We are trying to get that impressed upon them. We are finding out where we missed the boat here and there. We start advising children when they are 18 years old and they are shot. We have to get them when they're younger. If you don't get them when they're 12 or 13, it doesn't do any good. In our planning for education, we have asked to hire a social guidance officer who will work with all the grades all the way through the grades and when he's finished he can go out and work in the field and make contacts where he thinks they should be made. We have thought of that in the line of education. Education, we know, is our only avenue of escape. We are emphasizing education for the younger ones coming up. We had statistics showing that 50% of our population was from one day old up to 20, so we know we have 50% right there, where we can help them in education. Then the next major percentage comes from 20 to about 32, so we have to help them with vocational training. Then we get into the third class - not old enough for old age - they are our biggest problem and then we get into old age and they are taken care of by social security or by other welfare. Now Public Health is doing a good job. We have just had a meeting in Aberdeen and they are starting workshops on the reservation and getting more people to participate. We are starting a TB survey on the reservation. While they are conducting that we are going to have a check for diabetes and venereal diseases, and along with that they are going to type every Indian so he will know what his blood type is, while we got them together. We will have what they call a walking blood bank, so I think all things like that will help to keep eliminating health problems. It's going to help us. I think one of the things that is slighted

the most is economic development and employment. There are lots of men who never seem to have enough money and the loans that they receive are pretty close to a starvation deal.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Most of your land is just grazing land. Is there very little agriculture.

BY MR. HOWARD:

There are quite a number of acres that could be agricultural land.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

There are about 900,000 acres of grazing land and approximately 60,000 of farm.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We had figures there. We were down to Washington and it is probable most of our Indians could possibly use some of that land that the whites are using.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You have 209,873 acres in tribal trust and 741,325 allotted and 10,964 sub-marginal, is that right?

BY MR. HOWARD:

That is very close to the figures that I have. Originally we had 2,332,000.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Except I have 2,327,000 originally.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We have a little over 6,000 cattle being run by Indians, that is a year ago, but I think it is pretty close to the same.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You run about, I guess, 25 head of cattle to a section, do you?

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

There are 30 acres to an animal unit.

BY MR. HOWARD:

That would be pretty close to 25 head to a section. That's 6 about to a quarter.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

You didn't mention the checkerboard effect, Dan. That's one thing the tribe would like to do is to consolidate. We're trying to make a consolidation by exchanging some land in the southwest portion of the reservation with the State of South Dakota. We haven't progressed too well, but we certainly think it would be advantageous to both the State of South Dakota and the tribe.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You have living on the reservation, I imagine, around 700 families, actually living there.

BY MR. HOWARD:

Yes, I think that is between 700 and possibly 800. I don't know the exact figure.

BY MR. MCLAIN:

There's over 700.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

I believe the resident reservation population is around 3500 or 3600 and the family average is around 4.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We are finding a lot more in the census. We're carrying a lot of people who are dead and we are finding a lot who are not on the rolls.

BY MR. REID:

That's a wonderful piece of work you're doing on census, boys.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We are lucky, everybody is cooperating and Mrs. Pierce has done a good job of supervising and they are going right along. Now that is probably one of the things we want to ask a question about later on. Maybe I should ask it right now. It is very important to us what other tribal groups are doing in the questions of limitations of tribal enrollment.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Mr. Ware, I don't suppose you have any information on that. I have been informed, anyway like the Palm Springs group - of course that is a small group out in California. There is almost unanimous opinion that they ought to close the tribal rolls because the land problem out there is just terrible and every time a new child is born they have to make another allotment and I think that some day that is going to be the only thing to do, don't you think so? I don't know immediately, but in the foreseeable future because it certainly does complicate further the heirship problem, doesn't it? And I imagine that your heirship problem is just as serious as it is everywhere else.

BY MR. REID:

Commissioner, there is one thing I have run into in the different tribes I visited, the differences of opinion on closed roll and the main thing, the census roll, for all practical purposes, they are the same. Many of the tribes are putting concentrated effort to develop a tribal roll that is current, as you say, eliminate names that should be off and at any time that it becomes necessary or desirable, to close the roll. All your work is done anyway. It is just a matter of stating as of a certain date, but they are putting a lot of effort in creating these tribal rolls on a current basis. Now you take up in western Washington, we ran into a very serious situation. They used to have the old TB at Tacoma and they did issue little cards to the Indians that would be eligible, if they came up for hospitalization. Then under their hunting and fishing rights they would come in, and if they had one of these cards it cleared them as far as being an Indian is concerned. Well, you would go into some of those tribes of western Washington which covered an area of 17 or 18 counties, and they were issuing thousands of these cards that have no merit at all. The Superintendent was having to sign and he didn't know whether they were a member of a tribe and some little group would write in a letter saying the following members were banned. It just created a heck of a situation, and it really brought to the front the necessity of developing a current tribal roll, whether it was being considered to be closed on a certain date or whether or not, just to be current so they would know exactly what the membership was. I think that enrollment business is something that is very, very important and becomes more and more important every day, just as you pointed out, so you certainly can't go wrong.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Get that for your own information.

BY MR. HOWARD:

I am in favor of the pending legislation. We have to get this settled, and another problem would be residence. We have written in the bill - they are excluded - non-residents. They are not included in the reservation program.

BY MR. REID:

Any of those awards that are made, the first thing that has to be done is to create your rolls regardless of whether they are off reservation or not.

BY MR. HOWARD:

That is the reason why yesterday we mentioned in talking that regardless of what is in the bill, we mentioned from Washington - we were down there - we could see that problem is a concern of everybody, too. You're waving your hand to tell them to come back. They take a little vacation and come back and expect to get \$5,000 rehabilitation loan on the reservation.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You say that now any non-resident does not participate in any award?

BY MR. HOWARD:

They are excluded the way it's written in the bill. Tribally we cannot exclude them on the tribal portion of whatever settlement we get. We have 56,000 acres that goes to the tribe and every enrolled member has a right to that, and the same with intangible funds. That's again where our census comes in. The problem on the reservation wouldn't be too bad as far as census is concerned, but it is the off-reservation, and they are spreading out.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You have at least 1500 away from the reservation?

BY MR. HOWARD:

We have a figure of 1700, and maybe more.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

The relocatees are writing back to their relatives and friends, we have been able to see Cheyenne problems, because they have already received their settlement.

BY MR. EMMONS:

That is unfortunate because as I tried to explain yesterday, the relocation service that we have, that isn't a break-up of reservation life, but it is trying to give an opportunity to the surplus population to make an existence elsewhere, so there will be enough land for those who want to use it and it is very unwise, it seems to me, to make it practically impossible for an Indian to leave. Here I don't know

just how many economic farm and cattle units could be established on the reservation, but we do know it takes a certain minimum of acres for either operation and if the surplus population could be happily established elsewhere through the relocation service, just think what that would mean to those who would actually want to use the land. They would have a decent livelihood, too, wouldn't they, and then it is only human nature that those people are going to come back, the very problem that is worrying you folks and all of us now.

BY MR. REID:

Commissioner, we have had it hit us square between the eyes. You take the educational program and relocation program - you take people and train them to be beauty shop operators, stenographers, and all those vocations that they can step right out and get good-paying jobs. The minute they complete they go right back to the reservation; they won't go and get a job because under this act we have, they say "Heck I am going to sit there until we find out how this is going to work out." Even though we have trained them and they are qualified and could step out tomorrow morning on a very good-paying job. They complete the course and return right back.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I suppose when the boys and girls get a job in the city or somewhere else they could use their money in the purchase of a home, which would be a great help to them and is a great assistance to the people, these on the reservation, because the tribesmen are going to use the land that they are not going to use, but you folks, it is the consensus of most the members of the tribe that they think the non-resident members of the tribe should participate, is that what you fellows think?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Yes, that is the consensus of the people. We have taken votes in two districts and each time it was almost voted unanimously to include off-reservation people who are their relatives.

BY MR. MCLAIN:

Mr. Emmons, we have this bill pending in Congress, do you think will rehabilitation portion of that go through - that \$8,500,000?

BY MR. EMMONS:

I didn't get to check that with Mr. Lee yesterday when I was talking to him over the phone. I don't know really what the status of that is.

BY MR. MCLAIN:

My thinking of that is if it is possible that it is going through I wonder if we couldn't get an advancement of about \$3,000,000.00 to start our rehabilitation program.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Well now, of course it could be that Congress in the next session might appropriate the money for that, you see. One thing is having a bill passed and another thing is having the money appropriated.

BY MR. MCLAIN:

My thinking - I may be wrong about it - I figure it will be at least three years before we realize any money at all out of it.

BY MR. EMMONS:

It could be. Things like that can't be held back here. Your rehabilitation program, you have that drawn up, haven't you?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Pretty well - it's divided into 19 items that would come under rehabilitation. We had a map and we had a dollar sign and we broke that dollar down so, regardless of whatever amount we got, we know what percent would go where.

BY MR. MCLAIN:

You know we have a lot of timber and we figure we could use some of that money to employ a lot of guys who are disqualified for vocational jobs, cutting wood and clearing the bottoms out.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

If the time element runs out on the people, if the engineers are on schedule, the gates will be closed in '58 and then the water will be impounded above the dam. We have seen the loss at Fort Berthold where the timber was covered. There are millions of fence posts and millions of feet of lumber, saw logs, house logs, fire wood. The loss could be tremendous. In other words, what Jim has mentioned actually would be a business venture. If the money could even be borrowed, we could employ a large number of the resident population who actually are able-bodied people, from about October right straight through April and even use some of them into May. It is in the bill (HR-5608) that on individually allotted timber land, after the bill is passed, nine months would elapse for the individual to sell or otherwise

use his own timber. After that nine-month period the tribe will take it over as a tribal enterprise. I think something could be worked out with the individuals, but there are so many able-bodied people that could be employed, all the way from the northeast part of the reservation to the southern part and up Grand River. Then in turn the timber that is harvested, if it isn't used for construction, could be for sale as fence posts and logs. I think it would pay its own way. It would be a big project, and I think with the proper planning it would be a good business enterprise besides putting many people to work.

BY MR. EMMONS:

They would let us have only about 1-1/2 years for the operation. Say if it would get started the first part of 1957.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

They say after the gates are closed in '58 the water will hit the southern district of our reservation in about 12 months, then a small district nearby where they will be moved out in about 18 months, so it could last up to '60 or '61, according to how fast the water is impounded.

BY MR. EMMONS:

In dollars, what do you feel could be retrieved out of that timber, not only the timber but --

BY MR. HOWARD:

It's all in the record but we don't have it with us.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

The tribe prepared it in making their request to Congress and it gave what the return would be.

BY MR. HOWARD:

There are fence posts, cord wood, house logs, etc.

BY MR. EMMONS:

It is a considerable sum.

BY MR. HOWARD:

Yes, I think it was around 200 and some thousand a year. It probably could be

more but roughly I was trying to remember the breakdown and our land value, timber value and our board feet of lumber and so much for fence posts and so much for cord wood.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

Then we also need help to get in touch with the proper private lumbering companies. Cotton wood is being used a great deal, more now than in the past. They use it as the ply in the veneer woods and it is being used in furniture for the lighter material underneath chairs, etc. It is used for making egg crates, etc., but to date we haven't been able to find private industry. We haven't had the opportunity to get out and canvass the field. Cottonwood, if it isn't properly cut, is not considered good lumber.

BY MR. EMMONS:

What do you plan to harvest on that timber? Were you going to try to contract a private company to come in there and do the cutting? How did you intend to cut out that timber?

BY MR. HOWARD:

We have thought of both phases, whether it would be better to harvest it on a share basis or do it as a tribal project, and we are mainly interested in creating employment during the winter.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Would that involve quite an investment in machinery?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Yes, I think it would. It would take quite a lot of machinery to harvest at any rate of speed.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

I think both Dan and Jim would agree, as far as the cord wood and fence posts and, perhaps house logs, could be taken care of privately, but the soft saw timber is something else again. 80% of the reservation's fuel comes from the river bottom and when these are covered up that means 80% of the residents are going to have to look elsewhere for their fuel.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We had some pretty pointed questions we wanted to ask. One of them was the

State property tax. North Dakota has a State law that doesn't tax Indians, but there is no such law in South Dakota and they are trying to tax our cattle and they have picked 15 operators and sent tax notices to them. We are now in the process of making a territory case out of it.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You know the Supreme Court decision - you know the Capoeman case - the Supreme Court gave an opinion that no direct income from trust properties (lands allotted under the 1887 Act) is subject to Federal income tax. I went up before the Collector of Internal Revenue in Washington and prevailed on them to issue an immediate order to their field people and it would seem they were very cooperative. Now if the Supreme Court had made that decision as far as Federal income tax is concerned, I think that would pretty well set the policy of the State, wouldn't you think so? If it's direct income - now that covers crops, too. You don't have a copy of that release or order, do you, Mr. Ware?

BY MR. WARE:

No, I haven't.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Now, cattle, in my opinion, are the same as crops.

BY MR. HOWARD:

That is the same statement as I made. The Capoeman Case concerned timber. Our case would be grass.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Yes, but this was very definite. In fact we had a 4 or 5 hour conference with the Bureau of Revenue people. It was very definite - it covered crops, and I am sure that in my own opinion that the cattle that are dependent on the grass of the trust lands, that would be direct income. I think that, of course, some smart lawyer could maybe convince the court otherwise.

BY MR. REID:

Of course if you bought cattle from the Government on Government loan, or the tribe would, then those cattle are actually entitled to the United States and those cattle and offspring would not be taxable.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

You consider those cattle that would be purchased from loans made by the tribe would be the same.

BY MR. REID:

Well, I am not a lawyer. You are getting me involved on that.

BY MR. EMMONS:

That's a matter --

BY MR. HOWARD:

That is what we want - an interpretation of the Supreme Court's decision. No. 134 is the number of this case. We wanted to ask the Commissioner's office, and we are also asking our Congressman about it. Another question is why is not the Bureau backing the Standing Rock Oahe Bill?

BY MR. EMMONS:

I am sorry, I cannot give all the details of that because I wasn't handling that personally.

BY MR. REID:

Commissioner, where are the reports I gave you yesterday morning.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I have those in the dresser.

BY MR. REID:

What was the bill number?

BY MR. HOWARD:

H.R. 5608.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Here's one thing that I mentioned yesterday, that if we can get that survey I mentioned made where we will have something in which Congress might have a lot of confidence, I don't think we will have any trouble. The fact is if nothing happens this season I am in hopes that we can have those surveys made. Now how much does the tribe have (in case) in your treasury?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Well, in round figures, I just wouldn't be able to answer that.

BY MR. EMMONS:

When do you have your really bad weather?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Last year it started in November - it was unusual; it has never been that late.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

We had eight months of winter.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Then you have a thaw period in spring?

BY MR. HOWARD:

It is a pretty late thaw.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I was just thinking that something like that could be worked out.

BY MR. HOWARD:

How much would we have to set up for economic and social survey? That was in one of our rehabilitation items.

BY MR. EMMONS:

In other words, the tribe now - if we had that clear picture you folks would have it. I believe if we had something like that, if Congress doesn't do anything, I think I could take that and convince every Congressman in the country that it shows just exactly the resources on the reservation and what a certain amount of money would do for that reservation. It is also going to show you pretty well what your surplus population might be if you do have any. It might show, of course, that that reservation is fortunate enough to support the present population, but I think all of us doubt it and I think I do too. Do you suppose the tribe could afford, say \$25,000, for that purpose?

BY MR. HOWARD:

I don't know about this next year; they could in two years, but I don't know about one year.

BY MR. EMMONS:

In other words, I think we might need a report like that to convince Washington. I talked to these folks one day and not too long ago I said "Here, supposing we gave you" - I was speaking about the Papago because there is nothing in sight down there - no grass even. I said "Look here, we're turning over a 2,000,000 acre reservation to you. It looks like it is no earthly good. There are 7,500 people. Make a survey and, of course, underground water is a great factor there; to get an underground water survey and come up with an answer as to what could the reservation be used for and how many people then could that reservation support. We will just give you the raw area to work on. You come up with your report and I said I think that's an emergency down there because their increase of population is rapid and it is just desert and I really think it would be money well spent because the tribe would get it back if Congress does pass the bill.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

The tribe would be in a position to pay back a loan because the tribe is losing 10,000 acres of land. We know they would be paid for 10,000 acres. The annual budget is about \$75,000, and that just barely takes them through a year on normal operation. The tribe puts out almost \$37,000 in salaries of employees. They employ a clerical staff and police force that takes a big bite out of the \$75,000.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I will be out in that part of the country within the next month or so, if I live that long. Let me talk to those people and see what they would offer. Maybe we can get them to do it. I'll tell them this is on a trial and if this works maybe we can get them to take the other reservations up there, too.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

The tribe would be in a position to pay back the loan.

BY MR. HOWARD:

Well, every new leasing period we get in a lot more money.

BY MR. REID:

You just completed your 3 and 5 year leases?

BY MR. HOWARD:

We went into another one that comes up for renewal this fall and we draw all the fees for 3 years and that way gives us quite a lot. We owed a loss of about \$17,000 and I couldn't get it through my noodle where the loss was and that's where

it was. We also lost a lot of canceled oil leases.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I am going to look into that and see just what can be worked out.

BY MR. HOWARD:

Another thing we want for your support was treaty rights, especially hunting and fishing rights.

BY MR. EMMONS:

After all, fellows, a treaty to me is pretty sacred. You see, I am a banker and the word of the Government to me is something which has to be fulfilled. I can't see how the hunting and fishing - how is that going to disturb the situation up there anyway. The State people of South Dakota as well as North Dakota, they want the fishing and hunting rights to be abolished, I guess, do they?

BY MR. REID:

They want them under State jurisdiction but the bill would be thrown open and they would want everybody to conform to State Game Laws and your contention is that you have your own hunting and fishing rights. Are you contending it would be a closed area strictly for Indian use?

BY MR. HOWARD:

I would. We still own all the land adjoining the taken area and have our treaties.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Would this be objectionable? In fact, there is some talk of the Mickasukees - I am trying to work out something for the State of Florida and these Indians themselves suggested, and that is the most backward group in America way down in the Everglades, but during the time of Andrew Jackson in 1814 they had this trouble, so I just decided I was going to finally get it settled. The Seminoles that came up with us suggested the Indians would hold their own hunting and fishing rights but a non-Indian could also be in this particular area subject to the seasons. Now because after all there were a lot of fish and wildlife, we are not going to commit 400,000 acres of that Everglades country to be used just by 300 or 400 Indians in this particular group. The Game Commission said "Why the voters down here would raise cane with us" but now how would that be as a compromise to you folks? Say if the Indians could have all-year round usage but any others would be subject to the State licenses and seasons.

BY MR. HOWARD:

It is pretty much like that now. They're allowed to come on the reservation. I think North Dakota licenses state any owner of a license should contact the Superintendent on a reservation. South Dakota doesn't state it on their licenses. The reason we were hollering about them taking our hunting and fishing rights away, we maintain the treaties made with the United States are as good today as they were when first made. Some of the wording meant them to last as long as the grass grows and the water runs.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Up in New York State, one tribe in 1796 I believe it was - we made a treaty and we promised them under that treaty a certain sum of money be set aside, the income from that would be paid out on a per-capita basis, so about 5 months after I became Commissioner I sent a commission up to talk to these people. They are only getting 51¢ a year per capita payment. I said, "Look, this 51¢, it costs the Government \$3.50 to process the darned check and it isn't doing you any good. Now would you be agreeable to accept a cash payment, I think it amounted to \$1,600.00 apiece". They said "No." I said "All right." Then another tribe there, we gave them 5 yards of calico and I went up there and asked if they would be willing to accept \$1,600.00 and every man, woman and child said "No, we want the calico." It's in the treaty, so we will keep on giving you the calico. It sounds foolish at this time but I wasn't going to be a party to the breaking of any treaty unless the people themselves agree to it, so I just thought I would tell you.

BY MR. HOWARD:

I know every tribe has some provision in their treaty that they should get certain things to keep their treaty binding.

BY MR. EMMONS:

The Navajos had in their treaty of 1868 that there would be a blacksmith shop for so many Indians. Well, of course the blacksmith shop could hardly operate now, so of course they said "Why of course we don't want to enforce anything like that", but anything that might mean food to the folks or something like that, but I think as far as fishing and hunting rights, we will see what we can work out on that, too.

BY MR. HOWARD:

The reason why we say that is in our treaty, we own the east low-water mark of the river and that is in the bill, too. They should have a floating easement on that.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Our great President said, himself, that he didn't want any treaties violated, but go ahead.

BY MR. HOWARD:

In interpreting our treaties I have been told that our treaties don't mean anything because the wording is so simple. Well, when Indian treaties were made I don't think there were very many who knew English, so the language was very simple; so when they did learn it sounded very elemental, but I said that's our fault because as we came along we should have strengthened our wording on that. Now, about the possibility of slowing up land sales, and this would allow Indians, some of them, to negotiate with members of his tribe for the purchase of restricted lands. If that is possible, we would like to.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Are there quite a few of these heirship allotments, especially these far removed from the Indian land on account of checkerboarding?

BY MR. HOWARD:

It is checkerboarded in among the other land, too, the heirship land is. If we could buy some of that and jockey around and try it, we would like to do it. We would like to keep the remaining land we have from becoming more checkerboarded. Then another thing is the construction problem. We don't know what you think of it, but we have a construction problem. We have appropriations from Congress, but we're primarily interested in our own reservation. We had one particular school; we were allowed \$80,000 for additional school facilities and the \$80,000 wasn't enough to begin with. When they started taking off different architectural costs it is cut down to \$60,000 now and those things we think should be given further consideration. If we need \$80,000 we had better be tacking on 20% or more. We have a high school building coming up in the neighborhood of \$400,000 and if they take \$20,000 off that it's going to be a big bite. I think the actual figures are basic and we should get it. If there is going to be an additional cost it should be made - not out of an appropriation of something that we need.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You know for fiscal '57 educational facilities and services we got \$330,000 as against \$240,000 that we had in '53 so we have a little increase there.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

Mr. Howard's point, I think, Commissioner, is very well made and there is a possibility it hasn't been called to your attention. It has been discussed with Mr. Lee but the money for this school was appropriated for '56 last year in '55. Construction hasn't started. They said that we should obtain the services of an outside architect. We obtained the services of a very good one in Sioux Falls for \$4,500.00. We worked with the people of South Dakota, and our plans, as the Bureau people,

Mr. Lee and Mr. Keller all agree, was the type of construction they wanted. The architect made his plans accordingly; the plans were sent in to the Bureau construction office and they were refused. In addition, they took off another \$15,000 for their architectural fees so the \$80,000 has dropped to \$60,500. Now, there is no way to complete construction. The State people and the people at the area level stated that the plan was agreeable. Those plans have been discarded.

BY MR. EMMONS:

What was the total cost?

BY MR. HOWARD:

\$80,000 for the building. \$4,500 was taken out by this firm in Sioux Falls and \$15,000 by Albuquerque. Another problem which is a local problem mostly, Indians residing on a townsite where our water supply is inadequate. I think it was set up for 450 people, but I think we have three times that many people there now, and we were wondering if you would give us any consideration on this problem, to enlarge it. The community could never pay for it because they are mostly Indian and they don't have the income. It would take a lot of money to establish a water system there to supply the town, and we were wondering if some way it wouldn't be possible to enlarge the water system. The people are willing to pay by meter rate for what they use.

BY MR. EMMONS:

You say there are about 1500 people living there now?

BY MR. HOWARD:

Yes, and now with Public Health, they have moved in a lot of personnel. They have increased the situation quite a lot more than it was intended for. The Superintendent was good enough to let us have the water. They established a project in PWA days to be their fire control. Well, that was just a nice way of getting water down there and they finally started hooking on to it and now we have a problem on it.

BY MR. WELLINGTON:

A letter has been sent to your office about this problem within the last 10 days; but it is a serious problem.

BY MR. EMMONS:

Fellows, I tell you I want to congratulate the Standing Rock people for having representatives like you two gentlemen representing them; in fact, the sound leadership you fellows are giving them. The tribe is certainly to be congratulated in their

good judgment in having fellows like you. I want you to know that I appreciate your fine cooperation and working together on these things. I think we can get them licked.

BY MR. HOWARD:

That is what we want to know - if we can come in and lay our cards on the table.

BY MR. EMMONS:

I understand this is the first time in history that meetings like this have been arranged. As I said yesterday, if I went to the reservation my time would naturally be cut short, but having this 3-day meeting here, as I said I consider you fellows as sort of an advisory committee, we can go a long way and I want the support of you fellows because my time is limited as Commissioner. I will have to, one of these days, get back to my own bread and butter I guess, but time is so important on all of these things. I am willing to stay on the job providing we can do something constructive and helpful for the Indians. We have to face the day when the Government is going to get out of the Indian business, isn't that right, and the leaders of today have got to plan against that time because we don't know, one of these days in the future, if the Indians are worse off than they were 10 years before, I am afraid that Congress is going to say the Indians couldn't be any worse off and darn it, I think we have a solemn obligation to raise the standards of the Indian people so that when that time does come they will have such a level of income that they can afford to be relieved of the Government restrictions, but darn it I will fight to the last ditch to see that that doesn't come overnight, of course. But you fellows have got the vision and the ability and intelligence and you are anticipating that day. I can see that you are. There was one fellow one day that told some Indians out West "Don't you dare start working out any programs because that means you will be terminated from the trusteeship". I told him that wasn't a very constructive statement to make to these people and I said some day in the future, the Indian people themselves, at that time, will be condemning the advice that you are giving. I want to see that the Indians are living on as decent a plane of living as any non-Indian neighbor and working together we can do that. The relocation service - you know it sort of breaks your heart when you see some woman write an article that says the purpose of the relocation service program is to get the Indians off the land so the white man can steal it. You know there are a lot of people who believe that stuff when they see it in a story and that just retards any Indian program, of course. My time in Washington should be, when I am on this job, to help the Indian people and not spending all my time writing letters to some person that has been given misinformation. That is not constructive at all and when people, and there are certain ones in the country we know, say the Indians should be kept more as a museum piece. I told this person one day if you went out and told this to the Indian people they would scalp you.

BY MR. HOWARD:

We told the people one day "We're not trying to make white men out of you; we just want to make you better Indians".

BY MR. EMMONS:

Just like I told the group in Florida. I said, "After all, you can have your traditions and your rituals". The United States Government promises one thing above all others, and that is freedom of religion and freedom of thought. These old medicine men - you see that ring - that shows that I belong to a private secret organization which has a ritual. The United States Government will never tell me that I can't attend that lodge and I said you folks can go ahead with your Green Corn Dance forever; the United States Government will never interfere with it because of our freedom of religion. Well, gentlemen, it has been awful good to see you.

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