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**Letter from Pocahontas Hagy to Editor of Bismarck Tribune,
Submitted to the Congressional Record by Representative
Burdick, May 7, 1956**

Pocahontas Hagy

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IF SEGREGATION IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL
WHY WAS IT FORCED ON THE INDIANS?

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
of
HON. USHER L. BURDICK

of North Dakota

In the House of Representatives

Monday, May 7, 1956

Mr. Burdick. Mr. Speaker, I have here a copy of a letter which appeared recently in the Bismarck (North Dakota) Tribune, which I ask to have inserted in the RECORD.

To The Editor:
Sir:

Our Supreme Court wishes to enforce desegregation upon those who do not desire it, they maintain segregation to be unconstitutional. If this be so why were the rights, powers, privileges and possessions taken from the Indians, who were segregated on reservations little less than present day Communist prison camps.

The Indian gave much to America by way of agriculture, crafts, arts, pottery, drama, beautiful legends and a love for nature yet this country did deliberately try to destroy Indian culture. The Indian in his own land is actually a man without a country. No Negro nor any other race living within the Continental United States has ever been treated with the inhuman brutality as were the Indians, by white aggressors. Those in Washington who rule this country send each year millions to unappreciative nations abroad for fear of Communist warfare, and fail to enact rehabilitation bills for the sadly neglected 100 percent American.

The Indian cannot make a move today without an approval from the Indian Department yet let the NAACP demand and the Supreme Court gives their approval. Picture once proud Indian Nations plodding into exile because greedy, grasping whites wanted their rich possessions, they were herded on to reservations like cattle. On the long marches many died from thirst, cruelty and starvation.

The Indian had peace loving chiefs like Cochise, Victoria, Crazy Horse and many others who became relentless and implacable enemies due to broken promises and colossal blunders of the white man. What if we were required to relinquish our American customs Religions and the treasured traditions that really began with the Indians and appalling thought, yet the Indian in order to be admitted to citizenship in their own land were required to give up their treasured tribal customs.

Today the Red Man's land is a country teeming with commercialism and bitter competition. "Tis a survival of the fittest". Some of our politicians are nothing but demagogues and glory hunters, they storm through campaigns like frustrated boys. The reason courts and our politicians are not interested in the welfare of the Indians is quite simple, the Indians do not have votes sufficient to justify giving them aid.

Love and charity are the first precepts of Christianity, can we say we have given of that same Christian charity to our copper colored brethren? God Almighty will continue to send disaster in all its frightening forms, clouds of Communism will loom larger and more threatening until this country makes some sort of restitution to right the wrongs perpetrated by white people against the American Red Man.

MRS. POCAHONTAS HAGY
Abingdon, Virginia.