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Letter from John Hamilton to Senator Langer Regarding the Conditions of the Navajo Tribe and Letters from Floyd Montclair and Gaining Support for Upcoming Election, April 10, 1946

John E. Hamilton

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We Need a Chance too. What is Our Future?
We American Indians are still held in bondage.



Thousands like these little American Indians need our Protection and the Help of all fair-minded citizens of the United States.

OUR AIMS:

- To promote the general welfare of the American Indians,
- By protecting and safeguarding their Constitutional and Legal Rights,
- By advocating an emancipated citizenship at the earliest possible time.
- By promoting their health and educational opportunities, and to create an enlightened public opinion.

In all sincerity, might we here urge all of our true paleface American friends to join us Indians in demanding the Congress of the United States to give us American Indian people our complete freedom so that we can enjoy the same rights and privileges which are accorded other citizens?

No race can progress in slavery.

April 10, 1946.

Honorable William Langer,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I am still waiting to hear word from you in reference to arranging for me to appear before the Committee on Indian Affairs of the United States Senate regarding the present-day conditions of the Navajo Tribe of Indians. I hope it will be possible to schedule a hearing in the near future so I will be able to bring the facts before that body.

Say Bill, I am enclosing herewith two letters that I have received from Mr. Floyd Montclair from Elbowoods, North Dakota, and I think it is worth while for you to take this matter into your very immediate serious consideration, in view of the fact, that you are up for re-election. I believe after you have read his letters, you will see very plainly that he could be a very valuable person to us in getting the Indian vote in your Senatorial District. You will see by the letter that he has accepted the election as State Chairman of this Association, and he wants to start organizing right away. Bill, as a matter of suggestion, do you not think it wise on our part if we encourage him to our fullest efforts?

I do not know just how many tribes up there come under your District, but if the Turtle Mountain Indians happen to be in your jurisdiction, and perhaps many others, that Floyd can easily swing over to our side of the fence, then, I believe you and I should give him all the support we really can in this regard. I am under the impression that you need all the Indian votes you can possibly secure from the Fort Berthold Affiliated Tribes, and I believe you told me that you were very anxious to have Floyd or some other Indian from those tribes get among the people and do their stuff in your behalf.

April 10, 1946.

Due to the fact, that Floyd has now become a representative of this Association, I believe he will feel more duty bound to go out and get the Indian votes to send you back to Washington. I do not mean to say that it will be the Indian vote altogether which would send you back to Wasington, but I know their vote will help considerably in the Fall elections.

I always mention in my letters to Floyd, that he must cooperate with us and get the Indians' vote up their to help us put you back in office, just recently I mentioned it to him again.

As you will notice in his letter, he would like to get a car in order that he could get around to the Indians. Do you think that the Indians's vote in your Senatorial District is worth \$300. dollars? Of course you know better about that than I do Bill. If so, perhaps you should write a letter to Mr. Montclair at the earliest possible time. And as you know, I have always promised that I would do all I possibly could in every way to help put you back in office.

I shall wait for your reply in this regard before answering his letters. I want to know just what you desire to do before taking any further steps in this matter. Bill, you know as well as I do, it is not going to be all smooth sailing up there, there is going to be a lot of opposition, but if you have the right workers out in the field they will be able to overcome those obstacles. I am not speaking about Floyd alone only, but all others you might have out in the field for your re-election. Although, I know Floyd would go out and do a good job of it anyway, that is, if you and I give him something to work on.

I should like very much to get some of your campaign literature if it is available, so I could send some to Mr. Montclair in order that he may be able to commence distributing some, that is, if you are ready for it to be distributed at the present time, to all the Indians that he can reach conveniently. Please do not misunderstand me Bill, do not think that I am trying to run your campaign affairs, because I do not mean it that way, but I know you are going to run up against so many people who are going to make it hard for us, that the sooner you get started the quicker your side of the stery will be into the hands of your prospective voters.

I wish I could be out in the Field all the time with the American Indians, not only from a re-election standpoint, but from every angle. I really believe I could do more for their relief if I devoted full time for their welfare. What do you think of it?

I trust that you will have great success in your coming election, and that it will go over the top like a flash of lightning.

I shall be waiting for your reply, and advise of the above.

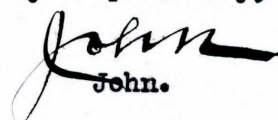
With every good wish to you and yours, please believe me, I am

JEH:O

Enclosures:

(Copies of two letters.)

Very respectfully,


John.

If you need me Bill, please do not hesitate to let me know.

A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL LETTER

Copy to:

Hon. William Langer.

Elbowoods, North Dakota
April 8, 1946.

Mr. John E. Hamilton, President
National American Indian Defense Association, Inc.,
322 Washington Street,
Hartford, Connecticut

Honored Sir:

/a

I shall highly appreciate it if you can conveniently give me all the necessary information. It seems to me that I have to appoint a Vice-Chairman, and Secretary or elect officers by membership of the Association.

I am ready to go ahead and organize the Association on, up to the latter part of August of this year. You see I go in coal mining business in the winter months. We use a V-8 Ford truck every day for certain kind of work, and I am not asking it but if you can finance a touring car for me on the proposition of repayment plan to you.

We can buy a good car for three (\$300.00) dollars. I can get around better with a car. The Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation with a population of 8,000 Indians is 200 miles from here, and Fort Yates is about the same distance. There is to be a meeting tomorrow about Garrison Dam, and I will send the resulting minutes to you.

With kind regards to all good friends,
awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

Signed by: Floyd Montclair.