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Letter from O. K. Chandler to Representative Burdick Regarding Harold Ickes and the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, undated

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American Indian Federation

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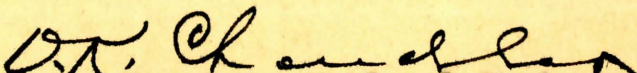
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Yes, I have read the reply of Secretary Ickes to Congressman Burdick's address before our convention. The Congressman, along with every member of the House and Senate Indian Affairs Committees of congress, were invited to attend our convention. Rep. Lemke, Sen. Nye and Governor Moses were also invited. Congressman Lemke and Burdick both addressed the convention. Governor Moses and Senator Nye, on account of previous engagements, were unable to attend. Both, previous to the convention, would spend a few hours with us if possible.

The Federation is non-partisan. We were pleased indeed to have Rep. Burdick and Lemke talk to us. Without exception I am sure, their statements as to the bureau of Indian affairs is in complete accord with the views of the entire membership of our organization. They are also the views of thousands and thousands of our Indians and friends of the Indians, who are informed, not now members of the Federation.

The suggestion of the Honorable Secretary that "some disinterested group should look into the bureau" is indeed good. Of course, the citizenship of the nation are interested - they pay the bill - but some of them should "look into the bureau", as the Secretary suggests. Personally, as a citizen and taxpayer, I suggest that the Secretary and Congressman agree on Hon. John B. Trevor, New York City, president of the American Coalition, a group of 120 patriotic organizations banded together to "keep America American"; Hon. Victor E. Deveraux, Washington, D. C., Director on Americanism of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Hon. Homer L. Chillaux, Indianapolis,

Ind., Chairman, Americanism Committee, American Legion, as a committee to "look into the bureau". I believe these patriotic Americans could and would look deep and give the American public a correct picture of what they saw.


O. K. Chandler, National Chairman
on Organization, American Indian
Federation.

Dear Burdick:

Looks like they are going to fight some on the other side. Still I believe we should do our fighting over - - even if we have to fight each other, ICKES and COLLIER, in particular.

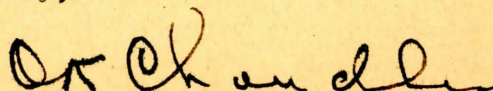
Believe the press will pick up this interview tomorrow - say they will here in Mandan. Too much war news today. Just looks like the human family must have evolved from the cat and dog family.

Well, don't let Ickes bluff you. If he is really sincere he will accept a proposal or carry out one he himself proposed. I do not know that Mr. Deverau, Chillaux and Mr. Treavor would serve in the capacity suggested - they are tried and true Americans, and if we are going to have an investigation or "look into the bureau" let it be by real Americans.

We will back you up and at every opportunity come out in front.

With the best of good wishes, I am,

Hastily but sincerely,


O. K. CHANDLER