



9-21-1945

## Letter from John Hamilton to Senator Langer Regarding the Petition for the American Indian Emancipation Act, September 21, 1945

John Hamilton

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/langer-papers>

---

### Recommended Citation

Hamilton, John, "Letter from John Hamilton to Senator Langer Regarding the Petition for the American Indian Emancipation Act, September 21, 1945" (1945). *William Langer Papers*. 761.  
<https://commons.und.edu/langer-papers/761>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in William Langer Papers by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

OFFICERS: JOHN E. HAMILTON  
PRESIDENT

JULIAN L. M. HARRIS  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

WILLIAM E. DILL  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

OLGA HAMILTON  
TREASURER

ANNA ROBERTSON  
ASSISTANT TREASURER

GEORGE W. SMITH  
SECRETARY

GUSTAVE E. DILL  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

EDITH B. GRAY

MARION E. CAPWELL

RAYMOND E. BAKER

## National American Indian Defense Association, Inc.

Headquarters: 22 Arnold Street, Telephone 6-1187 HARTFORD 6, CONNECTICUT

We Need a Chance too. What is Our Future?



Thousands like these little American Indians  
need our Protection and Help

### OUR AIMS:

To promote the general welfare of the American Indians,  
By protecting and safeguarding their Constitutional and  
Civil Rights,  
By advocating an emancipated citizenship.  
By promoting their health and educational opportunities,  
and by fostering their Arts and Crafts.

September 21, 1945.

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

My dear Senator Langer:

I am very glad that I had the opportunity to see you when I was in Washington recently but sorry that my mission there was so limited. There are so many matters which should be taken up concerning this so-called American Indian problem.

As you may recall, during our conversation, I told you that we had a copy of a petition which is signed by 101 Fort Berthold Indians, and which was sent to me by Mr. Floyd Montclair a member of that tribe and Secretary of its Tribal Council. The petition is self-explanatory. Floyd Montclair has signed his own name declaring himself in favor of the passage of my proposed legislation to give the American Indians their emancipation.

I am enclosing herewith the original petition with the original Indian signatures and roll numbers.

I hope that you will take this matter up in the Senate at your earliest possible time.

This will prove to you just how the majority of the younger generation of our Indians feel toward being emancipated.

I believe this signed petition will give you something very important to take up before your constituents in the United States Senate, especially in this particular matter, because these Indians are in your own Senatorial District. They are depending upon your efforts to make them full and unrestricted American citizens.

On a separate piece of paper I am going to type out the names which appear on the petition so as you may be able to read them off without any difficulty.

I do not know whether it would be advisable to disclose these names on the petition, because there may be a possibility that if this gets back to the Indian Bureau it may be taken out on their people which has been the case in<sup>a</sup> great many instances. Perhaps you could explain this part to the members in the United States Senate. I believe there are many persons in the Congress who are very familiar with this fact.

Every time that legislation comes before the Congress to grant the American Indians their freedom, the Indian Bureau right away, starts their campaign against the measure and also against any person who advocates its passage.

The Indian Bureau will doubtless protest any proposed legislation which would give the American Indians the full rights of American citizenship. It will call on its field staff to round up subservient Indians to protest against its passage; it will appeal to outside organizations to send protests, though many of them know little about the matter; it may even pack hearings with subservient elements.

I hope you will eventually persuade Senator Bushfield to take an active part with you in this gigantic battle for right. Speaking of Senator Bushfield, I should like to call your attention to page 97 of the printed hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Indian Affairs, Seventy-eighth Congress, Second Session, on S. 1311, "A Bill to remove restrictions on Indian property now held in trust by the United States, and for other purposes." To prove that Senator Bushfield is a member of the Great Sioux Nation of American Indians, I refer to his statement

As follows:

Senator Bushfield. "I will ask you more about that when you finish your statement. But I just wanted to ask you about the one particular thing you mentioned -- the regulations to which you are subjected. I know all about those regulations, because I live among 30,000 Sioux. I am a member of their tribe!"

Senator Moore. "Are you an Indian?"

Senator Bushfield. "Yes; I am an Indian!"

Senator Moore. "I shake hands with you; I am delighted."

Senator Bushfield. "I know something about that. It is the Indian Department that has been causing most of this trouble to your people and my people"

According to the above statement, you can see for yourself that he comes from a State where there are thousands of American Indians and his own people at that--the Sioux Nation of South Dakota.

Is there any reason why you should not get his cooperation in this big battle for the freedom of the last enslaved people in the land - the American Indians?

It is my firm belief, if we can bring this petition matter before the United States Senate by your great influence and efforts it will get before the public's eye in short time. It only takes one match to start a forest fire and if the wind blows it spreads very rapidly. So let us strike the first match and then start the wind blowing in the right direction toward liberty and freedom for the Indians.

I am also unqualifiedly in favor of having an American Indian as the next President of the United States.

Any further information you may wish to know regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to let me know and I shall be very glad to send you additional material on this subject.

We wish to thank you again for all you are doing in behalf of the welfare of the American Indians, and we trust that you will be very successful when you bring this petition before the Senate of the United States.

Will you kindly send me any record which may develop through your efforts in this matter.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter that I received from Mr. Floyd Montclair in reference to the petition.

We trust that we will have the pleasure of hearing from you again at your earliest convenience in this regard.

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

JEH:O

Enclosures:

Very respectfully,

*John E. Hamilton*  
John E. Hamilton,  
National President.

Submitted to the Honorable William Langer for introduction

in the Senate of the United States of America in

Congress assembled. Date September 21, 1945

We, the undersigned, members of the Fort Berthold Tribe of American Indians, residents of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in the State of North Dakota being firmly convinced that gross injustice has been committed upon our people, and to the entire American Indian population of the United States by the present method of administration of the Indian affairs of our Nation, hereby respectfully represent to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That we do hereby approve and advocate the immediate enactment of the attached proposed legislation by the Congress of the United States which legislation might be cited as the American Indian Emancipation Act. ~~of 1945.~~

Having full confidence in the integrity and patriotism of John E. Hamilton, our good friend, of 22 Arnold Street, Hartford, Connecticut, President of the National American Indian Defense Association, Inc., and in his extensive knowledge of all matters touching the interests of the American Indians, we, the signers, do hereby make, constitute, and appoint him as our true and lawful agent, or attorney in fact, and in our name, place, and stead he is hereby authorized to represent us in all matters pertaining thereto.

We American Indians want to be free from further Federal guardianship control of our person and to be allowed to live under local, State, and Federal laws like any other citizen; to enjoy the full benefits of public school education; in fact, to have the benefits and responsibilities of all laws and regulations to which other citizens are subjected, without special dictation, and to have personal liberty with the dignity of a free people.

Unless we American Indians are permitted to work out our own destiny, our people will never develop. Individuals must advance by their own efforts, but there must be opportunity. We Indians have the will and can work out our own salvation if we have a fair opportunity. To do so we must be relieved of the burden of Federal guardianship.

Wherever there is a full blooded American Indian who has been under the Federal guardianship and living on a reservation, you will find that he is a backward person. He has not had an opportunity to develop. He is dependent, and he is a dependent because of the environment into which he was forced. He should have an opportunity to develop out of that condition.

The majority of us Indians are sure that without Federal supervision over us for at least one generation we would develop sufficiently to take care of ourselves in every respect. In other words, if we American Indians were turned loose from further control over our person, one generation would prove that we could take just as good care of ourselves as any other group of citizens. We believe that the American Indian mind is the equal to that of the paleface man. Reservation Indians are made dependents, and are kept so.

Instead of us American Indians having been made an independent and self-sustaining part of the paleface population we have been deprived of the majority of our property and funds and the opportunities to equip ourselves to fit into our surroundings and into the economical life of this country.

Enforced control of the American Indian race as has been done, and is continuing even to the point of practical physical enslavement, will never solve the so-called Indian problem. The pitiful condition of thousands of the Indian people today is but the natural product of the system.

We American Indians are living under a despotism such as is unknown elsewhere in the entire civilized world, and such as is inconceivable that the paleface Americans would tolerate if the facts were generally known.

Not only are we Indians divested of the control of our property, but we are without right to challenge the dispositions made by the guardian or to demand an accounting.

We American Indians from the four corners of our beloved land, read with open minds and are deeply impressed with the burning words carved in lasting marble high on the portals of the New United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, D. C., "Equal Justice Under Law." Does this apply to us Indians?

All authority in Indian affairs arises in and flows from Congress. We American Indians have no court of appeal from the authority of Congress, in fact, we have no fundamental rights, because there can be no judicial review of any action taken by Congress concerning us. One Congress can grant us Indians something and the next Congress can take it away or completely nullify it by other legislation.

We Indians are governed by direct laws of Congress, which apply to no other people in the United States, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from time to time under those laws and which, in themselves, have all the force and effect of laws. Why should we Indians be subject to special laws and regulations any more than other citizens in this country?

There are not two grades or classes of citizenship in America today under law. Therefore, under law, no paleface Americans, or other class of individuals, have citizenship rights superior to those of the American Indians. Apparently nobody will dispute this fact, but in practice the rights which apply in general to other citizens are systematically denied us Indians under control of Federal law.

The highest officials - the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Members of Congress, and others who profess to know - do not deny, under law, that we Indians are citizens; but in practice, we are illegally, unconstitutionally, and disgracefully deprived of our rights to enjoy the freedom of person, and our property rights are held under the guise of "helping the Indian."

We American Indians are legally citizens, but in practice we are classed as "wards" of the United States. It would seem that there is no more justification for this continued guardianship over the person of the Indian than there would be if similiar groups of other citizens were so treated.

We Indians are held in this status of "incompetent wardship" from which there is no escape. Restricted or ward Indians can do nothing without the consent of the guardian officials. We cannot legally employ an attorney to represent us in court, without the permission of the Secretary of the Interior. We can neither sell nor lease our property without his consent.

We Indians are born into this status, live in this status, and die in this status. The only tribunal to which we can appeal for relief from any situation which may arise because of this status is to the Congress of the United States. Congress is the only body to which we can appeal for protection, or eventual release from this terrible situation. We American Indians have always been held in a status of involuntary wardship. We were made wards of the Federal Government against our will. We had nothing whatsoever to say about it.

No classes of citizens are thus segregated as are the American Indians. We Indians are tired of experiments. Try this one out on someone else. Take the next group of foreigners who arrive in this country, unable to speak English, unlearned in American ways, place them on a so-called reservation such as we Indians, subject to a bureau to which they have no voice, in order to preserve the culture of their ancestors. Why not try it?

When you speak of American Indians, and we are referring to those under Federal jurisdiction, you are not speaking of free people; you are not speaking of free citizens of the United States, but are speaking of a people who have been held as incompetent wards of the Federal Government against their will for more than a century.

Broadly speaking, it may be said that we Indians have no property

rights that Congress is compelled to respect. Treaty covenants, even when confirmed by act of Congress, convey no rights which Congress may not infringe. The reason assigned by the court for this conclusion is that the obligations are political, and as such are inscrutable by the courts.

The trouble is now and has always been, the system and the operation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Time has proven, and disgracefully we assert, that the real purpose of those administering the Indian Bureau are not to assist in qualifying the Indian for free citizenship, but to control our property - to make and keep us government wards and to perpetuate the Bureau for its many political job holders.

The Indian Bureau has robbed us Indians of political rights, keeping from us free citizenship as the original native-born Americans. The Indian Bureau has reached the point where we Indians are practically forgotten and the bureau is its principal excuse for being. The greatest direct injury to us Indians is the continued refusal of the Indian Bureau to allow us the freedom of our person - liberty as free, law-abiding citizens. This, even to an Indian, is far more valuable than property rights.

Any Commissioner of Indian Affairs, yes, including the present one, could with one courageous stroke of his pen, do more than has been accomplished since the inception of the Indian Bureau in 1849, for the constructive help of the American Indian race, by declaring it the policy of the American Government to henceforth treat us American Indians as free citizens, and not as "Incompetent ward Indians."

#### SO-CALLED WHEELER-HOWARD ACT

It is a self-evident fact that the only method by which we Indians can escape from the provisions of the so-called Wheeler-Howard Act is by specific Act of Congress excluding the Indians therefrom.

The attempt to set up a state within a state has failed. Tribes have bound themselves to the Department and councils are following the dictates of the local agencies.

The bill, which finally became the so-called Wheeler-Howard Act, was introduced in the senate by Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, at the request of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. John Collier.

Three times the Senate of the United States has voted to repeal the Wheeler-Howard Act without a dissenting vote.

The Commissioner's made and published record during the past 12 years is the best evidence. It is our opinion that no high official of the Government has heretofore equaled the present Commissioner in public statements derogatory of the Government. He is the head of a great department of the Government, influencing distinctly the lives of more than a quarter of a million people, with property values in excess of \$1,000,000,000, yet, he has never been known to say to us American Indians, "This is your country, your institutions, your flag, your government, and you should support it, love it, and defend its free institutions."

We do not believe that any citizen of the United States can be subjected under the Constitution to a dual government. It seems to us that there is a direct conflict in telling the American Indians that they are citizens and also wards of the Government. We cannot understand that situation. We do not understand how it can be said that a man is a citizen of the United States and also a ward of the United States. There is certainly something wrong somewhere.

The American Indians have fought for the Nation in all wars, and thousands of them are fighting today in all the strategic battle fronts throughout the world. The American Indians' loyalty has never been questioned, neither has his integrity or ability been found to be inferior to that of any other race.

In conclusion, we wish to state, that in the name of justice and humanity, free the last enslaved people in the land - we American Indians. Give us the full and unrestricted rights of American citizenship and we should be granted it now while our sons, brothers, husbands, and other relatives are fighting side by side with our pale-face brothers for the freedom of all peoples and the preservation of democracy in the United States. When these American Indian war veterans return to their homes on the reservations, or elsewhere, they want to  
(over)

find their people enjoying full and unrestricted citizenship rights the same as other citizens in this country, instead of us Indians being still held in bondage.

We American Indian parents want our children to be like other American citizens. We want to save them from the bitterness which has darkened our own lives. We are sacrificing all our personal interests to obtain this right for our children, not only for our own children but for all other American Indian children in the United States. More than that we want to be certain that our children are brought up in the principles of Americanism, not the principles of bureaucracy. We want to be certain that our children are taught to honor and revere their country and its flag, but we can see no future for our children unless we Indians are relieved from Federal control and domination.

It is our desire that Congress will take cognizance of the matters herein mentioned and will resolutely address itself to remedying an intolerable condition which has been so unfair and unjust to the American Indian race - the wards of the Nation.

The most humane policy toward us Indians would be for the Government to make a just and final settlement of all Indian claims against the United States at the quickest possible time. Give us what rightfully and lawfully belongs to us in land, money and everything else which is now held in trust by the Government.

We trust that the Congress of the United States will take this matter into its serious consideration for an early passage of the proposed legislation for our emancipation

With these conditions of life assured us, the 361,000 more or less, of us remaining Indian wards and our posterity will take our place in the social and economical life of the Nation, just as our Indian people are taking their place in the embattled ranks of the present World War.

Let the paleface people all bear in mind that while this Nation is justly fighting for freedom, liberty, the preservation of democracy and justice to all, they should not forget that while those high ideals are cherished by all true patriots, their fulfillment at this country's hands have been woefully overlooked, and not truly administered, in the case of the American Indian people.

Fort Berthold Reservations, North Dakota

AMERICAN INDIANS

Name	Roll No.	Name	Roll No.
	(Mark by X if necessary)		
Walter Young Bear	382	Philip Atkins	704a <del>409a</del>
Mrs Pearl Young Bear	1086a	Richard Burr	409a
Mrs Gertrude Smith	1087a	Elizabeth Badgum	534a
Arthur Smith	456	Sam Badgum	1107a
Mrs Justin Spotted Bear	0952 <del>307a</del>	Charles Burr	442
Robert Ginn	873a	Edward Burr	1809
Zora Lincoln	874a	Bertrude Burr	
Arthur Lincoln	2019	David Burr	242a
Alce Suback	2021	Mrs Sarah Burr	243a
Emily Frederick	1909	Mrs Verne Driver	606a
Clerence Fox	Balance 110	Black Driver	1860
Frank Young Bear	1016a	Thomas Driver	244a
Edna S. Peterson	855a	Jackson Driver	374a
Joseph S. Hall	2178	Josephine Driver	407a
Mary S. Burr	853a	James B. Bull	1835
Alce Suback		Mrs. Geo. Parrish	989a

Name

Roll No.

Name

Roll No.

(Mark by X if necessary)

Ruby Parrshall ( )	1088	Francis Deane ( )	1849
Bob Alapuff ( )	2085	Rose Deane ( )	
Joe Alapuff ( )	528a	May Deane ( )	1774
Pansy Bird ( )	157	Margaret Deane ( )	364a
Nannie Bear ( )	1890	Carrie C. Price ( )	820a
Alice Fox Bear ( )	1949	Mary R. Fox ( )	1894
X Mrs. F. B. Bear ( )	412a	John Bear Tail ( )	212a
George Dutton ( )	307a	Emma Bear Tail ( )	582a
Elmer Fox ( )	1800	Caro Young Bear ( )	
Lucas Stroman ( )	368a	Flora Whitman ( )	2257
Mrs. Rufus Stroman ( )	478a	Thad Mason (X)	872a
Ollie Stroman ( )	2174	Eva Beaks ( )	999a
Carolyn Stroman ( )	2177	Mamie Hunt Along ( )	259a
Hester Smith ( )	854a	John Hunt Along ( )	541a
Anna Smith ( )	U-98a	David Young Bear ( )	U-229
Nora Baker ( )	387a	Oscar Whitman ( )	236
Silvan B. Bear ( )	337a	Crosby Beaks ( )	998a
John B. Bear ( )	371a	Jacob C. Bird ( )	1768
Angela Oldrock ( )	2013	Philip Snow ( )	762a
Lindlor Newman ( )	713	Sam Old Mouse ( )	U-711
Mrs. Gertrude Spotted Wolf ( )	1076a	Martin Fox ( )	685a
Agnes Spotted Wolf ( )	2159	✓ Floyd Montclair ( )	532a
Ira L. Wolf ( )	548a	Robert Bear ( )	135a
Fred Foxe ( )	323a	✓ Elizabeth Montclair ( )	Belmont, N.D.
Dessie Foxe Bear ( )	556a	✓ Mona Montclair ( )	U-561
Joseph Black ( )	495a	✓ Roy Montclair ( )	Belmont N.D.
George Howard ( )	43a	✓ Robert Montclair ( )	Belmont, N.D.
Herbert S. Brown ( )	2127	Lincoln Newman ( )	
Gene Stalk (X)	887a	Sonia Fournier ( )	Belmont, N.D.
Hester Eagle ( )	756a	Rosa Fournier ( )	Edinboro, N.D.
Joseph Eagle ( )	755a		
Mary Gillette ( )	1167a		
Helena Howard ( )	U-13		
Philema Files ( )	140a		
Myra Baker ( )	1741		
Frank Bird Biel ( )	406a		
Sily Mahousie ( )	1893		
Minnie Bear Tail ( )	1047		
Mamie Deane ( )	1850		

(over)



EMANCIPATED CITIZENSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN INDIANS.

The following is a proposed draft of a bill to amend the Act of June 2, 1924, and for other purposes.

An Act to amend an Act approved June 2, 1924, entitled, "An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Indians." (43 Stat. L., Chapter 233, page 253, 68th Congress).

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved June second, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, Chapter two hundred and thirty-three of the United States Statutes at Large Numbered forty-three, is hereby amended to read as follows, to wit: That it is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of the Congress to emancipate the American Indians, without further delay, so that they may become industrious, self-reliant, independent, and self-maintaining citizens of the United States.

Sec. 2. That all American Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States, and all Indians in Indian Territory, be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States, and are entitled to all the rights, privileges, and liberties that are guaranteed to other citizens under the Constitution of the United States, whether said Indians have been or not; by birth or otherwise, members of any tribe of Indians within the territorial limits of the United States, without in any manner impairing or otherwise affecting the right of any such Indian or Indians to tribal or other property.

Sec. 3. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as to impair or otherwise affect the right of any such Indian or tribe of Indians to any claim or suits now pending or which may be established hereafter against the United States: Provided further, That the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner release the United States, as the guardian and trustee, from its moral and legal responsibilities in the discharge of its duties as such guardian and trustee, to honorably settle all its debts and legal obligations to the American Indians.

Sec. 4. That after the passage of this Act all American Indians shall be entitled to enjoy the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of the United States and be subject to and governed by the same laws that are applicable to other citizens.

Sec. 5. That as a further act of justice toward the American Indians the United States hereby declares that all lands and all appurtenances thereto belonging, including water rights, irrigation systems, power plants, or any other real estate now held in trust by the United States, shall be free from taxation of any kind and not subject to the satisfaction of any debt, lien, mortgage, or attachment under any judgment or court order, or for the satisfaction of any debt or obligation of any kind whatsoever so long as the title remains in Indian ownership.

Sec. 6. To further aid individual Indians in assuming the responsibility as citizens in the State and Nation it is hereby ordered and directed that all individual Indian moneys now held in trust by the United States shall be paid over to the individual owners or to the parents or legal guardians in the case of minors, orphans, and those adjudged to be insane by some court of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 7. That all intangible property, bonds, certificates of deposit, or other forms of certificates, notes, trusts, mortgages, trust estates, judgments, stocks, or any other form of evidence of securities which the United States may be holding in trust for any Indian or Indians, shall, upon the passage of this Act, be turned over and delivered to the proper owners, together with all interest, coupons, or other form of accrued increase. In the case of minors, orphans, and those legally adjudged to be incompetent, the property shall be delivered to the parents or legal guardians.

Sec. 8. As a matter of justice to all American Indians the United States hereby declares that in all cases where the Government is holding in trust either money or other property belonging to the estate of some deceased Indian, it shall be the duty of the Government to cause said estate to be properly probated and settled immediately following the passage of this Act, and to make distribution thereof to the proper heirs or devisees; and all expenses attached thereto shall be borne by the United States, due to the fact that the United States has from the very beginning of the Government assumed guardianship over the American Indians without their knowledge and consent, and thus caused many unsettled Indian estates that might not otherwise have happened.

Sec. 9. All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. This Act may be cited as the American Indian Emancipation Act.

John E. Hamilton, President of  
National American Indian Defense Association, Inc.,  
22 Arnold St., Hartford, 6, Conn.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark by X if necessary)

1	Walter Young Bear ( )	382	(40)	Goerge Spotted Wolf ( )	307 a
2	Mrs. P. Young Bear ( )	1086 a	(41)	Glenn Fox ( )	1800
3	Mrs. Gertrude Smith ( )	1087 a	(42)	Rufus Stevenson ( )	368 a
4	Arthur Smith ( )	656	(43)	Mrs. Rufus Stevenson ( )	478 a
5	Justin Spotted Bear ( )	952	(44)	Ollie Stevenson ( )	2174
6	Robert Lincoln ( )	873 a	(45)	Carolyn Stevenson ( )	2177
7	Zora Lincoln ( )	874 a	(46)	Chester Smith ( )	854 a
8	Esther Lincoln ( )	2019	(47)	Anna L. Smith ( )	U-98 a
9	Alice Fredericks ( )	2021	(48)	Nora Baker ( )	387 a
10	Erving Fredericks ( )	1909	(49)	Lillian B. Brave ( )	337 a
11	Clarence Fox ( )		(50)	John B. Brave ( )	371 a
12	Frank Young Bear ( )	1016 a	(51)	Angela Oldrock ( )	2013
13	Edna Atkins ( )	855 a	(52)	Lindon Newman ( )	713
14	Joseph S. Face ( )	2178	(53)	Mrs. Gertrude Spotted Wolf	1076 a
15	Mary S. Burr ( )	853 a	(54)	Agnes Spotted Wolf ( )	2159
16	Alex Fournier ( )		(55)	Ira L. Waters ( )	548 a
17	Philip Atkins ( )	704 a	(56)	Fred Lone Bear, Jr. ( )	323 a
18	Richard Burr ( )	409 a	(57)	Susie Lone Bear ( )	556 a
19	Elizabeth Badgun ( )	534 a	(58)	Joseph Black Bear ( )	485 a
20	Sam Badgun ( )	1107 a	(59)	George Howard ( )	43 a
21	Charles Burr ( )	442	(60)	Herbert S. Crow ( )	2127
22	Evan Burr ( )	1809	(61)	Cornstalk ( )	887 a
23	Gertrude Burr ( )		(62)	Hester Eagle ( )	756 a
24	Mr. Driver ( )	242 a	(63)	Joseph Eagle ( )	755 a
25	Mrs. Tiley W. Driver ( )	243 a	(64)	Mary Gillette ( )	1167 a
26	Mrs. Verna Driver ( )	606 a	(65)	Selina Howard ( )	U-13
27	Alfred Driver ( )	1860	(66)	Thilemena Filex ( )	140 a
28	James Driver ( )	244 a	(67)	Myra Baker ( )	1741
29	Jackson D. Bull ( )	374 a	(68)	Frank Birds Bill ( )	406 a
30	Josephine D. Bull ( )	407 a	(69)	Lily Molnourie ( )	1893
31	Agnes D. Bull ( )	1835	(70)	Minnie Bears Tail ( )	1047
32	George Parshall ( )	989 a	(71)	Minnie Deane ( )	1850
33	Ruby Parshall ( )	1088	(72)	Francis Deane ( )	1849
34	Rose Drape Wolf ( )	2085	(73)	Rose Deane ( )	
35	George Drape Wolf ( )	528 a	(74)	May Deane ( )	1774
36	Pansy Bird ( )	U 7	(75)	Margaret Deane ( )	364 a
37	Naomi F. Bear ( )	1890	(76)	Carrie C. Price ( )	820 a
38	Aline Lone Bear ( )	1949	(77)	Mary R. Fox ( )	1894
39	Mrs. Foalish Bear ( )	412 a	(78)	John Bearstail ( )	212 a

(over)

Name

Roll No.

Name

Roll No.

(Mark by X if necessary)

1	Walter ( )	( )	Walter ( )	( )
2	Mrs. F. ( )	( )	Mrs. F. ( )	( )
3	Mrs. G. ( )	( )	Mrs. G. ( )	( )
4	Arthur ( )	( )	Arthur ( )	( )
5	Justin ( )	( )	Justin ( )	( )
6	Robert ( )	( )	Robert ( )	( )
7	John ( )	( )	John ( )	( )
8	Robert ( )	( )	Robert ( )	( )
9	Alice ( )	( )	Alice ( )	( )
10	William ( )	( )	William ( )	( )
11	Charles ( )	( )	Charles ( )	( )
12	Frank ( )	( )	Frank ( )	( )
13	Edna ( )	( )	Edna ( )	( )
14	Joseph ( )	( )	Joseph ( )	( )
15	Max ( )	( )	Max ( )	( )
16	Alfred ( )	( )	Alfred ( )	( )
17	Philip ( )	( )	Philip ( )	( )
18	Richard ( )	( )	Richard ( )	( )
19	Elizabeth ( )	( )	Elizabeth ( )	( )
20	Sam ( )	( )	Sam ( )	( )
21	Charles ( )	( )	Charles ( )	( )
22	Evans ( )	( )	Evans ( )	( )
23	Garland ( )	( )	Garland ( )	( )
24	Mr. Dyer ( )	( )	Mr. Dyer ( )	( )
25	Mrs. T. ( )	( )	Mrs. T. ( )	( )
26	Mrs. V. ( )	( )	Mrs. V. ( )	( )
27	Alfred ( )	( )	Alfred ( )	( )
28	James ( )	( )	James ( )	( )
29	Jackson ( )	( )	Jackson ( )	( )
30	Joseph ( )	( )	Joseph ( )	( )
31	Anna ( )	( )	Anna ( )	( )
32	George ( )	( )	George ( )	( )
33	Ruby ( )	( )	Ruby ( )	( )
34	John ( )	( )	John ( )	( )
35	George ( )	( )	George ( )	( )
36	Fanny ( )	( )	Fanny ( )	( )
37	Henry ( )	( )	Henry ( )	( )
38	Alice ( )	( )	Alice ( )	( )
39	Mrs. F. ( )	( )	Mrs. F. ( )	( )

(over)





If you believe that all Indians should be property taxed upon receiving their full citizenship rights, we could easily omit the language in section 5 of this proposed bill entirely. I should like to have your comments and opinion in this regard.

EMANCIPATED CITIZENSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN INDIANS.

The following is a proposed draft of a bill to amend the Act of June 2, 1924, and for other purposes.

An Act to amend an Act approved June 2, 1924, entitled, "An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Indians." (43 Stat. L., Chapter 233, page 253, 68th Congress).

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved June second, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, Chapter two hundred and thirty-three of the United States Statutes at Large Numbered forty-three, is hereby amended to read as follows, to wit: That it is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of the Congress to emancipate the American Indians, without further delay, so that they may become industrious, self-reliant, independent, and self-maintaining citizens of the United States.

Sec. 2. That all American Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States, and all Indians in Indian Territory, be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States, and are entitled to all the rights, privileges, and liberties that are guaranteed to other citizens under the Constitution of the United States, whether said Indians have been or not, by birth or otherwise, members of any tribe of Indians within the territorial limits of the United States, without in any manner impairing or otherwise affecting the right of any such Indian or Indians to tribal or other property.

Sec. 3. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as to impair or otherwise affect the right of any such Indian or tribe of Indians to any claim or suits now pending or which may be established hereafter against the United States: Provided further, That the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner release the United States, as the guardian and trustee, from its moral and legal responsibilities in the discharge of its duties as such guardian and trustee, to honorably settle all its debts and legal obligations to the American Indians.

Sec. 4. That after the passage of this Act all American Indians shall be entitled to enjoy the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of the United States and be subject to and governed by the same laws that are applicable to other citizens.

Sec. 5. That as a further act of justice toward the American Indians the United States hereby declares that all lands and all appurtenances thereto belonging, including water rights, irrigation systems, power plants, or any other real estate now held in trust by the United States, shall be free from taxation of any kind and not subject to the satisfaction of any debt, lien, mortgage, or attachment under any judgment or court order, or for the satisfaction of any debt or obligation of any kind whatsoever so long as the title remains in Indian ownership.

Sec. 6. To further aid individual Indians in assuming the responsibility as citizens in the State and Nation it is hereby ordered and directed that all individual Indian moneys now held in trust by the United States shall be paid over to the individual owners or to the parents or legal guardians in the case of minors, orphans, and those adjudged to be insane by some court of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 7. That all intangible property, bonds, certificates of deposit, or other forms of certificates, notes, trusts, mortgages, trust estates, judgments, stocks, or any other form of evidence of securities which the United States may be holding in trust for any Indian or Indians, shall, upon the passage of this Act, be turned over and delivered to the proper owners, together with all interest, coupons, or other form of accrued increase. In the case of minors, orphans, and those legally adjudged to be incompetent, the property shall be delivered to the parents or legal guardians.

Sec. 8. As a matter of justice to all American Indians the United States hereby declares that in all cases where the Government is holding in trust either money or other property belonging to the estate of some deceased Indian, it shall be the duty of the Government to cause said estate to be properly probated and settled immediately following the passage of this Act, and to make distribution thereof to the proper heirs or devisees; and all expenses attached thereto shall be borne by the United States, due to the fact that the United States has from the very beginning of the Government assumed guardianship over the American Indians without their knowledge and consent, and thus caused many unsettled Indian estates that might not otherwise have happened.

Sec. 9. All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. This Act may be cited as the American Indian Emancipation Act.

John E. Hamilton, President of  
National American Indian Defense Association, Inc.,  
22 Arnold St., Hartford, 6, Conn.