



10-14-1945

Letter from John Hamilton to Senator Langer Regarding Reelection, October 14, 1945

John Hamilton

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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.

October 14, 1945.

Honorable William Langer,
Hotel Roosevelt,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for your telegram. I was certainly more than glad to hear from you again and I believe we are going to get somewhere after all. It was nice to hear you over the telephone.

Bill, from what you said, it certainly looks as though we had a good case against the Federal Government. I believe you will understand just what I mean without me going into full details. Perhaps the present matter is just the thing that we have been anxiously waiting for in order that we might be able to start the ball a rolling. The outlook seems very clear and certain if both groups only get together and cooperate with us.

We will do all that is within our power if these two factions only get behind us with their complete support and cooperation. I know that you will go to bat anytime whenever the subject arises that involves injustice as the present situation seems to be.

I really do believe that after we get through with this affair, it will spell REELECTION for BILL LANGER. I haven't the least doubt in mind but what you are going to be reelected to the United States Senate for six more, or perhaps as long as you want it.

I am sending out that telegram to Floyd Montclair as agreed to this morning over the telephone. I hope they will abide by our instructions to wait until they hear from me before taking any further action in the matter.

Hon. William Langer,

-2-

October 14, 1945.

Bill, I hope that you will pardon my haste and overlook many words which might be misspelled. The reason why I am hurrying this letter is, due to the fact, that I want it to reach you sometime tomorrow morning if possible.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which was sent to me from Paradise, Montana by Mrs. Lorena M. Burgess, who is the Chairwoman of the National Congress of American Indians or Chairwoman of the convention committee.

I have sent her a telegram stating that it would be impossible for me to attend the affair. What do you think of this National Congress of American Indians. Do you believe they are really trying to do all they can for the general welfare of our Indians? As I understand, it is practically made up of John Collier's group and controlled by him. If this is so, I do not care to have anything to do with this organization in any way shape or manner.

Any time you need me in Washington simply send me a telegram and I will be there at your call. I told you that I would stick by you until this American Indian problem had been finally solved with justice to the Indians. I am still living up to that promise.

If you know when this Williston group is going to be in Washington, you could wire me and I would make arrangements to proceed to that City. Or better yet, perhaps it would be all right to wire me when they arrive there. I could leave here on an evening train and arrive there about nine o'clock the following morning. This is the way I came down there before, when we had our conference together. Just let me know and I shall be there with you.

We can talk about a Washington Lawyer whenever you are ready for that part of the question. I have said that I would rather leave that up to you because you are in a much better position than I would be, to select some good attorney in Washington. I will leave this part entirely up to you. I would much rather work along with you under your direct instructions, and I believe this will prove more satisfactory for a final victory for the Indians. In other words, you tell me what to do and I will fulfill your instructions to the best of my ability. All that we need is God back of us and the full cooperation of both groups - the paleface and the Indians. With these two factions we are bound to win all around, that is, adjudication for the plaintiffs and the reelection of Bill Langer to the United States Senate.

I shall await your telegram telling me to proceed to Washington.

With all good wishes and success to you and your family, please rely on me, I am

JEH:O

Gratefully yours,

John
John

Enclosure:

P. S. Bill, send your telegrams to the following address because I am here most of the time. (Juvenile Court, 322 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut) Thanks.

A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL LETTER.

Paradise, Montana
October 8, 1945.

Mr. John E. Hamilton,
22 Arnold Street,
Hartford 6, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

At this time I am more than pleased to hear from you and to receive the clipping you sent.

At a later date you will receive data that will answer your question, data that we will be glad to have published. The Convention of this month at Browning will bring out a lot of injustices and we hope that it will be educational to the Congress of the United States, the taxpayers, Reservation Indians and non-reservation Indians.

Personally, I do believe that there are many Indians or so-called Indians, meaning persons of Indian descent, who are far more qualified to be President of the United States than some Presidents that we have had, it is a certainty that he would not have made more of a mess than has been made by the so-called intelligent, rich white man, who gets into office through political pull, or the yes man who is placed in certain offices for reasons unwriteable.

Mr. Hamilton, I have talked of this subject with some of the influential people of Browning, Montana, and I am sure, that they will not forget to answer the clipping you sent to me.

We wish to have you come to Browning, Montana to be present at a National Congress of American Indians that the Blackfoot and Flatheads, and the American Indians of Montana are sponsoring. One day will be devoted to our State organization, and the rest of the time to the National Congress of American Indians. If you can be with us, we shall place you on our program, and I shall have reservations made for you.

Personally, I believe it will be a grand opportunity for you to gain firsthand valuable information for your National American Indian Defense Association.

Kindly wire me if you can be with us, as we are nearing the completion of convention plans.

Very respectfully yours,

Signed by: Lorena M. Burgees

Chw. Conv. Comm.

The above is a true and complete copy of the original letter.

Bill, I imagine that there will be thousands of Indians at this meeting.