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Governor's Interstate Indian Council Newsletter Regarding John B. Hart's Efforts to Arrange Off-Reservation Employment of North Dakota Tribal Members, September 28, 1950

Governors' Interstate Indian Council

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Indians

Governors' Interstate Indian Council

ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA
IDAHO
MINNESOTA
MONTANA
NEBRASKA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO



NORTH DAKOTA
OKLAHOMA
OREGON
SOUTH DAKOTA
UTAH
WASHINGTON
WISCONSIN
WYOMING

J. George
File

News Letter No, 2

JARLE LEIRFALLOM CHAIRMAN
117 UNIVERSITY AVE., ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
FRANK GEORGE VICE CHAIRMAN
NESPELEM, WASHINGTON
LOUIS DORWEILER, JR. SECRETARY
STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

September 28, 1950

Frank George, Vice Chairman, met with other members of the Executive Committee, Leirfallom and Dorweiler, in St. Paul on September 21 to discuss the work of the Governor's Interstate Indian Council and to draft plans for our meeting prior to the convening of the next Congress of the United States.

COUNCIL MEETING

The Executive Committee decided to hold the next meeting of the Council in Oklahoma City on December 7 and 8. Arrangements are now being made with Virgil L. Stokes, Director of Public Welfare, for meeting rooms, stenographic help, etc. Frank George plans to arrive in Oklahoma City a day or two prior to the regular meeting to complete final arrangements. It is suggested that all delegates to the conference write directly to the Skirvin Hotel at Oklahoma City for reservations. Mr. Stokes states this hotel provides good accommodations and the rates are reasonable. It is desirable that all delegates stay at the same hotel. Meetings, no doubt, will be held at the State Capitol. Final arrangements will be announced in the next News Letter. The tentative program for this meeting follows:

December 7

- 1:00 P.M. Delegates Convene
- Plans for Conference Announced
- Other Announcements
- Meetings of Various Sub-committees

December 8

- 9:00 A.M. Governor Turner's Message of Welcome
- 9:30 A.M. Committee Reports
- 12:00 Noon Luncheon
- Message from Visiting Governors
- 1:30 P.M. Adoption of Recommendations
- 4:00 P.M. Discussion of Future Plans
- 4:30 P.M. Adjournment

CHANGES ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following changes have been made on Committee assignments. Please correct the list previously sent you so that it will be currently correct.

It is with deep regret we announce that Rev. Vine Deloria of Martin, South Dakota, has asked to be relieved of his duties as Chairman of the Employment

Opportunities Committee because of his health. Rev. Deloria states that the added responsibility of this assignment is too much at this time. He is still interested in the Interstate Indian Council and plans to attend our Oklahoma City meeting. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Rev. Deloria.

William K. Moors, Assistant Director of Social Security at Olympia, Washington, has agreed to accept and has been assigned the chairmanship of the Employment Opportunities Committee. At his request he has been relieved of his duties on the Law and Order Committee.

Faye K. Bridges, Chief of the Bureau of Indian Education at 1006 Black Bldg., Los Angeles, California, has been assigned to the Committee on Education.

Ralph L. Goff, Acting Deputy Director of the Department of Social Work at Sacramento, California, has been assigned to the Employment Opportunities Committee.

Coquille Thompson of Logsdon, Oregon, has been assigned to the Committee on Housing.

At the request of Mrs. Lorena M. Burgess of Paradise, Montana, she has been relieved of her duties on the Committee on Health and assigned to the Committee on Treaties, Claims and Lands.

CORRECT ADDRESSES

The following complete addresses were not available when the first News Letter was issued. Please make necessary corrections.

Angus Cauble, 440 No. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada
Frank G. Smart, 1330 No. 16th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

OTHER STATES MAY PARTICIPATE

Alaska and Michigan have expressed an interest in the Governor's Interstate Indian Conference. An invitation has been extended them to participate.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS MEETING

As president, Justice N. B. Johnson, Chairman of our Law and Order Committee, presided at the Congress of American Indians meeting at Bellingham, Washington, on August 28-31. We understand it was a most successful meeting and congratulations are extended to Judge Johnson. Vice Chairman Frank George who held the office of second vice president was elevated to the office of first vice president of the Congress of American Indians at this meeting.

Chairman Jarle Loirfallom addressed the meeting and pointed out that the states and federal government can do many things to assist the Indians and the problems confronting them, but stressed the fact that there are many things the Indian must do himself in order to make any program for their rehabilitation successful. A pertinent passage from his speech follows:

"My main theme today has been Indian self-help. Governmental agencies, the Interstate council, and all of us interested in Indian problems wish to furnish a vehicle and clear the road for the Indian to solve his own problem. There are many technical aspects to this - some of which have been suggested. We should work for the elimination of laws and rules and procedures which deter the Indian. The states must take action

consistent with local needs. We all must help wherever we can. But basically and fundamentally the Indian must do the job. When schools are provided, the Indian should send his children to school and keep them there until they are educated, and when educated they should put their knowledge and abilities to use and should not come back to vegetate on the reservation. So also with the problems of employment, law and order, and all of the other things. Personally my heart is in this work, and I know many people who feel the same as I do. In fact, I feel as I did at the outset of my talk when I said, 'We must solve the problem of the Indian'."

Among the various resolutions passed by the National Congress of American Indians was one in which its president was instructed to "communicate with the proper officials of the Governors' Interstate Council on Indian Affairs and the proper officials of the Department of Interior in an effort to establish a committee for the purpose of coordinating the efforts of the National Congress of American Indians, the Department of Interior, and the Governors' Interstate Council on Indian Affairs in the formulation of a plan for the readjustment of the Administration of Indian Affairs".

This same resolution commended Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl, Governor of Minnesota, for initiating the creation of the Interstate Council, endorsing and approving the same and extending its support and cooperation.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Some time ago members of the various committees were requested to submit sketches of themselves to be published in this News Letter. The purpose was to provide a background of Council members so that at the next conference we would know one another better. Not all members have responded to this request and sketches received will be published from time to time as space permits. Four sketches follow:

"Who's Who" tells us that Justice N. B. Johnson, Chairman of the Law and Order Committee, was born in the heart of Indian Territory (Okla.) before statehood and has observed Indian life in its transition state. His father, a full-blooded Cherokee, realizing the value of education, sent his son to a Presbyterian Mission and later to public schools for his elementary schooling. Fulfilling a lifelong desire to become a lawyer, Judge Johnson worked his way through what is now known as Tulsa University and then graduated from the Law School of Cumberland University in 1921. He has held positions of Assistant County Attorney, County and City Attorney and District Judge. In 1948 he was elected to the position he now holds - Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. He has served as president of the Congress of American Indians since its organization in 1944, in addition to active participation in other civic and fraternal organizations. He is married and has one daughter.

John B. Hart, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, is a young, good looking and single native North Dakotan. He is a practicing attorney at Rolla, North Dakota, having received his law degree from the University of North Dakota in 1939. He is the State's Attorney for Rolette County. Rolla is close to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and through close association he developed an interest in Indians and their problems which led to his present position on the state's Indian Commission. John was the prime mover in working out a successful arrangement for off-reservation Indian employment with the North Dakota Employment Service. A Riverdale, North Dakota, (headquarters at Garrison Dam) date-line news dispatch, quoted in part on the following page, points up the success of this program:

"Recently 43 Indians from the Turtle Mountain reservation were placed on jobs at the dam. The placements were part of the North Dakota state employment service program for finding off-reservation jobs for North Dakota's Indians.

"James Spielman, manager of the Riverdale district employment office, termed the Indians as good workers.

"They are neither any better nor any worse than the white worker. There just isn't any difference. The Indians don't get into any more trouble off the job than does anyone else - and they are employed in a variety of jobs.

"They are currently working as welders, equipment operators, tunnel miners and common laborers. Most of them have their families with them and they live in the boom towns along the access highway."

"Nicolas Marsch, general superintendent for the S. A. Healy Co. which is building the tunnels, is outspoken in his praise of the Indian workers.

"They are good workers," he said, "I wish I could get some more of them. They take to construction work very well and seem to be especially good at concrete work. They don't seem to care much for mining, however."

Our Salt Lake City host, H. C. Shoemaker, was born in Spokane, Washington, 55 years ago. He is a graduate of the University of Washington. He served as Field Artillery Officer during the first world war, and was employed as store manager and district manager in different parts of the country for Sears, Roebuck & Co. for many years. His last assignment, 1944-48, prior to retirement, was manager of stores in the Detroit, Michigan area, after which he retired to live on a farm at Bountiful, Utah. He was drafted in 1949 by Governor Lee to serve as Chairman of the State Tax Commission and later transferred to the Chairmanship of the Public Welfare Commission. He is married and has two daughters and four grandchildren. He is not actively serving on any committee, but we hope that his busy schedule will permit him to attend the Oklahoma City Conference.

Francis McKinley, Chairman of the Housing Committee, is a young, full-blooded Indian, one-half Ute and one-half Navajo. Elementary education was received in Utah public schools. Advanced education was obtained at the Riverside Junior College, Riverside, California, and George Washington University, Washington, D. C., where he majored in Political Science and received his A.B. degree. He has also taken graduate work at the latter institution. Prior to a four-year stretch in the Army Infantry, which included European service, he served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Ute Tribe. He is now employed by this tribe as Planning and Research Officer. He has also worked for the U. S. Postal and the U. S. Treasury Departments.

Louis C. Dorweiler, Jr.
Editor