

REPORT  
of the  
JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

To: Senator Hans C. Pedersen  
Chairman, Senate Public Welfare Committee

Rep. Howard Ottinger  
Chairman, House Welfare Committee

Following a joint meeting of the House and Senate Welfare Committees held on February 15, 1951, the following sub-committee was appointed by the respective chairmen for the purpose of exploring approaches to solving Minnesota's Indian problem:

Members from the Senate

Senator Joseph J. Daun  
Senator Chris L. Erickson  
Senator Leonard R. Dickinson

Members from the House

Rep. Sheldon L. Beanblossom  
Rep. John R. Blomquist  
Rep. George E. Ericson

The sub-committee held its first meeting on February 22 at which time Sen. Daun was elected Chairman and Louis C. Dorweiler, Jr. was requested to act as secretary. Following organization, the sub-committee discussed Minnesota's Indian problem in general terms.

The next meeting was held on March 5 at which time Dr. R. N. Barr representing the State Department of Health, Mr. Jarle Leirfallom representing the State Division of Social Welfare, and Mr. Roy Larson representing the State Department of Education met with the committee. This meeting was devoted to arriving at a common understanding between representatives of State executive agencies and this Legislative sub-committee.

On March 7, the sub-committee, together with the representatives of the executive agencies, met with Mr. Don Foster, Director of the Area Indian Office, and Mr. Ken Fitzgerald, Placement Officer of the Area Indian Office, for the purpose of discussing the Indian problem. At this

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meeting Mr. Foster stated he was not in a position to make commitments for the Federal government but that he would endeavor to have a representative from his Washington office come to St. Paul to discuss a definite program to aid Minnesota's Indian population.

Subsequently Mr. John H. Provinse, Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, came to St. Paul and, together with Mr. Don Foster and Mr. Ken Fitzgerald, met with the sub-committee on Monday, March 26, for preliminary discussions.

On Thursday, March 28, Mr. Provinse and Mr. Foster again met with the sub-committee and Mr. Provinse and the committee agreed on the following points:

1. That the Indian Bureau would endorse the appropriation of funds by Congress for payment of general relief or assistance to Minnesota Indians residing in distressed counties on tax free land, but that the Indian Bureau would not initiate such legislation.

2. That the Indian Bureau will endorse repeal of the Federal Indian Liquor Law and legislation delegating law enforcement power on Indian lands, with the exception of the Red Lake Reservation, to State officials, with the understanding that existing Indian hunting and fishing rights would be excepted.

3. That the Indian Bureau will place greater emphasis on vocational education and will aid in obtaining funds for the construction of facilities to further vocational education where needed by virtue of large concentrations of Indians.

4. The Indian Bureau has requested Congress for additional funds for their placement program to be used for on-the-job and apprenticeship training, and if this request is approved, additional funds will be allocated

for use in Minnesota. Mr. Provinse stated that they will endeavor to work out programs with industry to provide on-the-job training.

5. The Indian Bureau will request funds from Congress, and if appropriated, a foster home program for the present residents of the Pipestone Indian School and other eligible Indian children will be inaugurated. It is understood that this is to be a continuing program and that if funds are appropriated, a contract for the administration of the foster home program will be negotiated with the State Division of Social Welfare.

6. The Indian Bureau will request funds from Congress for additional public health nursing services for Minnesota Indians and if such funds are granted, expanded nursing services will be provided through regular State Public Health Nursing channels by contractual agreement.

7. The Indian Bureau has requested funds from Congress to provide medical services to scattered groups of Minnesota Indians presently inadequately provided for and for an expanded dental care program. If such funds are granted, these programs will be expanded.

Respectfully submitted,

March 29, 1951

s/ Joseph J. Daun  
Chairman

s/ Chris L. Erickson

s/ Leonard R. Dickinson

s/ Sheldon L. Beanblossom

s/ John R. Blomquist

s/ George E. Ericson

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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Secretary of State