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REPORT of the

ADLA THE MANAGEMENT

MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

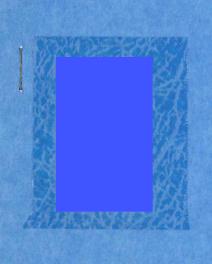
to the

Honorable Harold LeVander

Governor of Minnesota

and the

Members of the Minnesota Legislature



Pursuant with the 1967 Minnesota Statutes Chapter 3; Section 3.922 the Indian Affairs Commission respectfully submits the following report to Govenor Harold LeVander and to the Members of the 1969 Minnesota Legislature.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP 1967-68

SENATORS

The Honorable Norbert Arnold State Senator - Pengilly

The Honorable M. W. Bursch State Senator - Alexandria

The Honorable George R. Conzemius State Senator - Cannon Falls

REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Frank DeGroat State Representative - Lake Park

The Honorable George F. Humphrey State Representative - Minneapolis

The Honorable J. William Trygg State Representative - Ely

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Dean Blue, Chairman Upper Sioux - Granite Falls

Peter DuFault, Chairman Minnesota Chippewa - Cloquet

Roger Jourdain, Chairman Red Lake Chippewa - Red Lake

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Governor LeVander by Wallace Hoaglund Commissioner of Conservation by Roger Lorenz Commissioner of Economic Development by James McKay Commissioner of Education by Eugene Meyer Commissioner of Human Rights by Beverly Wickstrom Commissioner of Public Welfare by John Poor

OFFICERS

Chairman Vice Chairman Secretary -George F. Humphrey -Roger Jourdain -George R. Conzemius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

-J. Thomas Scheid

INTRODUCTION

As we mark the 20th year of the Minnesota Legislature's Indian Program, it seems appropriate to briefly review it's origin. Prior to the close of the 1949 Legislature, it was decided that a thorough study should be made of the problems of the Minnesota Indians. The House of Representatives directed the Legislative Research Committee to make a complete study and the Senate created an Interim Committee on Indian Affairs. These actions were in response to the proposed closing of the Pipestone Indian School.¹ Two points emphasized in the introduction of the Senate Committee's 1951 report remain of interest to us today.

The first: "that the administration of social programs for the Indians should be progressively transferred to State Governments and that the states should receive appropriate recompense from Federal funds until Indian taxes can help carry the load.²"

This was certainally an appropriate preface for what was to follow in the years ahead. For example, House Concurrent Resolution 108 was approved by Congress in 1953.

"Whereas it is the policy of Congress, as rapidly as possible, to make the Indians within the territorial limits of the United States subject to the same laws and entitled to the same priviledges and responsibilities as are applicable to other citizens of the United States and to grant them all the rights and perogatives pertaining to American citizenship; and

"Whereas the Indians within the territorial limits of the United States should assume their full responsibilities as American citizens:

"Now therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate Concurring), that it is declared to be the sense of Congress that, at the earliest possible time, all of the Indian tribes and individual members thereof located within the states of California, Florida, New York, Texas, and all of the following named Indian tribes and individual members thereof should be freed from Federal supervision and control and from all disabilities and limitations especially applicable to Indians... It is further declared to be the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the

Interior should examine all existing legislation dealing with such Indians and treaties between the Government of the United States and each such Tribe and report to Congress at the earliest possible date, but not later than January 1, 1954, his recommendations for such legislation as, in his judgement, may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this resolution."

On June 17, 1954, the first bill, which terminated the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, passed Congress. During August, Congressional action was completed on four additional bills. Termination of Federal supervision for almost 8,000 Indian people was thus written into law.³

In 1953, Congress also passed what is commonly known as Public Law 280: "Each of the States or Territories listed in the following table (all Indian country within Minnesota except the Red Lake Reservation) shall have jurisdiction over offenses committed by or against Indians in the areas of Indian country listed opposite the name of the State or Territory to the same extent that such State or Territory has jurisdiction over offenses committed elsewhere within the State or Territory and the criminal laws of such State or Territory shall have the same force and effect within such Indian country as they have elsewhere within the State or Territory."

Likewise, Minnesota Indians are educated in the public school system,⁴ apply to the county for welfare, and turn to the local community for health services.⁵ In response to this trend and in recognition of the Indian's unique relationship with government as established by treaty, agreement, and statute, several state legislatures, like Minnesota's have established Indian programs: the neighboring states of Michigan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin for example.

A. We recommend that, as the Minnesota Indian population in general continues to be under housed, under educated, and under employed, the Minnesota Legislature maintain a strong, active, and independent program to articulate the Indian-American viewpoint as it differs from the European-American point of view; to compensate for their historical isolation and supression; and to assist in the development of working recognition of Tribal rights and priviledges under treaty, agreement, and statute. At this point in time, the Indian Community is in need of a "two-way-street" whereby Indians can make

their views and needs known and gain full participation in programs designed to meet these needs.

The second point of interest in the 1951 report by the Senate Interim Committee on Indian Affairs: "that progressive measures to integrate the Indian into the rest of the population is the best solution to the Indian problem.⁶"

Such attitudes have proven to be a major factor in slowing the Indian's progress towards a better life. While proud of being an American (as his service in our armed forces testifies) he is also proud of being an Indian. While striving for health, education, housing, and employment, he also seeks development of his Tribal resourses and expression of his heritage: language, dance, history, etc. (As demonstrated by the Sauk-Fox of Iowa and the Winnebago of Wisconsin). Demonstrative of the Indian's awareness of this attitude is the difficulty agencies (both public and private) providing services to the Indian people claim in their efforts to reach them.

B. We recommend that organizations providing services to Indian people (ie law enforcement, education, etc.), while extending full and equitable use of these services, place exphasis on outreach programs that recognize the Indian as an Indian and that facilitate his participation and achievement. Employment of Indian personnel wherever possible is one action that will increase an agency's ability to relate to the Indian community.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

With the resignation of it's Executive Director in April 1967, the Indian Affairs Commission became occupied with the reorganization of it's program. Election of officers and selection of a new director were the first order of business as the commission organized in August 1967. A series of meetings were held whereat numerous persons were interviewed. A selection was made in December and a new director was to start on February 1st, 1968. This appointment was later refused, however, and the commission again scheduled interviews. Their current director was selected in May 1968 and started work June 1st.

Simultaneously, because of the need of a majority of new commission members to increase their understanding of Minnesota Indians, subcommittees were formed in January 1968 and a series of hearings were scheduled on the reservations. The following visits were made:

Leech Lake	1-5-68	White Earth	3-7-68
Lower Sioux	2-2-68	Fond du Lac	3-8-68
Grand Portage	2-28-68	Nett Lake	3-22-68
Mille Lacs	3-6-68	Prairie Isle	5-3-68

It is felt that these meetings with the Indian people have helped place the commission members in a more knowledgeable position as to the needs and opinions of the Minnesota Indian. The Executive Director maintains frequent contact with Tribal leaders to keep the Commission in an informed position. The recommendations resulting from these two years of activity are set forth herein.

The dates and locations of other commission meetings and hearings are listed as follows:

St. Paul	8-31-67	Detroit Lakes	4-29-68
St. Paul	10-6-67	St. Paul	8-2-68
St. Paul	11-3-67	St. Paul	9-6-68
St. Paul	12-1-67	St. Paul	9-30-68
St. Paul	1-5-68	Detroit Lakes	11-21-68
St. Paul	2-8-68	St. Paul	11-23-68
St. Paul	4168		

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URBAN INDIAN REPRESENTATION

Minnesota's Indian population is estimated at 30,000. It is also estimated that the 1960 census figure of 3,000 Indians in the Twin Cities has doubled or even tripled. The outstanding reason behind this movement is the Indian's search for employment opportunity. The urban environment confronts the Minnesota Indian with situations foreign and unrelated to those of the reservation and to his cultural patterns. It should also be noted that the urban Indian's association with his Tribal government and B.I.A. Agency is at a minimum.

C. We recommend that the Minnesota Statutes be modified to permit all Indian organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul to participate in the selection of an urban Indian member to the Indian Affairs Commission.

OMBUDSMAN POWER FOR INDIANS

In recognition of the Indian's past historical association with one Federal agency, the B.I.A.; in recognition of the Indian's confusion in attempting to deal with today's very complex service structure; and in recognition of the Indian's culturally based preference in dealing with "things Indian":

D. We recommend that the Indian Affairs Commission be granted ombudsman powers by the Legislature for Minnesota Indian citizens, so that it may effectively aid the Indian people in dealing with the many agencies and any grievances and misunderstandings the Indian may have with them.

EMPLOYMENT

Minnesota Indian leadership feels that, if their people had good employment opportunities, the door would be unlocked to a better way of life. Good housing could be afforded, health would be improved, and the children would have added incentives to complete their schooling.

However, many Indians have difficulty in finding the work they need. Most reservations areas do not offer good employment opportunities because of their location away from industrial centers. Most Indians are untrained for the available opportunities or find they are seasonal such as ricing, mining, or logging.

Likewise, when he chooses to migrate to the urban areas to seek employment, the Indian finds that, in addition to the difficult adaption to city life, he doesn't have the qualifications and training (such as union membership fees or high school diplomas) needed to get the better jobs.

The Minnesota Department of Employment Security with it's staff of Indian Specialists and it's relationship with State and Federal training programs appears to offer a good frame-work for improving Indian participation in employment.

E. We recommend that the Department of Employment Security continue to develop it's Indian out-reach program both in reservation and urban areas to facilitate equitable Indian participation in training and employment opportunities that do exist as well as on the job advancement.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs also operates an Employment Assistance Program. Many Indian people are assisted each year; however, waiting lines and limited finding are often a problem here.

F. We recommend that the Congress fund the B.I.A. Employment Assistance Program with monies adequate to give full service to Minnesota's Indian population.

NATURAL RESOURSES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEREOF

Highly correlated to the on-r	reservation employment opportunities is
the development of the resources t	hereof. An inventory of reservation
resources would include:	Eligibility for Federal programs:
land lakes & streams forests fish, game, & rice treaty rights people: work force	OEO housing & job training HUD housing SBA business financing EDA business financing MDTA vocational - job training CEP vocational - job training

Actually, being a Tribal Indian is big business. Some of America's larger Tribes are worth millions of dollars in assests. It is felt that Minnesota Indians have made little progress in locating industrial employment on or near their reservations. To be sure, the challenge is a large one, especially with dozens of Minnesota communities competing for the same thing. However, imagination, coupled with existing reservation assets, ought to permit increased activity in this area.

G. We recommend that the Minnesota Department of Economic Development and the B.I.A. Industrial Development Program working with the reservation Tribal Councils step up their reservation development activities considerably with an eye on making the business community more fully aware of the assets available and developing plans of action to facilitate their location and development in reservation areas.

H. We further recommend that the 1969 Minnesota Legislature appropriate matching funds for research personnel and "seed" money for project development on Indian reservations.

It is somewhat difficult for this commission to comment on reservation land use as conditions vary from over 5000,000 acres at Red Lake to

around 500 at Prairie Island. Generally speaking, it is felt that tribal groups could enter into land use programs to a greater extent than they have up to today.

I. We recommend that Tribal groups give consideration to land exchange and land consolidation programs to place Indian lands into more manageable units.

J. We further recommend that the state and Federal governments keep the Indian abreast of their land use programs so that Tribal projects may be developed which harmonize rather than conflict with other activity in the area, especially development of recreational facilities.

Fish, game, rice, and treaty rights remain an area of disagreement and confusion. Undoubtedly some of the answers can come only from the courts. At meetings across the state, the Indian has repeatedly asked to regain control of ricing in Minnesota. He also asks that Tribal hunting and fishing rights on the total reservation be recognized. This commission is interested in verifying treaty rights in general and determining State and Federal responsibilities with respect to all areas of Indian Affairs.

K. We recommend that the Minnesota Attorney General be requested to present the Indian Affairs Commission with an outline of the various alternatives available to the State of Minnesota in dealing with Indian rights to hunt, fish, and rice.

L. We further recommend that the Minnesota Statutes be modified to: 1. permit Indian control of ricing on all reservation lakes with minority participation by reservation non-Indians and the State Conservation Department for a period of 10 years, subject to Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee approval,

2. waive State ricing licenses on reservations for all Minnesota resident

Indian ricers having Tribal identification, and

3. Substantially increase the State ricing license fee.

This commission wishes to endorse the wild rice demonstration projects at Nett Lake submitted to the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission and at Leech Lake submitted to the Office of Economic Opportunity, Division of Development and Research.

M. We recommend that these projects would be more suitably pursued as Project Development programs for the reason that the feasibility of wild rice production has already been substantially demonstrated and has become an expanding industry.

N. We further recommend that State Indian economic development matching funds should be included for the development of a wild rice industry on Indian reservations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Most if not all Indian communities throughout the state feel that they have inadequate law enforcement, and many county officials agree. With an increasing crime rate, these officials don't have the funds necessary to offer adequate policing in reservation areas. In addition to this, many Indian people feel that law enforcement officers frequently slight and abuse them as well as ignore their treaty rights. Minnesota will have an excellent opportunity to bring about some improvement in this area with the implementation of P.L. 90-351: The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This act privides for both planning and law enforcement grants from the Federal government. With these funds, local areas can purchase equipment, and recruit and train law enforcement personnel.

O. We recommend that the Minnesota State Law Enforcement Planning Agency work with the Indian communities in preparation and adoption of improved law enforcement programs.

P. We further recommend that law enforcement officers in Indian communities receive training in human relations and Indian Rights under treaties and Federal statutes and that law enforcement agencies near Indian communities hire more Indian personnel in an effort to improve relations and effectiveness in those communities.

This commission feels that many Indians are not knowledgeable as to their rights when it comes to their being arrested. For this reason it applauds the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision of late 1967 in State vs Borst that indigent persons charged with misdemeanors punishable by jail sentences may ask for and receive legal counsel. The importance of legal aide programs such as those in Cass Lake and the Twin Cities appears

obvious.

Q. We recommend that additional Indian communities give consideration to the formation of legal aide services in their areas.

The Indian Affairs Commission wishes to command the actions of the Minneapolis American Indian Movement's Franklin Street Patrol and the Duluth American Indian Fellowship Association's Community Relations Committee as being effective self-help programs dealing with problems in Indian communities. Increased attention to community relations, communication, and crime prevention (especially with juveniles) would almost certainally have an impact on the quality of law enforcement in Indian communities.

The Indian Community has repeatedly pointed out the need for a "halfway-house" to help Indian persons readjust their lives upon release from² prison, jails, and work houses.

This commission agrees and recommends that consideration be given to ways of establishing such a facility.

CIVIL RIGHTS - (DISCRIMINATION)

The Indian encounters considerable discrimination in Minnesota today. Insults are often suffered in public places, unduly harsh treatment of Indian prisoners by enforcement officers is a frequent complaint, emphasis is placed on the Indian as being drunken and shiftless by many persons, etc.: enought to let the Indian know that to many of his fellow citizens he is considered inferior and unequal. The unfortunate results of these attitudes show themselves in the Indian's poor achievement in school, high frequency in jails, acceptance of substandard housing, etc.

It is the policy of this commission, in co-operation with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, to work for full and equitable participation by the Minnesota Indian in all services, programs, and opportunities available; to work for the Indian's right to identify himself as such, gain recognition of his heritage, and maintain respect as an individual; and to work for greater understanding of the Indian on the part of the general population.

HOUSING

One only need drive through a reservation area to realize the poor quality of Indian Housing. One or two room wooden buildings without plumbing are the norm here. Again, lack of employment opportunities is a major factor behind this situation.

On such a tour, one would also note a fair smattering of new, fully modern homes. A break has been made with the past and through various Federal housing programs the Indian people are finally finding some decent housing available to them. This the commission applauás.

R. We recommend that the Indian communities continue (or even accelerate) their participation in those Federal housing programs meeting their needs.

S. We recommend that the State government continue its supporting efforts to bring Federal housing appropriations into the state for improvement of Minnesota Indian housing conditions.

T. We further recommend:

1. That the various state and Federal agencies contributing to one housing project coordinate their activities in such a manner that each completes its work at about the same time so that the homes are available for use at the earliest possible time.

2. that arrangements be made to facilitate the participation of the smaller reservations in the Federal housing programs, where they desire to do so, 3. that agencies funding Indian housing programs grant recognition to the undesirable effects, from an Indian viewpoint, of interferring with a culturally normal pattern of living, and allow (or even require) programs funded by them to reflect Indian preference of scattered not row housing. 4. that use of economic development matching funds be considered in the

formation or development of Indian community housing programs. (The possibility of individual credit being guaranteed by the Tribal groups, under certain conditions, should also be considered.)

The housing needs of the urban Indian also needs much attention. Minneapolis housing people feel that as a group the Indian people are the most poorly housed.

U. We recommend that there be increased activity on the part of the Twin City Indian community and the Twin City housing agencies to devise and facilitate a program of improved housing for urban Indians. Increased Indian participation on program formulating boards would appear to be a must here, as well as employment of Indian outreach personnel, in the implementation of any housing program.

EDUCATION

The Indian student drop out rate in Minnesota Public Schools runs at 60% in both urban and reservation areas. As a group then, the Indian people are at a great disadvantage educationally. For the most part, the Indian student has adequate educational facilities available; but there is an alienation that occurs which, coupled with a lack of incentives, moves the Indian student to give up as early as age 14 in Jr. Highs: the school books badly misrepresent the Indian; non-Indians, teachers included, frequently seem to be making him feel badly; and even if school is finished, it makes too little difference, or so many of the Indian students think. So why should they try?

To deal with this situation, a series of outreach programs would seem to be essential: extra effort to understand the Indian's needs and make him feel comfortable.

V. We recommend that the State Department of Education and the local School Boards place considerable emphasis in the following areas: 1. Each school system needs to have a good relationship with the Indian community. Efforts need to be made to have the parents realize the importance of education to their children and to support their attendence. Indian parents need to have a say in the running of their schools. Parents and students alike need to have channels open through which they can feel welcome in presenting complaints and problems that are keeping the children out of school.

2. Teachers need to be oriented to the training of minority students just as they are trained in math and English. They need to be aware of the problems confronting Indian students and knowledgeable on how to deal with them. Increasing the number of Indian teachers would foster identification.

on the part of the Indian student with the professional, educated In-

3. Materials presented in the class room need to present a fair and more realistic view of the Indian's culture and his role in society, past and present. Extra effort must be made to widen horizons and increase incentives for the Indian students by the inclusion of field trips and social activities in the curriculum.

4. In response to the school consolidation to take effect in July, 1971, special attention will have to be given to increased Indian representation of school boards, particularly in areas affected by this change. It is the opinion of this commission that Indian students should not be bussed into consolidated schools until the 4th grade. Creative alternatives may be required to avoid the bussing of young elementary students any more than is absolutely essential.

5. The State government needs to continue and strengthen it's support and efforts to bring Federal education monies into the state for improved Indian education.

The Indian Scholarship Program continues to be very successful and finances the education of more Indian students every year.

W. We recommend a substantial increase in the Indian Scholarship Program's funding and urge consideration be given their request for \$150,000 from the Legislature and \$150,000 from the Congress for the next biennium.

X. We further recommend that there be an Indian placed on the State Indian Scholarship Committee and that all recognized Indians be made eligible for the Indian Scholarship Program. It is the opinion of this commission that the Indian people make limited use of the State Vocational Schools which are tutition free to age 21.

Y. We recommend that the Indian communities, the public school system, and the B.I.A. Employment Assistance Program put forth increased efforts to help the Indian young people make greater use of the State Vocational Schools.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Reflecting his inadequate housing and limited employment opportunities, the Indian's health is poorer and participation in welfare is greater than for the population at large. Indians, who represent 4% of the persons on welfare in Minnesota, make up only .8% of the total population.

Z. We recommend that these health and welfare programs and services continue to be administered to Indian citizens on the basis of need.

Due to historical factors, Minnesota Indians are eligible for a broader range of health and welfare services than the average Minnesota citizen. The Public Health Service maintains Indian hospitals at Red Lake and Cass Lake and a clinic at White Earth. Other eligible Minnesota Indians participate in contractual programs through the county welfare offices, as do other low income Minnesota families. However, 9 such communities also receive financial assistance from the Public Health Service.

Many Indian persons appear not to fully understand the workings of the contractual health services. The same can be said of new welfare workers. For these reasons, a continuing program of communication and education with reference to these services would be desirable.

With the high mobility of the Indian people, the county residency requirement hampers many otherwise eligible Indians from receiving welfare payments. State Welfare people feel that increased communication between the Indian and the County Welfare Office as to dates of moves and changes of address would help to alleviate this problem, as eligible persons should be receiving assistance from somewhere.

CONCLUSION

This concludes the 1967-68 report of the Indian Affairs Commission. If it is the wish of the 1969 Legislature to renew this commission, it stands ready to move forward in a positive manner with the program outlined herein.

We close with a thought from Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada: "We must never forget that in the long run a democracy is judged by the way the majority treats the minority... Every government must accept the responsibility for the rights of the citizens within its own jurisdiction. Canada as a whole suffers when any of her citizens is denied his rights, for that injustice places the rights of all in jeopardy."

APPENDIX

1968 POLICY STATEMENT OF THE NCAI

Following is the policy statement passed at the Omaha convention of the National Congress of American Indians:

"Policy Statement

The American Indian is unique both as to opportunities and as to problems. No other group of citizens stand in precisely the same relation to the Federal Government. This relationship is deeply rooted in treaties and laws which gives the United States responsibility for the protection of Indians and their resources. In addition to these special rights and protections he is entitled to enjoy the same rights, privileges, and services as do other citizens.

"Despite the treaties, the special Indian Rights, and this exercise of responsibility by the Federal Government, our Indian people have never attained true parity as American citizens. The social and economic conditions of many Indian people, when compared to that of the general population, almost defy comprehension. Adult Indians living on reservations are, as a group, only half as well educated as other citizens, their life expectancy is one third less, and their average annual income is 2/3 less. Nine out of ten of their homes are comparatively unfit for human habitation and their unemployment rate is several times above the national average.

"The evidence is conclusive that these Indian people do not share equitably in the bounty of their homeland--the world's richest nation.

"Despite a prolonged Federal effort to improve Indian well being, progress has been slow. Some of the major causes for this slowness have been:

"1. Federal Indian policy has suffered extreme pendulum swings from over paternalism to threatened termination of federal protection of Indian lands and resources and vital community services. The Indian people have never had an opportunity to key their own efforts to stable, secure, and predictable Federal programs.

"2. Indian people have been falsely encouraged by attractive Federal programs only to find them fade and disappear because of lack of appropriations. Programs without funding or with inadequate funding have constantly confused and disappointed the Indian Tribes.

"3. Long range tribal planning has been discouraged by the hovering spectre of termination. On the one hand the Federal Government has talked of itself as a "partner" available to work with the Indians in their expanding the developing future. On the other hand, the Congressional Policy for termination has lingered like a death sentence under constant appeal by the Indians for commutation.

"4. The Social, political, economic, cultural, and geographical isolation of many tribal groups have mitigated against their effective utilization of available government programs and services from agencies other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Division of Indian Health.

"5. Much of the energy of our tribes has been expended, not in creative long range planning, not in projects and activities to uplift their people but in a "back to the wall fight" to preserve and protect their special rights as Indians, such as treaty rights, against the never ending assults that would wipe them out should the Indians' vigilance ever be relaxed.

"Until positive and dynamic action is undertaken by the legislative and executive branches of government to correct these major conditions, a large percentage of Indian people will never achieve the full economic and social parity to which they are entitled.

"The National Congress of American Indians, speaking for almost 400,000 American Indians who continue to maintain their special relationship with the Federal Government, has consistently advocated the adoption of a long range Indian policy by our government that would permit the following:

"l. Self determination by the Indian people in their quest for social and economic equality.

"2. Protection of Indian lands and resources and maintenance of tax-exempt Status for income derived from such lands.

"3. Maximum development of the human and natural resources of Indians with the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and all other federal agencies offering programs and services to relieve conditions of poverty among all Americans.

"4. Maximum participation of Indian tribal governing units and rank and file tribal members in all programs directed to Indian reservations and Indian communities.

"5. The right of Indian people to enjoy the same rights, privileges and immunities accorded to all citizens of the nation.

"May we conclude by saying a word about Indian participation in the Poor People's March and other public demonstrations.

"We, as individuals, as a race and as a social and economic minority may have suffered more than others and our problems, as we said in the beginning, are uniquely Indian. Therefore, our solutions must be uniquely Indian. We can achieve more by our own methods. As a relatively small segment of poor society, our special needs can be lost in the welter of the disorganized millions of poor people the leaders of whom have little knowledge of the special problems and circumstances of the Indian people.

"We Indians and our chosen spokesmen can best speak for ourselves.

"May we at this convention express our sympathy for the poor people of America and encourage our Indian people to work as they wish in their behalf. But may we Indians and Indian organizations in working for our Indian poor, particularly those on our reservations, avoid the use of public demonstrations and seek to accomplish our ends through our regular organizations and governmental channels."

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Minnesota Legislature, Senate; <u>Report of the Senate Interim Committee</u> on Indian Affairs to the 1951 Legislature; p. 3.
- 2. Ibid., p. 4.
- 3. Orfield; <u>A Study of the Termination Policy</u>; (N.C.A.I., Denver) pp. 1-2 & 16.
- 4. Budgeted and non budgeted Indian Schools do receive Federal funds such as Johnson O'Malley and P.L. 478 funds.
- 5. Hospitals or clinics are maintained by P.H.S. at Red Lake, Cass Lake, and White Earch and nine other Indian communities receive financial assistance from P.H.S. for their health programs.
- 6. Minnesota Legislature, Senate; <u>Report of the Senate Interim Committee</u> on Indian Affairs to the 1951 Legislature; p. 3.