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Memorandum

To: Commissioner

From: Thomas M. Reid, Assistant Commissioner

Subject: Report of official visit to the Hopi villages - July 14-29, 1955.

The committee assigned the special task of visiting the Hopi villages for the express purpose of hearing the Hopis discuss their problems present herewith a report resulting from the hearings. The report reflects the problems as presented by the Hopis and the recommendations of the committee.

Religious Freedom

1. A problem which consumed considerable time involved the conflict between Hopis known as:

(a) The traditional group who follow old beliefs and customs of Hopi culture. It is apparent that the religion of this group concerns itself with every phase of their life and is the great integrating force. Through set religious ceremonies, this group seeks to control their environment and to sanctify every act of life. They believe that any deviation from their traditional faith and ritual will result in economic and moral disaster.

(b) The progressive group who have largely abandoned the old "Hopi Way" of life. This group is in general support of the policies of the Bureau, and have usually discarded many of the old tribal religious teachings.

COPY EXHIBIT 73a

HP014153

Recommendation:

It is believed that the traditional group should be given assurance by the Indian Service that they have complete religious freedom such as is accorded to all other religious groups in this country. At the same time, Hopis who wish to follow another religion have the same freedom. It is our recommendation that you send a letter to each Hopi village, setting forth the fundamental concepts in this country relating to religious freedom.

Tribal Council

2. As a general rule, the traditionalists are opposed to the tribal government established under the IRA, believing that it is detrimental to the "Hopi Way" of life and is responsible for the establishment of Range Unit No. 6, the stock reduction program, the new Federal policy relative to alcoholic beverages, a general disregard of the village leaders, and the imposition of undesired policies and projects on the Hopi people without consultation with the villages.

The progressive group on the other hand are supporters of the tribal government and claim that a number of meetings were held explaining the IRA and that the constitution and bylaws were revised in accordance with the wishes of the people. This group feels that the constitution protects the traditional government of the villages and that several provisions of the constitution were designed to protect the traditional "Hopi Way." They also point out that without the constitution and bylaws, there would be no legal way in which the Hopi villages could take action on their common problems.

An examination of the files indicates that the constitution and bylaws were both approved by decisive majorities.



EXHIBIT 73b

HP014154

Recommendations:

It is the opinion of the committee that the Indian Office must recognize any tribal council which is legally elected. The constitution specifies a council of 17 members from the various villages and further stipulates that "no business shall be done unless at least a majority of the members are present." In our opinion, if 9 of the possible 17 members of the council are chosen or elected, there is a legal council and business can be legally transacted provided all 9 members are present. If you accept our views on this matter, we recommend that the Superintendent and the villages be so informed. It is further recommended that a study be made as to the extent to which the constitution and bylaws have been observed by the council and the degree to which the council has advised and consulted with the villages. This study should also determine whether or not the constitution and bylaws should be changed to strengthen and recognize even further the village government.

Range Unit No. 6

3. Hopis of both factions are bitterly critical of being restricted in their farming and grazing activities on Range Unit No. 6. They contend that since 1882 the Navajos have continuously encroached on their territory in spite of the protests of the Hopis and the officials in charge of the Hopi Executive Order Reservation. They claim that the Navajos have been favored by the Indian Service, and particularly by the Navajo Agency which had general supervision over the Hopi Reservation for a number of years. They claim that in spite of Indian Service denials, the Indian Service planned to establish Range Unit No. 6 as the total extent of the Hopi Reservation. They believe they are entitled to a much larger grazing and farming area than is contained in Grazing Unit No. 6



EXHIBIT 73c

HP014155

Recommendations:

The committee believes there is much justice to the Hopi complaints, and it is recommended that a historical resume be made of the factors leading to the establishment of Range Unit No. 6, the criteria used as a basis for establishing this range unit, and the part that Indian Service Navajo officials played in the establishment of the range unit. The study should also contain an analysis of the average number of stock units given to each Hopi family on Range Unit No. 6 as compared to the average number of stock units given to each Navajo family on the other range units of the Hopi Executive Order Reservation. In the event that this study shows the desirability of a reexamination of Range Unit No. 6, we suggest that an impartial committee be appointed to reconsider this matter.

Stock Reduction

4. The Hopis are practically unanimous in their denunciation of the stock reduction program of the early 1940's. They are critical of the alleged arbitrary manner in which the stock reduction program was put in effect. They claim the Indian Service sold or destroyed many animals for which the Hopis were never paid.

Recommendations:

In view of the seriousness of these charges, it is our recommendation that the facts relative to this stock reduction program be obtained and clearly set forth in a statement that will be released to the villages. The statement should include facts relative to percentage reductions among the Hopis and the nearby Navajos, the amounts paid for the animals taken or destroyed, the extent to which the Hopis were consulted as



EXHIBIT 73d

HP014156

to this program, and whether the Hopis are justified in their statement that the present stock program authorizes such a small number of stock units per family as to make it worthless to the families to carry on.

Reservation Boundaries

5. A number of the Hopis emphasized the need for a determination of a permanent Hopi Reservation. Many traditionalists lay claim to a very large area including all of the Executive Order Reservation of 1882, most of the present Navajo Reservation, and a considerable area now occupied by non-Indians and other citizens.

Recommendations:

We recommend that a review be made of the past efforts to establish permanent boundaries for the Hopi Reservation including the criteria used, the boundaries recommended, the reactions of the Hopis and the Navajos, the legal questions involved, and criteria that might be used in the consideration of the establishment of boundaries for the permanent reservation. It is believed that the most satisfactory way to settle the long-standing controversy as to the ownership of the Executive Order Reservation of 1882 is through court action. In the event that court solution is impracticable, we recommend that an impartial committee be appointed to evaluate the study suggested above and to assemble such other facts that might be useful in the determination of boundaries to be recommended by the committee to the Congress for its action.

Educational Needs

6. The Hopis recommended the early establishment of a State-accredited 4-year high school including several vocational courses, and the immediate construction of adequate physical facilities for such a plant.



EXHIBIT 73e

HP014157

Recommendations:

The committee agrees with the recommendation, and it is suggested that the Education Branch be requested to take the necessary steps to carry out this request.

Health Needs

7. The Hopis proposed the construction of a new hospital at Oraibi with better qualified staff. Some complaints were also voiced about the unsatisfactory clinic hours.

Recommendations:

We recommend that a copy of the hearings be sent to Public Health Service calling attention to the statements by the Hopis relative to the health program.

Rehabilitation Program

8. The Hopis expressed a feeling that they were not getting a fair share of the funds appropriated for the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Program.

Recommendations:

We recommend that the Agency Superintendent inform all the Hopis as to the purposes of this program, including the total amounts appropriated by the Congress, the respective amounts expended or earmarked for Navajos and Hopis and the proposed Hopi projects.

Road Program

9. Although the general feeling was favorable to the road construction program, they pointed out the need and importance of finishing a hard-surface road to Holbrook. Criticism was directed at the alleged wanton destruction of trees and farms by road crews in the road program from Hotevilla villages.

Recommendations:

We recommend that in the future all road projects be discussed fully not only with the Tribal Council but also with the leaders and other citizens of the villages affected.



EXHIBIT 73f

HP014158

Termination Rumors

10. These people were considerably disturbed over rumors that the Federal Government might withdraw its services under its termination program.

Recommendations:

We recommend that you write a letter to the Superintendent and the villages informing them that no early change in the present Federal program for the Hopis is contemplated.

Electric Power

11. A request was presented for Federal assistance in securing electric power for the villages.

Recommendations:

It is suggested that this proposed project be explored and information given to the Hopis as to whether such a project is practicable.

Public Law 277

12. The Hopis expressed unanimous concern and opposition to Public Law 277, 83d Congress, 1st Session (62 Stat. 757), which they maintained permitted the sale of intoxicants on the Hopi Reservation.

Recommendations:

We recommend that the Superintendent and the villages be informed by office letter that the Hopis themselves can decide as to whether liquor sales can ever be legalized on the Hopi Reservation.

Nonmembers Activities

13. A feeling of concern was also expressed over the activities of nonmembers in the affairs of the Hopi villages. They are of the opinion that some of these nonmembers should be refused



EXHIBIT 73g

HP014159

access to the reservation. Since the Hopis are an unusual people whose homes, economy, and customs are unlike those to which touring Americans are accustomed, many visitors are attracted to the Hopi Reservation. While the Hopis are friendly to people who in their opinion visit them with some worthy objective, they are highly critical of a few of the people who come there and apparently are trouble-makers who tend to meddle in Hopi affairs.

Recommendations:

We recommend that a policy Indian Office letter as to this problem be sent to the Superintendent and the villages. Further, it is believed that the Hopis and Indian Office personnel might just as well accept the fact that visitors are going to pass through the villages in increasing numbers. The proper thing to do is to make plans to turn the presence of these strangers into an asset rather than a menace.

Water Needs

14. The need for additional water was pointed out by the Hopis, not only for supplementing the present limited supply at the schools but for wells for domestic and stock usage.

Recommendations:

We recommend the approval of a program designed to meet these needs.

Navajo Relationships

15. There was general agreement by the Hopis in their claims that the Navajos have trespassed on their lands and have taken over a large part of their reservation with the knowledge of the Indian Service.

Recommendations:

We believe that a wise decision was made in placing the Hopi Agency under the Phoenix Area

EXHIBIT 73h

HP014160

Office. We further believe that the approval of the recommendations of this report will do much to restore the confidence of the Hopis in the Indian Service.

Consultation

16. The general indictment that programs, policies, and rules and regulations were imposed upon the Hopis without their consent or previous consultation with them was repeatedly made. The belief of the Hopis that these complaints are based on fact has had a profound influence on their attitude toward Federal Government and particularly the Indian Service.

Recommendations:

It is suggested that an analysis be made of these complaints, and the facts discovered should be disclosed to the Hopis, regardless of whether the complaints are found to be true or false. It is felt that such an analysis will reveal strengths and weaknesses of Indian administration and will enable the Indian Office to correct administrative procedures to provide more Indian participation, if needed, and to re-examine any policies which are objectionable or faulty.

Minor Complaints

17. A number of complaints, mainly minor, and having to do with local administration, were voiced by these people.

Recommendations:

These complaints were discussed with Superintendent Pensoneau, and it was agreed that he would make the necessary investigations and take the necessary actions.

Adult Education

18. The records of these hearings reveal the confusion and lack of adequate information on the part of the Hopis relative to Indian Service



EXHIBIT 73i

HP014161

policies and programs including those functions and operations under their own leadership. This factor is indicative of Bureau deficiencies in imparting information to the Hopis and keeping them currently and understandably informed.

Recommendations:

Our observation points to a need for adult education and we recommend that consideration be given by the Indian Service, in consultation with the Tribal Council and the leaders of the Hopi villages, to the initiation and development of an adult education program having as the principal objective of keeping the Hopis informed and consulting with them as to all policies, programs, rules and regulations of the Indian Service, the Tribal Council, and the Hopis themselves.

Tribal Leadership

19. During these meetings, it was the observation of the committee that these groups had members who displayed excellent leadership ability. However, the tragedy of the Hopis is that the able men and women of both factions are engaged in a bitter intratribal struggle when they should be acting in unity to solve the many serious but not hopeless problems which beset their people.

Recommendations:

We recommend that the Indian Service make a concerted effort to minimize these differences. It is suggested that a committee consisting of representatives from the Indian Office, the Area Office, the Agency, the traditional group, and the progressive group be appointed to explore plans for securing better cooperation between these two groups.



EXHIBIT 73j

HP014162

This committee wishes to acknowledge the cooperative and helpful assistance extended to us by Assistant Area Director Stevens, Superintendent Penseneau, and his Agency staff members and the fine reception extended to us by the Hopi people.

/s/ Thomas M. Reid

Assistant Commissioner



EXHIBIT 73k

HP014163