

FILE NO. 76025-1936 HOPI 063

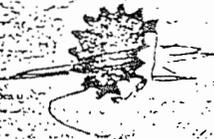
FILE NO. 98303-1936 HOPI 063

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FILES

CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be added to or taken from this file, except by an employee of the Mails and Files Division.



Indian Organization

C
O
P
Y

Oraibi, Arizona
Feb. 13, 1937

Dear Mr. La Farge:

Thank you for your remembrance of us and for your compliment. We are human and sometimes like a little petting especially when we are threatened with engulfing difficulties and sorrows. We like to feel the touch of a real friend whose very touch seems to impart new strength and courage. Therefore your letter expressing your genuine interest in our affairs could not but good us into our objectives.

When the Council was formed on Jan. 18, 1937, we did not take up other matters as it took quite all of our time to choose and instate our officers. However we have met since at Toreva on Feb. 5, where the following subjects were discussed, namely, -- Ways and means of creating the Tribal Council Fund (without which we could not operate), Law and Order, Rules governing the functioning of the Council, Transportation, and the salary of the Secretary. The Council deliberated over 18 hours, partly on Friday and Saturday. Inasmuch as the Court of Indian Offenses has not been created, it was decided to authorize Supt. Hutton to administer law and order under such rules as are applicable to the Hopis, meting out punishment in sufficient measure as to make the wrong doer realize the lesson intended and that monetary fines, if any, should be given over to the Council with disposal of cases. This is to be done until such time as the Court of Indian Offenses should be created which will of course necessitate much thought but which I hope will not take an unnecessary time. The Council recommended that the police force among the Hopi should be increased to four out of the present two, that five judges should be created for which appropriation is asked, that these judges should be divided as follows: one at Polacca; one at the Second Mesa Villages, Mishongnovi, Shipaulavi, and Shongopavi; one at Oraibi (Kyakotsmovi and Oraibi); one at Hotevilla-Bacabi; and one at Moenkopi. This is well on the paper but I am conscious of the difficulty of obtaining right persons to fill the position. You know this as well as I do.

Furthermore the Council authorized the Secretary to investigate conditions existing between the Hopi and the government service with a view of correcting evils. He is to report his findings to the Council. His work is to be subject to the review of the Council. The following questions were deemed important to be asked from the Washington Office in order that the Council may operate with the government:-

1. What is the present legal status of the Hopi Indians?
2. Under what conditions or under what instrument were the Hopis brought under the U. S. Government, (treaties, or simply agreement either written or oral) and through whose instrumentality and when?
3. Were the Hopis ever given land grant by the Spanish government, and if so were these ever annulled?
4. What laws and powers, besides those given the tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, do our Hopi people possess now?

To some of these questions we have the answer but we want a written statement from the Washington Office. In other words, we wish to begin at the beginning and it is necessary that these things be furnished our tribe in writing.

I am pleased with the attitude of the Council members. They seem to realize the importance and opportunity connected with their calling and certainly showed it at Toreva. The next meeting as you know, takes place on March 1, and is to be at Toreva again.

The Mayor of Kyakotsmovi, Na-kwa-yes-tewa, is proving himself an able leader. He is deeply interested in our welfare and I have hopes he will lead us into better days. He needs instruction in things governmental from Washington of course. The greatest need right now is money for the operation of our affairs. You know that we are poor in financial matter and that to ask for an outright contribution would be unwise yet since somebody had whispered (too audibly) of taxation and this request would but confirm many in this belief. The council therefor decided to try to raise funds by holding sales or bazaars, or entertainments hoping to educate our people to the point where they will readily contribute of their means. To make regulation or ordinance for licensing traders on the reservation, will take much time to get through but the need is urgent and immediate. No transportation is provided and I can not do my work as much as I should like to do. I do not know whether the Indian Office can do anything on this for us. We would of course appreciate assistance in these things. It is my policy to keep our self respect and to avoid dependancy since we are a free people, able to work. These are times however when help is welcome.

We are having cold weather though the snow has melted some. It has been 20° below zero a number of times. Leupp is practically under water and reports have come tonight that the plant may be completely abandoned and destroyed by tomorrow. Great flood have come. The place is half under water and bridges are ready to collapse. We are well however and happy.

Trusting this will find you well and that we may further enjoy your interest and effort on our behalf, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) O. DOMAVITU