

M. Stevens

H O P I

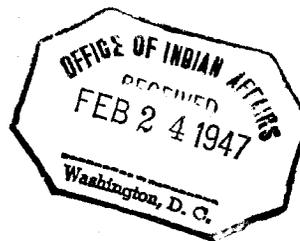
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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FIELD SERVICE

Hopi Indian Agency
Keams Canyon, Arizona
February 19, 1947



Via Air Mail

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Three or four Hopi Indians are soliciting contributions to finance a trip to Washington. These men are from the Villages of New Oraibi and Upper Moencopi, and I have heard that the people of these two villages are about the only contributors.

The purported necessity for the trip seems to be for the purpose of visiting the Indian Office and various Congressional Committees on the Hopi Land Claim. I have heard also that Representative Murdock is to arrange the Committee meetings and that the two ladies, Drs. Cussler and De Give who photographed the film, "Hopi Horizons", are to assist them in other ways.

All of this information has come in a roundabout way, and none of the group have discussed it with me.

I have held meetings with the people of all the villages and have read and interpreted Circular No. 3643, Summary of the Indian Claims Commission Act. I have reminded them that, as a result of this Act, the matter of their claims rests with the Hopis, that the next move would be up to them and that they should determine how they would be represented.

If these men could represent and express the opinions of the Tribe, or even a substantial part of the people, I feel that even though they may not accomplish a great deal, at least they would do no harm to the Tribe. But they can only speak for themselves or for a very small group.

The reason for qualifying the accomplishments is, as I have explained to the Hopis, the land claim is now up to them and the job of obtaining adequate representation and bringing the many villages into agreement is a job for them here among themselves.

At least some of the men who wish to make the trip are very likely to present exaggerated testimony or statements which lack foundation. This would be very easy to correct with facts if there is an opportunity, but I wonder if the opportunity would be allowed. I am not concerned about any harm that they could inflict upon myself, but I certainly do not want them to bring harm to the Hopi people, many of whom depend upon me, as a representative of the Government, to try to protect them.

It is suggested that this matter be discussed with Representative Murdock who, perhaps, would care to investigate further before taking part in the affair. I have the highest respect for Representative Murdock and have no doubt as to his sincere interest in helping the Indians, and I certainly would not like to see him placed in an embarrassing or disillusioning position. I would be happy to submit any additional information.

Respectfully,

Burton A. Ladd
Burton A. Ladd
Superintendent

Mr. Wathen:

Did you discuss the last paragraph with Murdock? JHP says you were going to do so.

S. Stevens

3-7-47

3/6/47
Murdock tells Wathen: Murdock has arranged for movies to be shown to D'Ewart's sub-com. on March 14. Hopis are coming in for that movie & want to appear before sub-com. after the movie.
Write letter to D'Ewart (copy to Murdock) saying that at request of Murdock we are submitting following information re Hopi claims against Navajo.

END