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Oraibi, Arizona  
November 16, 1945

My Dear Mrs. Walther and Friends:

It is certainly a proven fact that time waits for no man. Quite some time has elapsed since you heard from me or anyone out this way.

During this time of silence many things have happened which have been very encouraging.

FIRST: We are gradually gaining ground here among our people. More and more are beginning to see things the way we see them and are beginning to see the injustice of things as they have taken place. This perhaps is the biggest step of encouragement to us out here. You have constantly been told that the Hopi are a divided people, which is true, but now that division is not quite so prominent.

SECOND: One of our fellow tribesman, Mr. Byran P. Adams, has made a trip into Washington, and was given the rare privilege of speaking to the House Committee of Indian Affairs in person regarding the Hopi situation. This meeting lasted an hour and a half, and at the close of the meeting Henry M. Jackson the Chairman said, "On the basis of information something will be done about the Hopi situation."

THIRD: While Mr. Adams was away, we on the Hopi Reservation had a visitor also. Commissioner William A. Brophy had asked Mr. William Zeh, an authority on range and forestry, to look into the Hopi situation, and the validity of the complaints made by Roger Quochoytewa and Mrs. Genevieve Walther regarding certain employees. Mr. Zeh was connected with the Indian Service before he joined the U. S. Army, with the Dept. of Intelligence. This was a time of real testing for the Hopis. It took courage, and hard work on the part of the speakers. Mr. Zeh came to us as a surprise, and we did not have much time to get together as a people.

The first meeting with Mr. Zeh was called on Nov. the Third, Saturday. In the forenoon we had a preliminary meeting to get organized. Emory Sekaquaptewa, President of the Third Mesa Stockmans Union was chosen to be Chairman, Karl Johnson was chosen to interpret both for Mr. Zeh and the Hopi leaders. When the meeting was again resumed in the afternoon, Roger Q. of Oraibi was not satisfied because there was no one to record the minutes of the meeting. He brought out the fact that what was said could not all be remembered, and that he wanted Mr. Zeh to take back an honest and clear report to the Commissioner. This was backed up by all the leaders present, and the people present. Thus the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday Nov. 6. Mr. Ladd, Superintendent, promised to get a recorder for us. In Saturday's meeting Mr. Zeh gave us his purpose of coming, and when a recess was called and the meeting postponed to Tuesday it proved very beneficial to the Hopis as it gave them time to get their thots together. This meeting was held at Second Mesa and so was the one of the sixth. Chiefs, Governors, and representatives from Moencopi, Bacabi, Kikotsmovi, Shungopavy, Shipowlovi, Mishongnuvi, Polacca, Hotevilla and Tewa were present. This left only two villages not represented, Hotevilla proper and Old Oraibi.

The meeting Of November 6 lasted late into the night, at this meeting all the leaders and representatives were given the first chance to speak. They had not all finished when the time was up so it was again decided by popular vote that the meeting be resumed on Wednesday Nov. 7. Both of these meetings were well attended and what was said was very interesting. The minutes of these meetings will be out soon and I shall try to get a few extra copies so that I can send them on to you who have helped us so much.

At the close of the Nov. 8th meeting I also gave a talk giving it as from a young Indians standpoint. Mr. Zeh asked that this speech be typed up first and sent to Mr. Brophy as it would give him a clear picture of the whole situation. I have not yet attained a copy of this yet and if they will let me have one I shall send it to you to look over.

Yes we have not been asleep, but rather have been just too busy to even stop and drink our coffee.

Much credit for the success is due to the untiring efforts of Governor Quochoyewa, Emory, Ned, and Maho in sacrificing their time and money in getting the people to and from the meetings. In spite of the fact that it is harvest time out here now many people gave up their work just to be present as a token of support of their leaders.

Though I have not been asked to do so, yet I feel that the leaders and the Hopi people would like for me to express our heartfelt gratitude for all that you outside friends have done for us. May we never forget these deeds of kindness.

Must close now as there are other things that must be done, but will try to keep you informed fore from now on.

Thanking you again I am,

Sincerely yours,

Karl Johnson