

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FIELD SERVICE
Hopi Indian Agency
Keams Canyon, Arizona
May 18, 1938.

Air Mail
Envelope addressed
to Miss Sather

Honorable John Collier,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Collier:

There are several things which have been on my mind that I feel should be called to your attention in order that I may get proper information as to the agreement between your Office and the Soil Conservation Service regarding their activities in land management on the Hopi Reservation and also relationships of Roads, CCC-ID and other matters between the Navajo Service and the Hopis.

Shortly after Superintendent Fryer's appointment two years ago he, with about twelve other various heads of departments in connection with land management in the Navajo-Hopi area, called at this office to discuss with me proper land management. The impression was conveyed that a better program could be developed if the Navajo-Hopi area could be operated as one land management unit, with them controlling all the funds. I felt that in order to cooperate and not be any drawback to their program that I would acquiesce to their request and did agree that they be allotted Hopi CCC-ID funds and Road funds, so on July 1, 1936, the CCC-ID funds were turned over to the Navajo Service, however, through some misunderstanding the Road funds remained under the Hopi Agency and seemed to disturb Superintendent Fryer a great deal and even though the Land Management Division had complete say of what projects were to be done under the administration of this agency, at Superintendent Fryer's request, you sent Allen Harper out to draw up an agreement. On March 5, 1937, I signed an agreement regarding a plan of administration for the Navajo and Hopi Reservations, which after one year of operation, I believe, is proving unfair to this agency and to the Hopi Indians from a standpoint of activities of the Soil Conservation Service in this area and those of the CCC-ID and Road Division under the Navajo Service and along which lines I wish to supply information.

In connection with the land management activities in District #6, or the Hopi area, it is my understanding that before any projects were to be started that a program would be submitted for my approval and also that of the Hopi Tribal Council; this, I believe, was agreed to by both Superintendent Fryer and Mr. McGinnies, and in the area occupied by Hopi Indians there was a survey made a year ago similar to what I understand has been made on other districts, and on February 10, 1938, in a conversation with Mr. McGinnies, he advised me that the plans for the land management in District #6 were ready for presentation to me. He also wanted to know if I would be

home the first of the following week so that he and his men could present and explain this program for my approval, and I told him that I would be home and was very anxious that they explain this program to me before March 1, 1938, so that I could present it to the Hopi Tribal Council at their regular meeting on that date. I waited at the agency the first three days of the following week for word from him as to when he would be here and to date I am still waiting to hear from them regarding their program.

On April 18, 1938, a project was started on the Oraibi Wash at a point about 300 yards below the bridge on the road leading from Keams Canyon to Oraibi which consists of the construction of a dam in the wash to prevent further erosion and to act as a silt retaining dam. I understand that this work is being done by the Soil Conservation Service and to date they have completely ignored my office in regard to the construction of this project except for the fact that the foreman in charge asked my cooperation in furnishing a house, office space and a place for storing tools, which I very willingly did, and he advised me that his superior had told him that they would have to get my approval before they could start work, however, they have failed to contact my office at any time on this matter, and I am wondering if my office is not due the courtesy to be advised of projects of this type so that the information may be passed on to the Hopi Indians, or if this office should be completely ignored and not have anything whatever to say on the subject, because it places me in a very embarrassing position to be unable to explain to the Hopi Indians of plans in regard to the land management program in their area and they feel that it is mighty peculiar that a project of this type is being carried on and I am unable to explain anything about it and have never consulted the Hopi Tribal Council for their approval.

About March 1, 1938, representatives of the Soil Conservation Service visited the Oraibi High School; went over the grounds and drew plans for building a fence around the school grounds, a matter which to date has never been brought to the attention of this office. Their representative wanted to include within the school grounds sufficient area back of the garage which would cause one Hopi to have to give up two old apple trees and to which this Indian agreed, with the understanding and promise of this employee that he, personally, would deliver to him the following week twenty young apple trees in lieu of these two trees so the Indian prepared his land to plant the trees the following week and he is still waiting for the trees.

I have in mind several other cases similar to those stated above which to the average layman would give the impression that the Soil Conservation Service have no respect or consideration whatever for the Hopi Indians or their agency, showing a domineering attitude. I am not in any way trying to criticize their actions toward the Hopi Indians and their agency as it may be that this is according to your agreement with them and that the agreement drawn up by Superintendent Fryer and Mr. McGinnies was in error when they agreed that I should be consulted for my approval before any projects were started in the Hopi area and if it is the understanding that the Hopi Indians and the Hopi Indian Service representatives have no connection

whatever in the land management activities of their area, then I believe a letter to this effect from you is necessary so that the Hopi Indians may be informed that they and their agency have nothing to say in connection with the land management on their area, however, I do feel that the Soil Conservation Service employees should refrain from misleading the Indians and promising them certain things and not fulfilling their promises.

Last fall, at your suggestion, I asked the Hopi people to give an expression in regard to what sort of program we might work upon in order to do something for them and to have their council function more satisfactorily, but the general impression of the Council members now is, what is the use of our trying to suggest or do anything for our people, because of the fact that everything they have suggested to your Office except one case has been practically ignored. To give you some idea as to why they feel as they do, I wish to submit the following:

On March 1, 1938, the Hopi Tribal Council adopted a resolution, a copy of which is enclosed, and to date not one word has been received in the way of an answer. To give you information in regard to funds I wish to say that during the past few years the funds for the Hopi Reservation have been allotted to this agency and the approval of projects have been passed upon by both the land management people and the district road office or CCC-ID representative and the result of the Road program and CCC-ID program has been of considerable benefit to the Hopi people and also the Navajo people in this area. In July, 1937, the \$60,000 of Road funds appropriated for the Hopi Reservation was withdrawn and allotted to the Navajo Service and I was advised by the engineer at that time five projects had been approved to be constructed during the 1938 fiscal year in this area but not one of these projects was even started and before February 1, 1938, the Road Divisions suspended operation, with the expenditure of approximately \$18,000 in this area and which means that about \$42,000 of funds was taken away from this area to be spent in the Navajo area. Of course, this amount would be reduced slightly with the withdrawal of Road funds but the situation still remains the same, in that, the Hopi Indians in this area have received practically nothing in the way of wages for Indians or improvement by construction of projects.

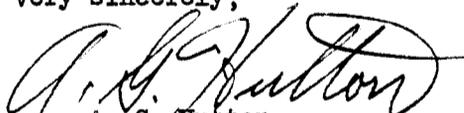
In connection with the CCC-ID work, these funds were transferred from the Hopi Agency to the Navajo Service in July, 1936, and in April, 1937, the entire work was moved away from this area and while a few Hopi Indians were able to obtain work at the concentrated camps, the Hopi people have not been receiving direct benefit of the improvements that might be derived from the money that they felt should be coming to them by this relief program. I hear that they are now spreading the work over the reservation as it originally was, but nothing yet has reached the Hopi area. A short time ago the Secretary of the Hopi Tribal Council called from Moencopi and advised that the CCC-ID desired to do some work on their irrigation project but that in order for them to get this work it would be necessary for me to provide the cement from Agency funds, which I did in order to get this improvement and work for these people. The situation as it is is proving

very unsatisfactory as far as the Hopi Indians are concerned, and I feel that beginning July 1, 1938, that these funds should again be allotted to the Hopi Agency and with the approval of the projects to remain as it was previous to their taking over the money, which system proved more satisfactory.

Another subject which has made the Hopi Tribal Council and Indians themselves feel disrespected is in regard to the payment of fees by Indian traders. The Hopis feel that they should have something to say about this since they have organized and adopted a constitution, but your Office gives the impression in correspondence to this office that Superintendent Fryer is the one to make the final decision and their remarks to me are, "What has Superintendent Fryer got to do with the Hopi Indians?" Another reason for their attitude is that on October 5, 1937, they passed a resolution objecting to the district set up, however, to date they have not received a reply. Then, too, on March 16, 1937, the Chairman wrote your Office objecting to the right of Superintendent Fryer to allot land to Navajo Indians on the Hopi Reservation and in answering this point was evaded entirely; also, the use of separate livestock brands has been called to the attention of your Office and nothing definite done on the matter and the question of whether Navajo Service employees can approve sales of Hopi livestock and also carry on trading activities with Hopi Indians themselves has never been answered, and it all goes to make the Hopi people feel that they have been misguided and misled when they adopted their constitution and by-laws and organized as a tribe.

I am only calling these things to your attention because I know you want to do whatever you can for the Hopi people. I believe that if we are going to be faithful to them and have their constitution be respected, which I faithfully explained to these people at the time of voting on same, and I believe it was only through my efforts that the constitution was adopted and the tribe organized, that the Office should try to give them a few privileges and listen to their side of the question and that in fairness to the Hopi people that the Road funds and CCC-ID funds be restored to the Hopi Agency because there is no question in my mind but what the present arrangement is very unfair to this area and to the Hopi Indians.

Very sincerely,


A. G. Hutton,
Superintendent.

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