



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PHOENIX AREA OFFICE

P. O. BOX 7007

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 20, 1954

Personal

Mr. Glenn L. Emmons
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Emmons:

This will serve as a report to you of my recent visit to the Hopi Reservation. Knowing the interest of Mr. Lewis and Senator Goldwater in the Hopis, I am taking the liberty of sending copies of this letter to them for their information.

In every meeting held with the Hopi people and with the agency staff, I extended your personal greetings, and I wish to add that these greetings were well received.

There seem to be three things that the Hopi people are completely together on, in spite of their many conflicts. They seem to be in unanimous agreement regarding the transfer of their jurisdiction to the Phoenix Area Office; they seem to be in complete agreement regarding their new superintendent, Mr. Clyde Pensoneau; and of course they are in complete agreement regarding efforts to have the area of the Executive Order Reservation returned to the control of the Hopi people.

On Sunday, July 11, the Superintendent and I attended the Kachina dance at Notoevilla village. At this dance recognition was given to the transfer to the Phoenix Area.

On Monday, July 12, the Superintendent and I held a meeting with the leaders of the traditional village of Shungopavy. It was an all-day meeting and the stone seats in the kiva became very hard before evening.

On Tuesday, July 13, arrangements were made to fly over the entire reservation by plane and I was very pleasantly surprised at the extent of the conservation work that has been completed on the Hopi Reservation. I believe an excellent job has been done in that field.

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On July 14, an all-day meeting was held with the tribal council, with perhaps a hundred visitors in attendance at the village of New Oraibi. At this meeting Mr. John Boyden gave quite a complete report to the council on his activities.

On Thursday, July 15, an all-day meeting was held with the leaders of the traditional village of Hotevilla. An evening meeting was held on the same date in Kemas Canyon with the staff of the Hopi Agency.

A meeting was scheduled for Friday, July 16, with the traditional villages of Mishongnevi and Sipsulevi. However, the home dance for these villages had been held on July 15, the day before, and a spokesman for the villages felt that it would be better to wait awhile before having the meeting, in that there are some religious ceremonies following the dance which the village leaders must participate in. Therefore it was left that Mr. Pensoneau would meet with these leaders perhaps sometime this week and that he and I together would meet with them on my next visit to Hopi. I returned to Phoenix on July 16.

When one first listens to the Hopi people it is easy to develop the feeling that it is an impossible situation for which no solution can be found. However, the longer one stays with these meetings and listens to the people, the more one becomes convinced that there is a solution but that a solution will be hard to find and slow in coming. The people consistently told us that it was the first time they had held meetings in their villages with the Area Director and I seemed to sense a feeling of optimism that the situation was not nearly as impossible as it appears on the surface. We may have to back up some before we can make progress. I don't know as yet.

I do feel rather strongly, however, regarding one thing I believe we need to consider. The people seem to resent very much being called upon to give hurried decisions. Therefore, I would like to request that we be very careful in sending any inquiries to the Hopi Agency which require hurried expressions on the part of the Hopi people. I believe we need a period of time to permit the superintendent to work carefully and slowly with the people to see if mutual respect and confidence can be established.

It would be a tremendous psychological move in the right direction if ways and means could be found to place the administration of the Executive Order Reservation under the Hopi Agency, without making the determination as to which Navajos or which Hopis had the right of use for that portion of the Executive Order Reservation outside the boundaries of District 6. After all, the Executive Order of 1862 establishing the Hopi Reservation for the Hopi Indians and such other Indians as the Secretary of the Interior saw fit to settle thereon, was in effect establishing the Hopi Reservation. It appears that the boundaries of that

Executive Order Reservation were established at the time of the Executive Order and I believe it would require no more than an administrative order placing the Executive Order Reservation under the Hopi Agency. I realize it will take either Congressional action or court action to definitely establish the use pattern of the Executive Order Reservation outside of District 6.

It was a terrific letdown for the Hopi people when the memorandum of April 9, 1954 was supplemented by the telegram of June 24, 1954, modifying the area to be transferred. *what is this*

In our meetings we repeatedly told the Hopi leaders that it was our intention to work with all of the Hopi people and not with any select group. I also stated that there was no change in the position of the Central Office in recognizing the tribal council, as outlined in the Acting Commissioner's letter of July 17, 1953.

Mr. Platt Cline attended some of the meetings with us and was extremely helpful in making contacts with the traditional leaders. In addition to the meetings described above, we did visit every village on the reservation with the exception of Moenkopi.

Now I realize it is dangerous to form opinions after a week's visit into a complicated situation such as exists at Hopi, but I plan to spend considerable time on the reservation and we will make every effort to come up with something concrete. In the meantime, I will appreciate your giving consideration to the advisability of placing the entire Executive Order Reservation under the administration of the Hopi Agency.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph M. Gelwin

Area Director

cc: Asst. Secretary Orme Lewis
Senator Barry Goldwater