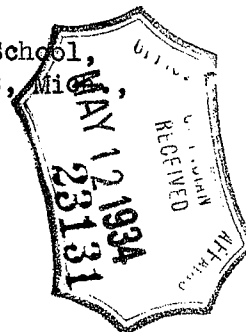


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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

U.S. Indian School,
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.,
May 9, 1934.



Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

At the invitation of a delegation of Indians representing that band the writer attended a meeting of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawas and Chippewas, held in the public school at Peshabytown near Suttons Bay, Michigan, on May 5. The meeting was attended by 110 Indians from Northport, Omena and Elk Rapids districts. The purpose of the meeting was to study and discuss the pending Wheeler-Howard Bill.

Much misinformation in regard to this legislation has recently been circulated in the Traverse City district by individuals who either through ignorance or design have endeavored to arouse sentiment among these Indians against the bill. The meeting, which lasted about two and one-half hours, was devoted to an explanation of the chief features of the bill, followed by an invitation to the Indians to ask questions on points not clear to them. The Indians were frankly told that the question whether the provisions of the proposed legislation would apply to them or to other Indians similarly situated would depend on the amounts of the appropriations which Congress might provide. Notwithstanding this, when an expression of opinion was invited from the various districts represented they all without exception expressed themselves as favoring it and declared their intention of making their wishes in the matter known to their Congressional representatives.

The speakers representing the different districts were: Northport - Mr. Sampson Pigeon, Jonas Shawndesan, James Cobb; Omena - Mr. George Antoine; Elk Rapids - Mr. Steven Southbird; Charlevoix - Mrs. Agosa. Mrs. MacMillan, a native of the Rosebud reservation, now residing in Traverse City, gave a very constructive talk in favor of the bill, pointing out to the Indians that the circumstances at the present time were more favorable to the success of legislation in favor of Indians than at any time in the past. She urged them to write their Congressional representatives in support of the measure.

Next day the writer proceeded to Bay Mills, Brimley, Michigan, where there is a small reservation of Chippewas. Owing to the isolation of this colony because of the unusually severe winter these Indians knew little about the Wheeler-Howard Bill. After its chief provisions had been explained to them they were unanimous in agreeing that it was worthy of their unqualified support. They declared their intention of writing their Congressmen urging support of the bill when it comes up.

Commissioner

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Mr. [unclear] [Copies of a letter just received from the Executive Secretary of the American Indian Defense Association urging Indians to actively support the bill have been mimeographed and forwarded to representatives in the various Indian colonies of Michigan for distribution among the Indian population.]

Very sincerely yours,

Frank Christy
Frank Christy
Superintendent.

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(Noted already
Noted - Hayward Conference)

MAY 31 1934

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(official)

Mr. Frank Christy,

Supt., Mount Pleasant School

My dear Mr. Christy:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 9, advising of the action of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawas and Chippewas and of the Chippewas residing near Bay Mills.

We are pleased to note their favorable acceptance of the Wheeler-Howard bill. Please keep us posted of the action of any other groups under your jurisdiction.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John Collier

Commissioner

5-jun-34

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