

**The original documents are located in Box 19, folder “Indians - Pine Ridge Reservation” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Abourezk  
James  
(FBI)  
Cong.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 18, 1975

Dear Senator Abourezk:

Thank you for your June 27 letter to the President in regard to the serious situation on the Pine Ridge Reservation. I am aware of your meeting with Attorney General Levi and Secretary Hathaway and have been kept apprised of the discussions on your proposal that the U.S. Marshal be placed in charge of criminal law enforcement activities and crime prevention programs on the Reservation.

The President and I share your concern about the need to restore both order and long-term peace to Pine Ridge and will continue to follow the situation closely.

Sincerely,

*Philip W. Buchen*

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

The Honorable James Abourezk  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN  
FROM: BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG

The attached response from you to Senator Abourezk re the situation on the Pine Ridge Reservation has been approved by the appropriate individuals at Justice and Interior and by Dr. Marrs.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Indian's*  
*Abourezk,*  
*James*  
*(copy)*

July 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

TED MARRS

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

SUBJECT:

Letter from Senator Abourezk  
re Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Please let me have your suggestions for a reply to  
the attached letter.

Attachment



July 2, 1975

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your June 27 letter to the President in further reference to the situation at the Pine Ridge Reservation.

As you know, the President is very much aware of the present problems and I conveyed your previous message to him. I know that he will appreciate having your recommendations with respect to the situation and I shall make certain he receives your letter without delay.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable James Abouresk  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

~~bcc: w/incoming to Philip Buchen for appropriate handling~~  
bcc: w/incoming to James Cannon - for your information

WTK:EF:VO:vo



HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN

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DEWEY F. BARTLETT, OKLA.

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DATE PRINTED 1974

GRENVILLE GARSIDE, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM J. VAN NESS, CHIEF COUNSEL

June 27, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. President:

I have been attempting to talk to you directly today, but I have been unable to do so. In lieu of a personal message to you concerning the tragic situation on the Pine Ridge Reservation, I am writing this letter to make some recommendations which I think must be carried out in an effort to restore some kind of order to Pine Ridge.

On numerous occasions prior to yesterday's tragic events, I have urged upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs that a different policy be carried out on the reservation designed to end the anarchy which has existed there during the past two-and one-half years. I have received only a bureaucratic response, but no action. Therefore, the only avenue remaining is direct action on your part to order the necessary basic changes which need to be made.

Accordingly, I offer the following recommendations with respect to the Pine Ridge Reservation:

1. that the Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement authority be transferred to professional law enforcement personnel either in the Bureau of Indian Affairs or in the Justice Department and removed from political control under which it now acts on the reservation.
2. removal of all outside people from the Pine Ridge Reservation.
3. appointment by you of a special investigative team, comprised of Indian people not affiliated with the government or with either faction on the reservation. This team would make a determination of responsibility for the decline of order and should recommend changes which are needed in the tribal structure so that the interests of rank and file Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation are attended to.

*Re Pine Ridge Res.*

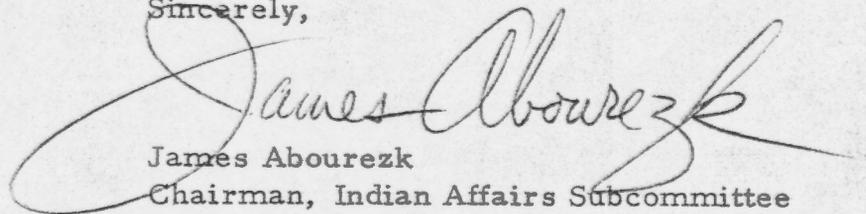
*ms*



The President  
The White House  
June 27, 1975  
Page 2

An endemic level of violence has been maintained on the reservation ever since the Wounded Knee occupation in 1973, and I cannot foresee any end to the conditions of violence unless some immediate changes are made.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Abourezk". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James Abourezk  
Chairman, Indian Affairs Subcommittee





# WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION

DAILY NEWSPAPER SERVING NORTHEASTERN S. D. AND WEST CENTRAL MINN.

WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57201

July 3, 1975

President Gerald Ford  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Ford:

I am enclosing a copy of an exclusive interview held by this newspaper and Senator James Abourezk, published July 2nd.

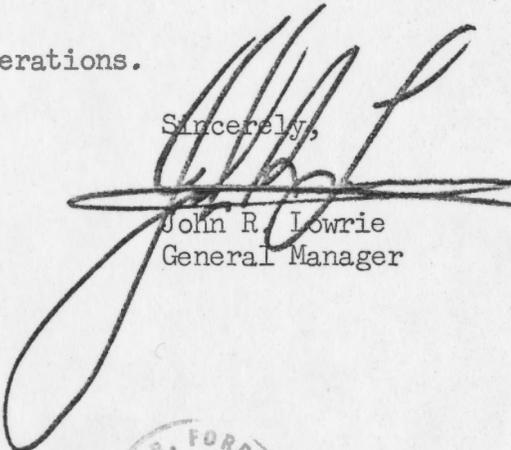
The interview outlines the content of a letter, hand delivered to your office by a representative in Senator Abourezk's office regarding his request for assistance at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation here in South Dakota.

We would appreciate your comments and your intentions regarding this critical and unfortunate situation on one of our Indian reservations.

If you care to comment publicly, we would appreciate greatly publicizing your opinions, suggestions and intentions or if you would wish to comment to us personally, we, of course, will preserve your confidentiality.

Thank you for the above considerations.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Lowrie  
General Manager

JRL:db  
Enc. - 1



Friday 7/11/75

6:40 Bobbie Kilberg advises she has been working with Dr. Marrs on the Pine Ridge Reservation problem and has been deluged with calls from the Indian Committee.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1975

*Indians  
(see  
Abdnor,  
James)*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG

*Bobbie*

In response to your November 5 memo to Phil Buchen on unanswered Congressional correspondence, I am providing a status report on a letter from Congressman James Abdnor to the President.

Attached at Tab A is a copy of Vern Loen's letter to Congressman Abdnor concerning an inquiry by the Congressman about a memorandum to the President from Robert Burnette, President of the Sioux Tribe. (Burnette memo also attached.) The Counsel's Office did not receive a copy of the Burnette memo until Vern sent it to us with his October 4 reply to the Congressman. Upon receiving Vern's letter, I attempted to contact Bob Burnette, who was a friend of mine. No one answered in the Tribal Office on a number of occasions, and through other contacts I discovered that the reason related to a very active and bitter election campaign that was being conducted for the Tribal Presidency. The result of that election was that Bob Burnette lost the Presidency of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe by 40 votes. Burnette then attempted to fire the Tribal Judge who certified the election and swore in the victor and, when that move failed, filed suit in Federal district court to invalidate the swearing-in and to order a new election. Burnette also called Ted Marrs to try to persuade him to have the White House intervene in the election dispute. Ted declined to do so.

Given the above circumstances, I did not think it was appropriate to continue to try to contact Bob Burnette. Ted Marrs had received the original of the Burnette memo to the President and had sent it to the FBI for further comment and response. He has not received a response to date. The Justice Department, one of the addressees of the Burnette memo, has been looking into the alleged harassment



as well as into a number of other alleged incidents on the neighboring Pine Ridge Reservation. There is at present no substantive reply to Burnette and, therefore, no copy to Congressman Abdnor. Until there is such a reply, I did not think it was necessary to correspond with the Congressman. However, I would be happy to verbally convey this information to Congressman Abdnor and will do so on Monday unless I hear from you to the contrary.

Though the Abdnor letter is the only one from your list which I personally have as outstanding, let me also note that the Counsel's Office has not sent a further White House response to a letter from Congresswoman Holt to the President dated September 29. Vern Loen answered the Congresswoman on October 6 (see Tab B for Holt letter and Loen response), and it was my opinion, shared by Dick Parsons and David Lissy of the Domestic Council, that Vern's letter was both sufficient and as responsive as the White House could be. There was no further response we could give the Congresswoman to her attack on HEW, the Federal courts and Justice that (1) would please her; and (2) would not run the danger of being misinterpreted by various groups.

cc: Phil Buchen  
Vern Loen  
Ted Marrs

Attachments



**Saturday 11/8/75**

**10:45 Bobbie wanted you to know that she's still working with the Indians.**

**She and Dr. Marrs are meeting tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room with the traditional chiefs of the Pine Ridge Reservation. There has been a lot of FBI trouble and two deaths.**

**She felt it shouldn't have been dignified by a meeting in the Roosevelt Room -- rather, in her office -- but.....**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: EDWARD H. LEVI  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THRU: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THEODORE C. MARRS *TCM*  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT

I would appreciate a basis for an appropriate response.

Attachment



17  
ROBERT P. BURNETTE

President

Rosebud, S. D.

# Rosebud Sioux Tribe

NORMAN L. KNOX

Secretary

Okreek, S. D.

ADAM BORDEAUX

Rosebud Indian Reservation

South Dakota

LOIS D. LONG

Treasurer

Misson, S. D.

Vice President

Rosebud, S. D.

Incorporated Under Act of June 18, 1934, 48 Stat-984

PHONE: (605)-747-3383

## TRIBAL COUNCILMEN

Antelope Community

CHARLIE COLOMBE  
ALOYSIOUS LARVIE  
JACOB ANTOINE  
SPENCER BEAR HEELS  
DICK LONE DOG

September 15, 1975

Black Pipe Community

CHRISTINE DUNHAM

## MEMORANDUM

Bull Creek Community

PAUL EAGLE STAR

TO: HONORABLE GERALD FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Butte Creek Community

NELSON STRANGER HORSE

ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVY

SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK

Corn Creek Community

NARCISSE BRAVE

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

CONGRESSMAN LARRY PRESSLER

He Dog Community

LEO RUNNING HORSE

CONGRESSMAN JAMES ABDNOR

Horse Creek Community

BEN KNIFE

FROM: ROBERT BURNETTE, PRESIDENT, ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

Ideal Community

LEVI ANTOINE  
GEORGE BEAR

SUBJECT: F.B.I. HARRASSMENT ON THE ROSEBUD RESERVATION

Milks Camp Community

HAMPTON ANDREWS

Please, excuse this manner of communication, but it is vital and necessary that the occurances cease immediately, so I am taking this means of advising you.

Okreek Community

DONALD KNOX

We know that two F.B.I. agents were killed on the Pine Ridge Reservation and that the F.B.I. is seeking revenge for those deaths in and amongst Indian people.

Parmelee Community

JAMES GUERUE  
ROBERT WALN  
TITUS WHITE LANCE

We can, readily, avail ourselves to searches such as went on at the Crow Dog and Al Running residences a few days ago and the researching of Al Running's house and premises last Thursday, but when 20 or 30 of your agents raid Charlie Little Dog or Broken Leg's home and scare them to death for no reason whatsoever, we must call a halt to this type of harrassment. Mr. and Mrs. Little Dog have been married for 64 years - longer than most people live - and they have no reputation whatsoever of being affiliated with outside Indian groups, but through the stupidity of the F.B.I. or whoever is in charge of them, they raided this couple's home for no reason.

Ring Thunder Community

ROBERT STEAD

St. Francis Community

MICHAEL BOLTZ  
BOB QUIGLEY  
ANGELINE RABBIT  
JONAS SWIFT

Soldier Creek Community

JOHN LONGCOR

Swift Bear Community

JOE IYOTTE, JR.  
FRANCIS BORDEAUX

Two Strike Community

LEO CHASING IN TIMBER

Spring Creek Community

CHARLES KILLS IN WATER

Upper Cut Meat Community

VICTOR LITTLE THUNDER

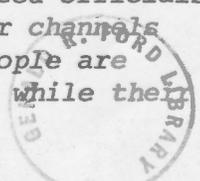
Rosebud Community

CPIE LAPOINTE  
ROBERT LAPOINTE  
JULIE C. LAMBERT

Grass Mountain Community

STANLEY WHIPPLE

I demand a full apology from the United States of America and should this occur again and any of our older people be harrassed by personnel looking like they belong in the jungle ready for battle and armed with machine guns, automatic weapons and helicopters, I shall have to take steps to stop such proceedings. If you want the cooperation of duly elected officials of this Tribe, I suggest that your people use proper channels because I will not stand idly by while our older people are forced to look down the barrel of automatic weapons while their homes are search and seized.



JERT P. BURNETTE

Rosebud, S. D.

# Rosebud Sioux Tribe

NORMAN L. KNOX

Secretary

Okreek, S. D.

ADAM BORDEAUX

Rosebud Indian Reservation

LOIS D. LONG

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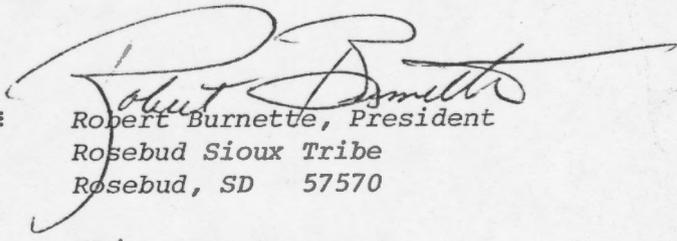
STANLEY WHIPPLE

MEMO

Page 2

*Again, I say, I demand an apology to this Tribe and to Mr. and Mrs. Little Dog.*

*Hoping our relationship will improve, I remain*



Robert Burnette, President  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Rosebud, SD 57570

RB/s

