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PRESIDENT FORD'S POLICIES FOR AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLE

When I signed the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in January, 1975, I described that legislation as a "milestone for Indian people." During my Congressional career and my two years as President, I have tried to make Indian self-determination effective and successful.

I recognize the special relationship of trust that Indian tribes have with the United States, and I have often emphasized that support of self-determination includes oppositon to any deterioration of this relationship.

Because of the many needs on Indian reservations--for economic development, improved health care, increased educational opportunities, better roads, liveable housing--I have urged the strengthening of tribal governments. In this new era of Indian self-determination, the elected leadership of Indian tribes is the key to successful achievement of the goals of America's first citizens.

History has demonstrated that the Federal government's domination cannot meet the needs nor solve the problems of our Indian citizens. Paternalism of the past in Indian affairs is a proven failure. Consequently, I have sought to make available to Indian tribes the resources and technical assistance needed for them to solve their own problems and achieve their own goals.

I have backed up policies and promises with money:

In the past six years the budget of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been increased by almost 300 percent and the Indian health budget has grown by almost 400 percent. The Department of Commerce is targeting \$27.7 million for Indian economic planning and economic development in 1977. The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act administered by the Department of Labor, allocates significant funds to Indian people: before the CETA was enacted (in FY 1973) manpower allocations for Indians totaled \$17.3 million; today Indian manpower funds total \$75 million, including \$52.6 million going directly to 157 Indian prime sponsors. The Office of Education's special funds for Indian education have risen from \$18 million in FY 1973 to \$42 million today.

I have asked Cabinet agencies to give particular attention to many special concerns of the Indian people. Among these is the need for reform to protect Indian family life. Too many Indian children are separated from their parents and improved social services are needed to alleviate this problem.



The Administration is encouraging Indian Tribal Councils to adopt their own juvenile and family protection codes and has supported the National Indian Judges Association in a three-year training program to enable tribal judges to handle more effectively divorce, child custody, and welfare cases.

It is definitely the Administration's policy to reduce the numbers of younger Indian children who are at boarding schools for long periods of time. In fact, total elementary age enrollment in these schools is down by 6,000, while most of the rest are Navajo children who go home on weekends. But closing all the boarding schools would fly in the face of the strong desires of the affected tribes themselves and would in fact remove what is the only educational resource for some Indian children.

I have directed the Departments of Interior and Justice to give high priority to the protection of Indian natural resources rights, especially water rights. We are defending 23 water rights cases, 13 hunting and fishing cases and 21 land rights cases. We have won milestone decisions for Indian rights in a number of these proceedings.

I am still awaiting Congressional action on my proposal to create an Indian Trust Counsel Authority which would be able to intervene in any court as a Federal Government advocate for Indian natural resources rights.

There has been an enormous surge in Indian education these past several years. More than 16,000 Indian students with Federal grants now attend college and university campuses to gain the professional skills needed in their communities.

We have halted the erosion of the tribal land base and restorations have been achieved of Blue Lake, Mt. Adams, and the Menominee lands, while the historic Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act has become law.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has been transformed from a non-Indian organization providing services and running programs for Indians to a predominantly Indian organization which works with Indian communities to help them meet their program and service needs. New Indian service sections have been established in many other agencies such as HEW, HUD, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, and Justice.



The Indian Financing Act is being implemented and having a marked effect on economic development on the reservations. Revenue sharing reaches Indian tribal governments directly; education monies are granted or contracted so as to strengthen the role of Indian parent advisory groups in having a say in the education of their children.

Funds under the National Indian Education Act, for instance, have now reached 1,200 school districts and 235 grantees.

The policy of Indian self-determination has led to increased responsibilities and roles for tribal governing bodies through the contracting of erstwhile Federal programs and in other ways. This policy must continue and expand to the point that the Indian communities are truly controlling their own destinies.

The successful implementation of Indian self-determination lays the groundwork for Indian communities to effect solutions to numerous chronic problems which have long afflicted the reservations.

Finally, I have urged my White House Staff and government agencies to meet Indian people with open doors and sensitivity. These officials are in daily contact with national Indian leadership organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians, the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, the United Indian Planners Association, the Americans for Indian Opportunity and a dozen others that assist their memberships toward better opportunities.

As I said when I met with a group of Indian leaders in the White House on July 16, "Together we can write a new chapter in the history of this land that we all serve and this land that we all share."

August 5, 1976

Steve:

A fairly careful check yesterday afternoon and last night reveals to me that among those of us familiar with Indian policy -- Commissioner of Indian Affairs Thompson, Ted Marrs, myself, Mrs. Kilberg and Howard Borgstrom of OMB -- none of us had seen that platform language.

After consultation, I suggest the attached language -- closely similar to what you have, but different in a couple of important respects. The words "unique" and "trust relationship" are important in the Indian community; reservation resource development and education and employment problems rank along with health as major matters to Indian leaders; the reference to the Indian Claims Commission and the singling out of the Alaska Native Claims Act are inappropriate in a Platform.

The flavor here of "continuation" and "our" Indian policy is intentional and also important. We have done a tremendous amount since 1970 (no room I assume, to state all those accomplishments), and we can be very proud of it.

Nothing in the platform language should sound as though we are only atarting now.



August 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM NICHOLSON
VIA: WILLIAM BAROODY
FROM: BRADLEY H. PATTERSON, JR.
SUBJECT: Invitation to the President to
Address the National Indian
Education Association Meeting
in Albuquerque

I am not very high on his accepting this invitation. Education is a field in Indian-Federal relations which has been very prickly, with confrontations in the recent past (some in the courts) between the Indian Education community and the White House.

It is my understanding that the President has been invited to attend the Crow Festival in Montana on August 20, and it is also my understanding that Ted Marrs has long been hoping that President Ford would be the first President in recent history to visit an Indian reservation while in office. (Quite a few thousands of Indian reservation people from many tribes will be there, I am told.)

Commissioner Thompson and I agree that the Crow Festival on August 20 would be the best event for such a visit; if the President is in that part of the country around that time, all the more so.

I would put my eggs in this basket rather than the event in Albuquerque.



August 23, 1976

Dear Chairman Burch:

Ted Marrs, when he left, mentioned that you had asked for a special picture of the President on behalf of the Southern Ute Tribal Council.

It is a pleasure to send this to you, and with it go my own cordial regards.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Leonard Burch
Chairman
Southern Ute Tribal Council
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Enclosed official Presidential portrait-To the members of the Souther Ute Indian Tribal Council. with best wishes (GRF)



Dear Chief Swimmer:

Mr. Baroody has given me your letter of July 23 and your suggestion that the President be present at the signing of the Cherokee Constitution.

I have checked with the Scheduling Office here and find that for the next few months, the President's calendar is going to be almost completely committed.

It would be my respectful advice that you go ahead and plan the ceremony and set a date; this important event should not be deferred. Then inform Commissioner Thompson, let me know the date you have chosen, and we will see which VIP visitors might be able to join you.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Chief Ross O. Swimmer
Cherokee Nation
PO Box 119
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

bc: Commissioner Morris Thompson



Dear President Driving Hawk:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of July 14, for coming to be with him during the meeting here in Washington, and especially for the handsome peace pipe which you presented to him.

We share your concerns about the alienation of Indian lands and also about the Indian health facility to which you refer. I am asking that further checks be made on both these points and that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service respond to you directly on these respective matters.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Edward Driving Hawk
President
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570



BHP:msp
cc: Commissioner Morris Thompson direct reply
Director Johnson for direct reply
copy to Bradley Patterson, White House

bc: Marge Wicklein

Dear Chief Thunder Sky
Pedro Witson
Peggy Shrader:

The President has asked me to thank you for
your gracious note.

We are glad the medals arrived and were properly
delivered.

The President is strongly committed to the kind
of change we have had in Indian affairs since
1970 and while there is still much to do, we
believe the new directions we have established
will prove of great benefit to the First Americans.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Chief Richard B. Thunder Sky
Pedro Whitson
Peggy J. Shrader
137 N. Fifth Street
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

BHP;msp



Dear Mr. Card;

Dr. Ted Marrs has left the White House to become active in the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque. The President has asked me to take his place and I wanted to respond to your letter.

I am sorry if there seemed to be an omission about those invited to the July 16 meeting; I think, however, that the invitations were generally focused on the largest tribes and on the nationwide Indian organizations.

I would be very much interested in knowing more about the United Tribes Council of Pacific West; which tribes do you represent and how is the Council chosen? What are its officers and its program? I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. V. Card
United Tribes Council of Pacific West
PO Box 16114
Sacramento, California 95816



Dear Chairman Woods:

Thank you for your letter of August 12 concerning the candidates for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education, and recommending Mr. John R. Jones.

The decision about membership is very close to being final, but the last step is still to be taken. We won't rule anybody out until that point.

We very much appreciate having your recommendation of Mr. Jones and want to assure you that his candidacy will be given full consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Rev. James H. Woods, Chairman
Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.
East Main Street
PO Box 68
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372

BHP:msp



Dear Mr. Tomah:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 7 about the Comanche Housing Authority.

The General Accounting Office is an arm of Congress; it responds to requests made by Chairmen of Congressional Committees and by Members of Congress.

Since, however, the Comanche Housing Authority presumably received funds from either the Department of the Interior or HUD, I would think that one of these agencies would be interested in your complaint. I will start with the Department of the Interior and ask them to respond directly to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

**Mr. Lawrence Tomah, Jr.
Box 187
Walters, Oklahoma 73572**

BHP:msh

cc: BIA-Housing Office, copy to Bradley Patterson, White House



Dear Mr. McCormick:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 14 concerning the housing needs of the Lower Creek Nation.

I am not immediately familiar with the situation you describe, but am asking the proper officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to respond directly to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Neal McCormick
Principal Chief
The Lower Creek Muscogee Tribe
Route 1
Tama Reservation
Cairo, Georgia 31728

BHP:msp

cc: HUD-Indian Desk

copy to Bradley Patterson, White House



Dear Chief McCormick:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 12 describing the problems you have had with the CETA grant.

I do not have the details and specifics about this matter at my fingertips, but I am asking Assistant Secretary of Labor, William H. Kohlberg, to respond to you directly with the answer to your question.

Bill is an outstanding administrator and I know you will hear from him promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

**Neal
Mr. ~~Neal~~ McCormick
Principal Chief
The Lower Creek Muscogee Tribe
Route 1
Tama Reservation
Cairo, Georgia 31728**

**BHP;msp
cc: Assistant Secretary Kohlberg
copy to Bradley Patterson, White House**



Dear Wendell:

It was a pleasure seeing you and Rita and your daughter the other day. Hope to repeat the visit out your way some time when schedule permits.

The President signed the memorandum about yours truly, and I enclose a copy of it.

Among Ted's papers I found your telegram of July 14 about school meals eligibility. I don't know the details of this, but I am going to find out and am asking the Administrator of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, to check and write you directly with an answer to your question. I'll get a copy of his letter, too.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Wendell Chino
President, National Tribal Chairmen's Assn.
Mescalero Apache Tribal Council
PO Box 326
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

cc: The Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service
Department of Agriculture for direct reply
copy to Bradley Patterson



Dear Mr. Niebell:

Permit me to respond to your two letters of May 22, 1976 to Dr. Ted Marrs. Ted has departed from the White House to become active in the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque; I apologize for the delay in replying. I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to send copies of the Hayes and other decisions involving the Creek Nation's claim to the riverbeds within the boundaries of the former Creek Nation.

You have asked for an opinion with respect to the extent to which the Creek Nation may go in its new proposed constitution toward revitalizing its tribal authority. I am reluctant to give my opinion in the abstract as to how far the tribe may go in revitalizing the tribal authority because I am not familiar with the full range of the tribe's needs. I would not want to be in a position of pre-empting or stifling tribal authority by suggesting possible or hypothetical limitations on the extent of that authority.

One of the purposes of Interior's review of the proposed constitution would be to see if any of the tribal authority which the leaders would propose to exercise has been limited by Congress. I would encourage the leaders of the Creek Nation to proceed with the development and submission of their proposed constitution as rapidly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Paul M. Niebell
910 - 17th Street NW
Suite 419
Washington, D. C. 20006



Dear Chief Barlow:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of July 30 asking about the status of H. R. 11018.

In checking, I find that this bill has not been scheduled for hearings by either House or Senate Committees. Since what those Committees do is a Congressional rather than a Presidential matter, you will have to ask Chairman Meeds or Chairman Jackson what their plans are.

The Committees normally ask the Executive Branch for reports about pending bills, but we usually send them up when hearings have actually been scheduled.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Lewis H. Barlow, Chief
Ottawa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 110
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

BHP:msp



Dear Mr. Jacket:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of August 12. He invited follow-up comments and is glad that you took him up on his invitation.

I don't have the precise answers at my fingertips about the problems you describe with the Economic Development Administration and the Small Business Administration, but I am going to find out promptly and am asking the senior officers of EDA and SBA here in Washington to write you directly.

The President is proud of the changes made since 1970 in Indian policies and programs and appreciates your own candid observations. You will hear from us.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Henry Jacket, Sr.
Tribal Treasurer
The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

BHP:msp

cc: EDA, Depty Asst. Secretary Joseph Hamrick for direct reply, with copy to Bradley Patterson, White House
SBA Administrator Mitchell Kobelinski for direct reply, with copy to Bradley Patterson, White House



Dear Mr. Trimble:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 6 concerning S. 3298.

In doing some checking, I find that your letter should really have been addressed in the first instance to the Congress, since whether or not hearings are held (as in the Senate) or whether or not a bill is introduced (as in the House) is a matter for decision at that end of Pennsylvania Avenue. As soon as hearings are in close prospect, the Administration will gear up to make a report on the bill.

As NCAI knows, over the past 6 years the Administration and the Office of the President have been in the forefront of protecting Indian natural resources rights; we are proud of that record and will continue to maintain it.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Charles E. Trimble
Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians
1430 K Street NW - Suite 700
Washington, D. C. 20005

BHP:mzp



Dear Chairman McKay:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of July 14 inquiring about the school facility at Devil's Lake.

I do not have the answer to your question at my fingertips, but I am asking the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Morris Thompson, to respond to you personally.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

**Carl McKay, Chairman
Devils Lake Sioux Tribal Council
Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335**

BHP:msp

**cc: Commissioner Morris Thompson for direct reply
copy to Bradley Patterson, White House**



August 30, 1976

Dear Chief Hewitt:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 26 concerning the action of the Tuscarora Chiefs in regard to Mr. Hubert Swanson.

I have sent your letter promptly to Assistant Attorney General Peter Taft of the Department of Justice to ascertain the applicability of 25 U.S.C.A. PL 180 to the Tuscarora Indian Nation. Assistant Attorney General Taft should be in touch with you shortly.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson

Chief Arnold Hewitt
Tuscarora Chiefs in Council
Tuscarora Indian Nation
5616 Walmone Rd.
Via: Lewiston, New York 14092

BHP/tm



Dear Ms. Rank:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of July 30, 1976 transmitting to him the Resolution of the United Sioux Tribes Number 76-001 of July 29.

I am asking the Secretary of Agriculture to have a reply sent to you on the substance of this Resolution since I know he shares your concern about the drought conditions in the upper Midwest.

I know you will hear from the Department of Agriculture promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Ms. Elnita Rank, President
United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota
Po Box 1193
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

BHP:msp

cc: Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz for direct reply
with copy to Bradley Patterson, White House



Dear Mr. Atkinson:

Dr. Marrs, to whom you wrote on August 10, has left the White House to become active in the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque. The President has asked me to take his place.

I would be happy to be kept informed of the work of the Commission and hope you will send me the copy of your annual report. If there are some liaison duties which seem advisable, I may be able to be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Hawley Atkinson, Chairman
Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission
2708 N. Fourth Street
PO Box 1178
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

BHP:mSP



Dear Ms. Blanchard and Bob White:

The President has asked me to thank you for your telegram and for sending him your good wishes.

The President is strongly committed to the changes we have had in Indian affairs since 1970, and while there is still much to do to reduce poverty among Indian people, we believe the new directions we have established -- in laws such as the Indian Self-Determination Act -- will prove of great benefit to the First Americans.

Cordial regards to the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma,

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Ms. Cecilia Blanchard
Mr. Bob White
PO Box 58
McLoud, Oklahoma 73006

BHP;msp



**Dear Chairman Dasheno and
Executive Director Agoyo:**

**The President has asked me to thank you for
your note to him and to the various Cabinet
Secretaries of July 16.**

**I am asking each of the responsible Departments
to respond directly to you in answer to the
questions you raise in the paragraphs of your
paper which pertain to their respective programs**

**In general, we believe that with the new policy and
legislative program for Indian people which has been
in effect beginning in 1970, the kinds of problems are
being addressed with more energy and resources than
at any time in our history.**

**With respect to your paragraph 10, Revenue Sharing,
I can give you one assurance right now: the President
fully supports the extension of Revenue Sharing and
wants the Congress to take the necessary action promptly.**

**Of course there is distance still to go -- and we apprec-
iate knowing of your specific concerns which we shall
answer in individual communications.**

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

**Mr. Walter Dasheno
Mr. Herman Agoyo
Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council
PO Box 927
San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico 87566**



**cc: Department of the Interior BIA-Paragraphs 2, 5, 8, 9, 11
Department of the Interior BOR Paragraph 12
Department of Commerce EDA-Paragraphs 3 and 4
Department of HEW - Indian Health Service-Paragraph 6
Department of Justice -Civil Rights Division-Paragraph 7
Department of Justice-LEAA-Paragraph 11
cc of response to Bradley Patterson, White House**

September 3, 1976

Dear Ms. Richardson:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 11 requesting Title IV-A Indian Education funds for your community.

I know that these funds are allocated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but after a review by the National Indian Education Advisory Committee. They have many competing requests from all over the country and must make many close decisions among meritorious applications.

I will ask the proper officials to write you further about your request. I know that they do try to make the available funds go as far as possible, and to see that they are used to benefit the maximum number of Indian children.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Ms. Bertha Richardson
154 N. Saginaw Street
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

cc: w/incoming to S. Gabe Paxton, Jr. Office of
Education, HEW
copy of response requested to Bradley Patterson
White House



September 3, 1976

Dear Members of the Madera Student Body:

Mr. Marrs, who has left the White House, has given me his copy of your letter of August 9 to Commissioner Thompson.

I am sure you have heard or will shortly hear from Commissioner Thompson and I am asking his office to send me a copy of the response. We are proud of the progress we have made in the last several years in Indian education and training, and I know every effort is being made to continue and improve these programs for the benefit of the Indian community as a whole.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Members of the Student Body
American Indian Enterprises, Inc.
Madera Employment Training Center
19500 Road 28-1/2
Madera, California



September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Button:

The President has asked me to thank you for your notes and for sending him the material on the Pima Indians and their water problems.

I believe the Secretary of the Interior is shortly going to make some adjudications concerning Indian water rights in Arizona, so I shall send your communications promptly to him. Also, a bill has been introduced in Congress (S 3298) but hearings have not been held on it, and it is late in the session for a new bill to get very far.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Button
352 Barbara Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

cc: File to Reid Chambers, Dept. of Interior
for information



September 7, 1976

Dear Ms. Cope:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of July 29 about the Ganienkeh settlement.

I think I need a bit more information than you have given me about what the issue is in this specific case. As a general rule, this Administration and the previous one have always preferred to negotiate with the Indian people rather than to use violence. We have no reach over State or local law enforcement, but it is my impression that local governmental bodies are also much more sensitive than before about Indian matters.

I will send your letter along right away to the Department of Justice, so they will know your views. For my edification, what are the issues and who are the players in this instance?

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Ms. Joan Cope, Clerk
The Committee on Indian Affairs
of the New York Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
201 Houston Avenue
Syracuse, New York, 13224



cc: w/ incoming to Department of Justice, copy of
response requested to Bradley Patterson, White House

September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. Davis:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letters to him, the earlier one of which he received during the July meeting.

I do not have the specific answers to your questions at my fingertips, but I want you to know that I am asking the right officers of the Departments of Commerce (EDA), Labor and Interior (BIA) to examine your letter and to respond.

I would think that the resources being made available under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, plus those under other statutes such as CETA and EDA and the Self-Determination Act would go a long way toward meeting the needs of the twelve Associations. The kinds of problems mentioned on page 2 of your letter are precisely those which the Claims Settlement Act was designed to address.

We shall ensure that you get a further response.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Lawrence Davis, President
Kawerak, Inc.
PO Box 505
Nome, Alaska 99762



cc: w/incoming to Ray Tanner, EDA, request for response
re pertinent paragraph pages 4 and 6
cc: w/incoming William Kolberg, Department of Labor,
request for response re pertinent paragraph 4
cc: w/incoming Commissioner Thompson, BIA, request
for response re paragraphs on pages 3 and 5

COPIES OF responses requested to Bradley Patterson, White House

September 7, 1976

Dear Ms. Stanevich:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of July 27 about the statue of General Custer and about American Indians.

I am sure you understand that putting up or taking down such a statue is, of course, a local matter and it would not be right for the Federal Government to intervene to try to tell a local community what to do.

Perhaps if I may make a purely personal suggestion: rather than tear down something, see if you and your Native American associates there could talk to the local school officials and find out if any history of American Indian people is being taught in history classes there. Perhaps your group could help as resource people in enriching the students' studies.

We are very proud that for the past six years the Federal Government has given very special attention to American Indian problems and is strengthening Tribal Governments, standing up for Indian natural resources rights, aiding economic planning and development on Indian Reservations, improving Indian health and Indian education and seeing to it that Indian people get their fair share of federal assistance programs.

It is a long story and of course we have a long way still to go -- but federal programs and policies are definitely now on the right track to the benefit of Indian people.

We very much appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Ms. Jane Stanevich
R.F.D. #1
Scio, Ohio 43988



BHP:mep

September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. Fonda:

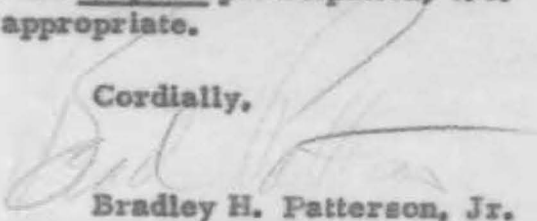
Thank you for your note of August 26.

I talked with several offices in HEW. They have fellowships, but these are limited to American students in American medical schools. They have a guaranteed loan program, and that office is going to mail you the particulars; American students abroad are eligible, they tell me, but funds for this quarter are pretty well obligated.

There is also a helpful outfit, I am told; the American Medical Student Association Foundation in Chicago. The phone number is: (312) 259-7450.

I hope this is responsive to your inquiry. The processing of the applications themselves is, of course, a merit procedure and ex parte participation, i. e. from here, is not appropriate.

Cordially,


Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Willard C. Fonda
3076 Sloat Road
Pebble Beach, California 93953

BHP:msp



September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. Schultz:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of August 26. I want especially to express my appreciation for your summary of the UIPA meeting; I came on the last day to give the luncheon address, but missed the earlier days.

We are proud of the new directions which the Indian community is taking and proud that in the past six years the Federal Government has been side by side with them in assisting them to upgrade the rights, status and management capabilities of Tribal Governments. The UIPA will be a big help in this process.

It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Milton B. Schultz
2103 W. Fifth
Spokane, Washington

BHP:msp



September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. Whitecrow:

The President has asked me to respond to your letter of July 22, 1976 expressing your concerns over an OMB memorandum of April 19, 1976.

The President's remarks of July 16, 1976, set forth his policies on Indian programs. He said, "I am committed to furthering the self-determination of Indian communities but without terminating the special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian people. I am strongly opposed to termination." The President announced his intention to direct the heads of all Cabinet Departments with Indian responsibilities to give priority attention to the coordination of Indian programs, and he wholeheartedly and unequivocally pledged the cooperation of his Administration in working with Indian people to improve the quality of Indian life by providing soundly managed programs and a stable policy.

The OMB memorandum to which your letter refers, on the other hand, is not a plan nor does it contain recommendations. Rather, written as a basis for internal discussions, it sets out contrasting approaches to the nature of Federal Indian programs, states alternative ways of achieving coordination of such programs, and discusses the relationship between program nature and coordination. Similar staff papers for OMB discussion purposes are routinely written on a variety of topics.

Obviously, none of such analysis constitutes a policy, much less an Administration policy. Excerpts from the document -- especially those which incorporate illustrations -- cannot help but be misleading.

I hope that this clarifies this matter for you and wish to extend the President's appreciation for bringing your concerns to his attention.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Jake L. Whitecrow, Commissioner
American Indian Policy Review Commission
PO Box 1308
Miami, Oklahoma 74354



BHP:msp

September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. Davis:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letters to him, the earlier one of which he received during the July meeting.

I do not have the specific answers to your questions at my fingertips, but I want you to know that I am asking the right officers of the Departments of Commerce (EDA), Labor and Interior (BIA) to examine your letter and to respond.

I would think that the resources being made available under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, plus those under other statutes such as CETA and EDA and the Self-Determination Act would go a long way toward meeting the needs of the twelve Associations. The kinds of problems mentioned on page 2 of your letter are precisely those which the Claims Settlement Act was designed to address.

We shall ensure that you get a further response.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Lawrence Davis, President
Kawerak, Inc.
PO Box 505
Nome, Alaska 99762



- cc: w/incoming to Ray Tanner, EDA, request for response re pertinent paragraph pages 4 and 6
- cc: w/incoming William Kolberg, Department of Labor, request for response re pertinent paragraph 4
- cc: w/incoming Commissioner Thompson, BIA, request for response re paragraphs on pages 3 and 5

COPIES OF responses requested to Bradley Patterson, White House

September 7, 1976

Dear Mr. DeRush:

Your letter to the President of last December turned up in a group of letters I inherited from a gentleman who has just left the White House staff. It is full of very intelligent and helpful comments.

I have tried to reach you by phone, but in vain. Perhaps if you would send me your telephone number, I could call you and discuss with you some of the points you have covered. We are very proud of what we have done in the past six years to reverse the mistakes of the previous 200. It would be a pleasure to chat with you. Sorry for the long delay!

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Gilbert DeRush
255 S. Avenue 55#8
Highland Park, California 90042

BHP;msp



September 7, 1976

Dear Chairman Plumage:

Thank you for your letter of August 25.

What you raise is obviously an operational and internal BIA matter -- clearly therefore the best person to respond would be Commissioner Thompson. If he assured you that you would hear from him, I am confident he will keep his word. I am sending him a copy of your letter as a reminder, and I feel certain you will hear from him directly and soon.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Charles Plumage, Tribal Chairman
Fort Belknap Community Council
Fort Belknap Agency
Harlem, Montana 59526

cc: w/incoming to Commissioner Morris Thompson
copy of response requested to Bradley Patterson,
White House



September 8, 1976

Dear Mrs. Bocoock:

The President has asked me to thank you for your recent note to him about the St. Labre School.

It has not been my impression that the St. Labre School is closing, but I am going to ask the Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Billings, Mr. James Canan, to respond to you directly and give you a complete answer to your question.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in Indian affairs; money for Indian education has nearly tripled in recent years and thousands of Indian children on and near reservations are receiving better benefits from it.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mrs. Grace Bocoock
5458 Third Avenue
Ft. Myers, Florida 33901



BHP:mSP
cc: with incoming to James Canan for further direct response
copy of response to Bradley Patterson, White House

September 8, 1976

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd and please pass my thanks on for the gracious tour which was arranged during my brief but most enjoyable visit to the Pacific Northwest Indian Center.

Made the plane OK, thanks to the ladies who kindly took me to the airport.

It was a pleasure to learn so much about the work and accomplishments of the Center.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Joseph F. McKinnon
Director
The Pacific Northwest Indian Center
East 200 Cataldo
PO Box 3044 t. a.
Spokane, Washington 99220

BHP:msp



September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SARAH MASSENGALE
FROM: BRAD PATTERSON
SUBJECT: Indian Health Bill - Draft Signing Statement

I would suggest a couple of amendments to the draft which I sent you the other day:

1. At the end of the fourth paragraph (and for the beginning of the fifth) insert the following:

The Second Session of the 94th Congress has also greatly improved this bill from its earlier form: its cost has been reduced from \$1.6 billion to \$480 million and the number of years of specifically authorized funding have been cut from seven to three. These improvements, and the bipartisan support which the improved bill enjoys, make S 522 much more acceptable.

§ 522 is, of course, but an authorization;

2. Re-identify the bill as S-522 throughout the statement.

(The bill passed the Senate yesterday with a couple of amendments, 78-0).

Let's discuss soon.



September 10, 1976

Dear Louie:

Since the President's memorandum of August 26, designating me to help in the coordination of Indian policies and programs, I have reviewed very carefully the papers and background concerning the request of the traditional chiefs and headmen for a "Presidential Treaty Review Commission". I have gone over the notes of our two-day meeting at Harper's Ferry in June and the earlier meeting and luncheon we had with Chief Fools Crow here at the White House. I have re-read Larry Red Shirt's letter of June 14, 1976 where, in the attachment, he indicates he wants the President to "approve and support the concept of the Presidential Treaty Review Commission".

What I am still trying to get clear -- and I need your help in doing this -- are specific details about the precise functions of such a Commission, its authority, responsibilities, membership, funding, reporting deadline and the proposed procedures for holding sessions.

I must explain that there are very strict standards for staff work which all modern Presidents impose here within the White House. Before a Presidential decision is made, a memorandum must go to the President spelling out exactly what is being requested, the pros and cons of why it is needed, and very specific descriptions of what the President is being asked to approve. Laws or other authorities must be indicated to show that the President has the power to take the requested action and to show that if he creates some body or institution, even a temporary one, he has the further authority to fund it.

This may seem a bit elaborate, but I assure you it is an essential aspect of the modern Presidency. The Congress, the General Accounting Office or the Courts are very quick to object to any Presidential action which is not within the law; President Ford insists on making sure, ahead of time, that he is never put in that position. That means memoranda which are in writing and which are prepared with great precision.



My careful review of your proposal for a "Presidential Treaty Commission" gives me practically nothing on the basis of which to prepare such a memorandum to the President. In addition to the questions raised above, there are others which come to mind about your proposal: would such a Commission for example, review Indian treaties generally or be limited to the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty? In either case, what would be such a Commission's relationship with the elected Tribal leaders, generally or with those of the Pine Ridge Sioux? What would be the Commission's relationship with Task Force I of the American Indian Policy Review Commission, which currently is reviewing all the Indian treaties?

What is lacking in Mr. Red Shirt's letter, and in the letter to the President from the traditional chiefs and headmen of July 24, 1976, are any specifics of this sort.

As you know, Mrs. Kilberg and I have already informed the traditional chiefs at our Harper's Ferry meeting that a Treaty Review Commission could not assume a treaty-negotiating role, since that is proscribed by Congress pursuant to 25 USC 71.

With respect to implementation, specifically, of the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868, you remember that we have called to the attention of the traditional chiefs and headmen the letter to them from the Assistant to the President of January 8, 1974. This letter and its detailed attachment answered a series of fifteen questions which the chiefs propounded about the 1868 Treaty -- pointing out that the United States has "never disclaimed or declared invalid the 1868 Treaty as a whole"-- but that "portions have been modified, revoked, superceded or satisfied: -- in most cases by the Congress or the Courts. That letter was an exhaustive discussion of the Treaty of 1868 and its aftermath (other than the pending Claims Commission action) and I honestly don't think there is anything the Executive Branch can add to it.

Mr. Richard Parsons, I notice, has also responded to the Lakota Treaty Council on April 1, 1976 that the President cannot, as they suggested, stop the Indian Claims Commission action with respect to the same Black Hills Case.

In view of these facts, my colleagues in the White House and I are quite unclear as to what the functions of a Presidential Treaty Review Commission would be that have not already been handled in laws in Claims cases or in past correspondence.



This letter is therefore a request for your assistance; please consult with your associates and respond in writing and in detail about the need, the authority, the make-up, and the functioning of the proposed Treaty Review Commission. I assure you in return that we here, together with the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General -- who also would naturally be consulted by the President on this matter -- will then go over your material carefully and will get a Presidential decision, as you have requested.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Louis Bad Wound
Pine Ridge Reservation
South Dakota

BHF:mSP



September 13, 1976

Dear Mr. Mackety:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of July 21, 1976, which you personally delivered to me at our meeting August 25.

I have checked carefully here at the White House and find that it is the President's preference to have the Secretary go ahead with his present plan to identify and set forth standards and procedures for recognition of Indian tribes -- a plan which means that all the pending applications for recognition would be deferred for a short time longer until those standards and procedures have been clarified.

I have checked with Interior, and find that this work is nearing completion.

I think the Huron Potawatomi tribe will find these new standards reasonable and I will help ensure that you get a prompt answer to your basic inquiry.

It was a genuine pleasure for me to have met you and your associates and I want to keep open the doors of communication which our meetings began.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. David Mackety, President
R.R. #1
Fulton, Michigan 49052

BHP:msp

EG James P. Hillman, Director
Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs
Robert J. Horn, Special Asst. to Governor Milliken

BC: Mr. Borgstrom, OMB
Les Gay, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Reid Chambers, Dept. of Interior, Office of the Secretary



September 15, 1976

Dear Mr. Witte:

The President has asked me to thank you for your note to him of September 1 about Leonard Crow Dog.

I do not know the particulars in this case, but I am asking the responsible officers of the Department of Justice to respond to you further; they are well informed about the case.

The newly elected Tribal Chairman of the Oglala Sioux is Mr. Al Trimble, and many of us here in Washington are working closely with Chairman Trimble to assist him and the tribe in additional areas of economic and social development. In general, we are proud of the new policies and legislation which the Administration has pioneered in over the past six years and we share your convictions about continuing to work for the benefit of Indian people everywhere.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Herman Witte
5329 North Sydenham Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19141



cc: with incoming to Mr. Thornberg (Att: Roger Cabbage)
Dept. of Justice (~~Civil~~ Rights Division) for further
response to Mr. Witte *Criminal*

BHP;msp

September 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Maynor:

Thank you for your gracious note of the 9th.

I very much want to be kept on the mailing list for monthly newsletter of the Lumbee Regional Development Association.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Kenneth R. Maynor
Executive Director
Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.
East Main Street
PO Box 68
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372

BHP:msp



September 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Ritter:

The President has asked me to thank you for your recent letter to him about Indian affairs.

I had occasion just the other day to write up a short piece describing what the President's policies have been and are now about Indians, and I thought you would like to see a copy -- it is enclosed.

If you have any other questions, would you do me the favor of dropping me a note with your telephone numbers and I will be glad to call you and try to answer them.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Walter W. Ritter
3101 Federalist
Sacramento, California 98527

BHP:msp

Enc: President Ford" policies for American Indian people



September 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Vail:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of September 8 about Leonard Crow Dog.

I do not know the particulars in this case, but I am asking the responsible officers of the Department of Justice to respond to you further; they are well informed about the case.

The newly elected Tribal Chairman of the Oglala Sioux is Mr. Al Trimble, and many of us here in Washington are working closely with Chairman Trimble to assist him and the tribe in additional areas of economic and social development. In general, we are proud of the new policies and legislation which the Administration has pioneered in over the past six years and we share your convictions about continuing to work for the benefit of Indian people everywhere.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Morgan W. Vail
4104 Winding Creek Rd.
Sacramento, California 95825

cc: with incoming to Mr. Thornberg (Att. Roger Cabbage)
Dept. of Justice, Criminal Division for further response
to Mr. Vail



September 17, 1976

Dear Mr. Bolin:

This is in response to the Senate Joint Memorial 1001, Thirty-second Legislature, Second Regular Session, urging the President and Congress of the United States to ensure the maintenance of educational support aid under the Johnson-O'Malley Act.

Regulations promulgated pursuant to P. L. 93-638 require that the amount of operational support which has been taken "off-the-top" of the Johnson-O'Malley program for public schools from the Bureau be reduced each year by 1/3 of that amount received by the school in FY 1976. This requirement occurs in order to maximize the Indian control over the expenditure of these funds, and was recommended by the Indian community during national consultation sessions.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs had considered waiving this requirement; however, the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior has ruled that, "The provision in Section 273.31 (a) relating to the reduction of operational support is a matter involving the settlement in Denetciarence which cannot be unilaterally changed by waiver or exception under the provisions of 25 CFR 2.1."

This Administration is truly concerned about the plight in which many public schools find themselves as a result of this action. Be assured that we are continuing to seek alternatives which will benefit these schools and the children they serve.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Wesley Bolin
Secretary of State
State House
Phoenix, Arizona



September 17, 1976

Dear Mr. Forbes:

The President has asked me to thank you for your note to him of September 3 about Indian water rights in Central Arizona.

There is a bill recently introduced in the Senate (S 3298) on this matter, but no hearings have been yet scheduled and the Administration therefore has not yet reported on it.

I did notice in a series of newspaper clippings the other day the enclosed one, from the Gallup Independent of August 17, and some comments by a Senate candidate there. They throw a little light on the issues involved in S 3298.

We are proud of our 7-year record of defending Indian trust rights; have won a series of major court decisions, and appreciate your own expression of interest and concern.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Gerald Forbes
4001 Idlewild Road
Austin, Texas

Enc: news clipping

BHP:msp



September 17, 1976

Dear Miss Lowes:

The President has asked me to thank you for your note to him of September 3 about the Indian water rights in Central Arizona.

There is a bill recently introduced in the Senate (S 3298) on this matter, but no hearings have been yet scheduled and the Administration therefore has not yet reported on it.

I did notice in a series of newspaper clippings the other day the enclosed one, from the Gallup Independent of August 17, and some comments by a Senate candidate there. They throw a little light on the issue involved in S 3298.

We are proud of our 7-year record of defending Indian trust rights; have won a series of major court decisions, and appreciate your own expression of interest and concern.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Miss Ruth Lowes
1506 Creekmere Drive
Canyon, Texas 79015

BHP:msp
Enclo news clipping



September 17, 1976

Dear Mr. Koster:

Enjoyed talking with you on the telephone, and invite you to call me again if you have questions about Indian matters.

I enclose the Department of Justice's response to the many letters they receive about Mr. Crow Dog. That letter is rather persuasive, and if one wanted to pursue the matter further I think that one should go and read the 8th Circuit's two opinions before doing anything else.

Cordial personal regards,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. John Koster
508 Ackerman Avenue
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

BHP:msp

enclosed attached correspondence



September 22, 1976

Dear Ms. McGuire:

The President has asked me to thank you and your friends for your recent note to him about Indians.

In the last six years we have turned the corner on all our relations with Indian peoples, and our policies now are strongly to support Tribal Governments and especially to defend Indian land and trust rights. I don't know of any example of Indians being "moved off their land" and would appreciate it if you could give me the instance what you have in mind. There are some complicated legal issues here and there of what land is Indian land but those are being resolved mostly in the Courts. We vigorously supported, for instance, the restoration of Blue Lake lands to the Taos Pueblo, of 21,000 acres to the Yakima and supported the Menominee restoration bill.

As to strip mining, I know of two instances where this is being done (Navajo and Crow), in both cases with the full permission of the Tribal Government; in both instances, of course, the tribe is earning important income from the mining.

Hope to hear from you further.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.
Assistant Director
Presidential Personnel Office

Ms. Florence McGuire
1157 Amador Avenue
Berkeley, California 94707



October 4, 1976

Dear Miss Cohen:

In response to your expression of interest in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (S. 522), I am very pleased to tell you that the President has just signed this significant piece of legislation.

I enclose a copy of the President's Signing Statement and with it goes the President's appreciation to you for your own support on this important matter.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Miss Leona Cohen
Post Office Box 1711
Omak, Washington 98841

Enclosure

BHP:bmr
BHP-4



October 4, 1976

Dear Mrs. Fate:

Having taken Dr. Marrs' place, I wanted to respond to your letter of September 10 and to the Resolutions adopted at the Sixth Annual Conference of the North American Indian Women's Association in June.

I am very pleased to tell you in response to Resolution 2-76 that the President has signed the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I enclose a copy of his Signing Statement.

My charter from the President (copy attached) involves me closely in problems of interagency coordination. I would like to explore with you pursuant to Resolution 9-76 what I can do -- and what the Association can do -- to assist in the process of ensuring that the various Federal agencies serving Indian people work effectively together. I should particularly like any examples of lack of coordination or suggestions for improvement you might send me.

Your Resolution 10-76 applies to the Congress; the Executive Branch does not testify or take formal positions on Concurrent Resolutions.

I am very pleased to have the commendations expressed in Resolution 11-76.

I will ask Dr. Johnson to respond to you directly concerning Resolution 13-76, since that is an operational matter within his jurisdiction.

I am asking Commissioner Thompson to respond to you directly about Resolution 17-76 since he, of course, is very familiar with the concerns of Alaska Native people.



I hope we will have the opportunity to meet soon and want to thank you and the Association for bringing these matters to our attention.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mrs. Mary Jane Fate
President
North American Indian Women's
Association
SR Box 30586
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

BHP: pf



October 5, 1976

Dear Mr. Rockwell:

Thank you for sending me the copy of Mrs. Randall's letter. I am very sorry to see any tension or ill-will between Indian and non-Indian.

I learned a lot from our meeting in September and was glad to have your views presented first-hand.

We would repeat our invitation to you and to Tom Tobin to supplement our meeting by setting forth your position in writing and by putting down in writing some of the legislative and/or administrative recommendations which you and your associates would suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



Mr. F. Wayne Rockwell
President
Montanans Opposing Discrimination
Post Office Box 673
Folsom, Montana 59860

bcc: Mr. Ickes
Mr. Taft
Mrs. Kilberg

BHP:pft

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1976

Dear Mr. Snyder:

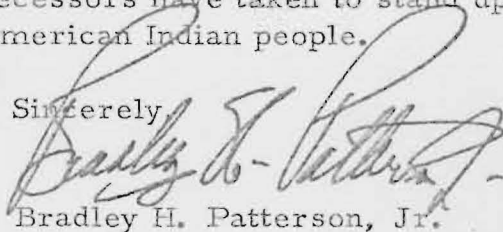
The August - September Newsletter of the Friends Committee on National Legislation carried a special box captioned "American Indians." It stated that the Ford Administration has opposed enactment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and "opposed efforts to protect Indian land and water resources."

The President, after personal review, decided to sign the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and I am forwarding a copy of his Signing Statement, along with our own thanks for the support and interest in this legislation by the Friends.

The reference to opposing efforts to protect Indian land and water resources is, however, troublesome to me because it does not reflect the facts and thus the fairness which otherwise characterizes the activities of the Friends.

I would very much appreciate it if the Newsletter would afford me the opportunity to correct this unfair statement and, for that purpose, I enclose here a brief summary of the actions which the Ford Administration and its predecessors have taken to stand up for the land and water rights of American Indian people.

Sincerely



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Edward F. Snyder
Executive Secretary
Friends Committee on National Legislation
245 Second Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002



Attachment

File - Brad Patterson

PROTECTING INDIAN LAND AND WATER RIGHTS



The President in 1970 proposed, and his staff lobbied hard and successfully to have Congress restore the sacred Blue Lake lands to the Taos Pueblo. The President signed this bill in December of 1970.

The White House worked for two years to arrange for the return to the Yakima Tribe of 21,000 acres of land improperly taken from them by a Presidential mistake in 1906. The land was returned in 1972.

The White House strongly supported the Menominee Restoration Bill as a leading example of the President's rejection of the terminationist philosophy of the '50s. The bill was signed and is being implemented.

The White House itself designed, proposed and lobbied hard for the version of the Alaska Native Claims Act which passed and which now guarantees Alaskan natives 40,000,000 acres of land and a billion dollars in the 50th State.

The White House intervened to make sure that the government, as trustee, effectively supported Indian treaty rights in the fishing case in the State of Washington. The resulting Boldt decision is a milestone of protection for these rights.

The White House made sure that the Interior and Justice Departments strongly supported the Paiutes in the famed Pyramid Lake case. They did and the brief filed in the Supreme Court is a classic statement for Indian water rights.

The White House intervened with the Justice Department to ensure that whenever there is a court case where Interior wants the Indian trust rights spoken for, this will be done, even if the Federal brief is itself "split." The Ford White House reaffirms this arrangement and reaffirms its six-year-old support for the creation by Congress of an Indian Trust Counsel Authority which will always defend Indian natural resources rights wherever they are challenged.

The Stevens decision protects Indian land from improper taxation; the White House intervened to ensure that the Indian trust rights were reflected in the Federal brief in court.

Besides signing the Indian Self-Determination Act in 1975 and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in 1976, President Ford told an assemblage of Indian leaders from all over the nation on July 16, 1976:

"Many Indian reservations contain valuable natural resources. There must be the proper treatment of these resources with respect for nature, which is a traditional Indian value. My Attorney General has established an Indian resources section whose sole responsibility is litigation on behalf of Indian tribes to protect your natural resources and your jurisdictional rights."

Sometimes there are controversies as to precisely what the Indian treaty and trust rights are; litigation is often necessary to determine them. President Ford will continue to honor and protect Indian treaty and trust rights, and the record backs this up.

October 7, 1976



Dear Ted:

Thank you for your note of the 27th about Kawerak. I read Mr. Leonard's letter carefully and then had a long talk on the telephone with Mr. David Dougherty, the Staff Director of the Federal Regional Council in Seattle, and have also consulted with Commissioner Thompson.

Mr. Dougherty tells me that the Federal Regional Council is currently meeting to work on the design for an accounting system which could be used by the non-profit Alaska native corporations and which would fit their needs vis-a-vis all the different Federal agencies whose funds go to those corporations. He said he did not believe that one had to go the route of the Joint Funding Simplification Act (PL 93-510) in order to institute this common accounting system. He was pretty firm, however, that any of the non-profit corporations which are experiencing the kind of problems apparent at Kawerak (which is in bankruptcy) must get their management and accounting systems in much better shape before they go after more Federal funds. The Council, through this proposed accounting system, is helping them do this.

Mr. Dougherty added that the AFN has been given money to provide managerial assistance to the non-profit corporations but he indicated that this task has not been discharged as was originally intended.

I know that Commissioner Thompson and Mr. Dougherty would be glad to discuss this situation in much greater detail with you, since they both are following it closely.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Commissioner Thompson
cc: Mr. Dougherty

October 8, 1976

Dear Mr. Nuckols:

I am responding on behalf of the President to your letter of September 27.

I am asking Mr. Sandy McNabb of the Department of Labor to respond directly to your inquiry, since he is very familiar with the case to which you refer and has direct operational responsibility for the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Brad H. Patterson

Inoli/Jack Nuckols
Administrator
Tecumseh Confederacy
Indian Manpower Program
147 Hill Street
Xenia, Ohio 45385



FILE TO SANDY MCNABB FOR FURTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION

BHP:cac

October 8, 1976

Dear Mr. Crooks:

In further response to your letter to me about a flag, I am sorry that this must be a disappointing reply to your request. However, the flags which are flown over the White House are used as long as they are serviceable and then, according to proper flag protocol, are burned.

You may wish to write to the Congressman from your District or one of the Senators from your State for help in obtaining a flag which has flown over the United States Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



Mr. Glynn A. Crooks
Tribal Council
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Route One, Box 107
Shakopee, Minnesota 55379

BHP:cac

October 8, 1976

Dear Commissioner Thompson:

Attached is some correspondence from Mr. Frederick Boyd of Detroit about an old Indian cemetery in North Port, Michigan.

The White House files have no record of his previous correspondence; I called Mr. Boyd and acknowledged his letter in person. I said he would get a further response and would appreciate it if you would take it from here.

Sincerely yours,

Brad H. Patterson

Commissioner Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
6th Floor
Washington, D.C.



EX BHP:cac

October 8, 1976

Dear Mr. Paffrath:

Thank you for sending me the copies of the report from the Wingspread Conference on Opportunities for Wilderness Preservation.

Being a backpacker and mountaineer I especially appreciated having them.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Leslie Paffrath
President
The Johnson Foundation
Racine, Wisconsin 53401



BHP:cac

Dear Mr. Hoxie:

Thank you for your invitation to attend the Seventh Annual National Leadership Symposium in Moline.

It is a pleasure to accept, and I enclose a biography and photograph.

I will certainly be with you for Sunday morning and will let you know whether I'll be able to arrive as early as Friday evening. Perhaps when you have it firmed up, you could send me an agenda for the three days.

Cordially,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. R. Gordon Hoxie
Center for the Study of the Presidency
926 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

BHP;msp
Enc: bio and photo



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES M. CANNON

I recommend that the
President sign Enrolled Bill S 1659.



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



October 15, 1976

Dear Congressman McCloskey:

I am writing in further response to your letter to the President of October 6.

It is heartening to hear from you that so many citizens are inquiring about Federal policies and programs for American Indians; it is discouraging to realize that there is so little information out about what really has been happening during the past seven years. Actually, there has been a surge of budgetary, legislative, executive and judicial accomplishments beginning with the Special Message of July 8, 1976. Some of them are reflected in the attached fact sheet, a first-person piece done recently for publication in the newsletter of the Association for American Indian Affairs. For a little more detail (although 3 years out of date) you might refer to my article in the Fall issue of the Civil Rights Commission's Civil Rights Digest. President Ford's contributions of course have featured his signing of the Indian Self-Determination Act of January, 1975, his meeting with Indian leaders on July 16, 1976, his signing of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act just two weeks ago, and his Proclamation of Native American Awareness Week and the accompanying statement of last week. I enclose copies of these materials.

Please feel free to telephone me at 456-2813 if I can supply any further information.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



The Honorable Paul N. McCloskey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 26, 1976

Dear Senator Domenici:

I wanted to send you a note in further response to your letter to the President of September 30 concerning the problems of non-Indian employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We considered your letter so cogent and so to the point that it has been included as part of the White House follow-up instructions to the responsible Cabinet Officers in implementing the pledge the President made in his veto message.

I enclose a copy of that instruction and I hope you will bring it to the attention of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515



October 26, 1976

Dear Senator Domenici:

I wanted to send you a note in further response to your letter to the President of September 30 concerning the problems of non-Indian employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We considered your letter so cogent and so to the point that it has been included as part of the White House follow-up instructions to the responsible Cabinet Officers in implementing the pledge the President made in his veto message.

I enclose a copy of that instruction and I hope you will bring it to the attention of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515



October 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The President has asked me to thank you for your recent note about the BIA's higher education program.

Since this is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I am asking Commissioner Thompson to review your letter personally and to send you a response.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. Michael R. Rogers
Native American Political Association
Route 1, Box 2142
Davis, California 95616

cc: Commissioner Morris Thompson



October 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE CHAIRMAN, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND WELFARE

FROM: BRADLEY H. PATTERSON, JR.

With reference to my memorandum of October 12, I would appreciate it if you would bring this letter to the attention of the officers on your staffs who have action responsibility for the matter.

I have acknowledged the letter by telephone.

cc: The Director, OMB



October 27, 1976

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of October 18 conveying to us Resolution 10/76-1 of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association concerning LaFollette Butler.

I am bringing this promptly to the attention of Secretary Kleppe who will make the appointment and also to the Honorable Doug Bennett here at the White House who is the Director of the Presidential Personnel Office.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Mr. William Youpee
Executive Director
National Tribal Chairmen's
Association
Suite 207
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20006



cc: Secretary Kleppe,
cc: Doug Bennett

October 28, 1976

Dear Mr. Red Bird and Mr. Webber:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of October 16.

Recognition of Indian tribes not yet Federally recognized is a matter now under close review by the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. A legal opinion is being prepared which will help establish criteria and standards for recognition action by the Secretary of the Interior.

I am sending your letter promptly to Solicitor Austin so that he will be aware of the wishes of the Independent Cherokee Nation, and you will hear further from the Department when the opinion is completed (it is almost done now).

Sincerely yours,

Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.

Chief Red Bird
Chief Thunderbird Webber
United Independent Cherokee Nation
National Tribal Office
418 Flint Avenue
Albany, Georgia 31701



cc of file to Gred Austin
Solicitor, DOI

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

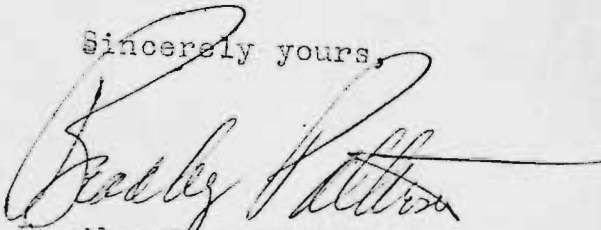
Dear Mr. Lara ,

Thank you for your telegram
to the President.

I believe that Mr. Mastrapasqua's
candid letter to LaDonna Harris is a very
responsive reply to your own concern, and
enclose a copy of it.

We appreciate hearing from you
and always value your views.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley W. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

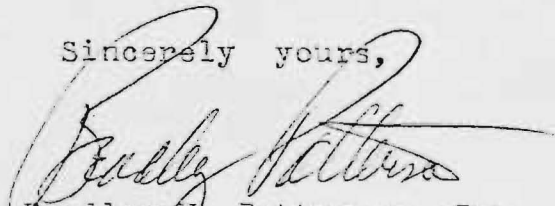
Dear Mr. Jacobs,

Thank you for your letter to
the President.

As you asked, I have checked
into the matter you raised, and believe that
Mr. Mastrapasqua's candid reply to Mrs. Harris
will answer your questions. I enclose a
copy of it.

We will continue to value your
views.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

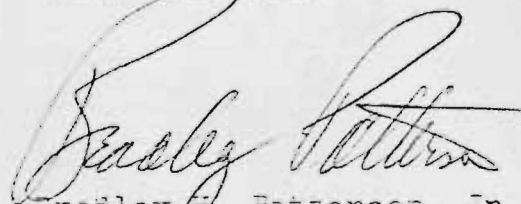
Dear Mr. Spencer,

Thank you for your letter to
the President.

I believe that Mr. Mastropasqua's
candid letter to Mrs. Harris is a responsive
reply to your own inquiry, and I enclose a
copy of it.

We continue to value your
views and want you to keep in touch with us.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley E. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

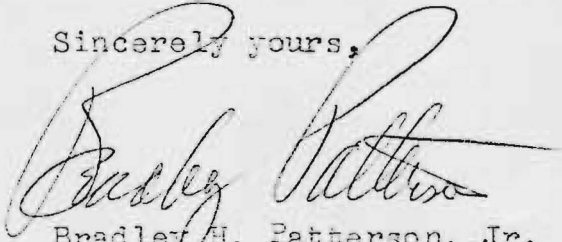
Dear Ms. Moses,

Thank you for your letter
of the 11th to the President.

I checked a bit, and find that
Mr. Mastrapasqua's letter to Mrs. Harris
is, I believe, a full and responsive reply
to your question. I enclose a copy of it.

We continue to value your views.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

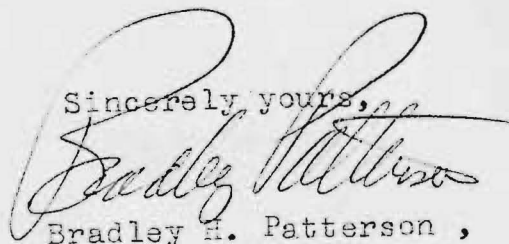
Dear Chairman Barley,

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 13th.

I have checked into this, and find that Mr. Mastrapasqua's candid letter to Mrs. Harris is, I believe, a responsive reply to your own inquiry. I enclose a copy.

We always value the views of Indian officials like yourself; please keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

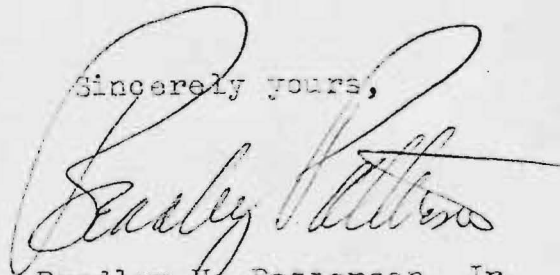
Dear President Paddock,

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of October 15.

I have checked into the matter you raised, and find that Mr. Mastrapasqua's recent candid letter to Mrs. Harris is, I believe, a responsive reply to your own inquiry. I enclose a copy.

We continue to value the views of Indian leaders like yourself; please keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

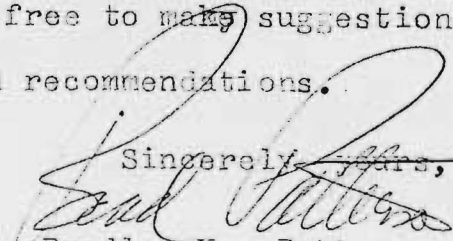
Dear Mr. Bigbow,

The President has asked me to thank you for your telegram of yesterday and for giving us your advice and evaluation of Indian matters.

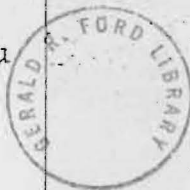
Last August 26, the President asked me to help him with the coordination of American Indian policies and programs (copy of his memo to the Cabinet is attached) and I have been active in talking and working directly with Indian leaders.

Last week, all week, I was at the NCAI National Convention in Salt Lake City and had the opportunity of extensive talks and sessions with Indian leaders from all over the country, many of whom I have known for several years. I also met with the Executive Board of NTCA which, as you know, represents the elected tribal leaders themselves.

It was good to hear from you and I hope you will continue to feel free to make suggestions to us of your own ideas and recommendations.

Sincerely,


Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

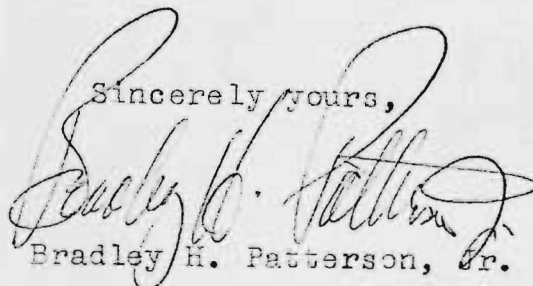
Dear Mr. Garcia,

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 8th about ONAP.

I checked into this and find that Mr. Mastrapasqua's letter to LaDonna Harris is, I believe, a candid and responsive reply to your inquiry as well. I enclose a copy of it.

We are glad to have your views and hope to hear from you again.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley H. Patterson, Sr.

