

**The original documents are located in Box 44, folder “1975/05/06 - Neal McCaleb” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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2:30 PM - Meeting with Neal McCaleb  
Re: Indians

Tuesday, May 6, 1975

NEAL A. MCCALED

DISTRICT 81

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

May 1, 1975

James Cannon, Executive Director  
President's Domestic Council  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cannon:

The Indian policy of the United States has evolved over the last 200 years from viewing the Indian as an adversary to the national interest of territorial expansion, to that of treating the Indians as a ward of the Government and more recently to the policy of Indian "self-determination".

There are long standing problems of high unemployment, below national average education attainment, dismal health delivery systems and sub-standard housing experienced by Indian both on and off reservations.

The proposed BIA budget for Fiscal Year '76 is in excess of \$800 million dollars to serve the needs of a total Indian population of less than 2 million people or ~~\$400.00~~ for every man, woman and child. This does not include the appropriations for the Indian Health Service and other social programs not exclusively for Indians.

The distribution of this budget indicates that the majority of the appropriation will be spent on administrative functions rather than for assistance programs at the reservation or "Agency" level. A careful appraisal of the BIA budget, by object, is necessary to determine the most effective ways to get assistance money to the Indians at the Agency level and minimize allocation of funds for administrative functions at the Central and Area offices.

Greater distribution of money and manpower to the Agency level will also make the BIA programs more responsive to local needs as identified by local Tribal leadership. Ineffective or non-productive programs will be eliminated in favor of locally determined priorities.

This concept is identical to "Revenue Sharing" which has been very popular with Tribal leadership where it has been available on a limited basis.

Mr. James Cannon  
May 1, 1975  
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Tribal "Revenue Sharing" or block grants is a direct and effective way to implement the current National Indian Policy of "Self-determination" for Tribal Governments.

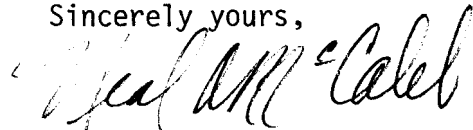
An effort should be made to identify concentrations of Indian population in off-reservation or urban areas and provide similar block grants for Indians through local government under the supervision of Indian advisory boards.

The details of this proposal should be developed in consultation with the "National Tribal Chairmans Association", National Congress of American Indians" and advisory assistance from the staff of the BIA.

The legitimate objective of the BIA should be to assist the Tribal Governments in becoming self-sufficient governmental organizations capable of meeting the needs of their Tribal membership independent of Bureau intervention.

These remarks are not intended to criticize any individuals within the BIA but are to point out the need for a fundamental change in the methods of implementing the National policy of Indian "Self-determination".

Sincerely yours,



Neal A. McCaleb, Representative  
District #81

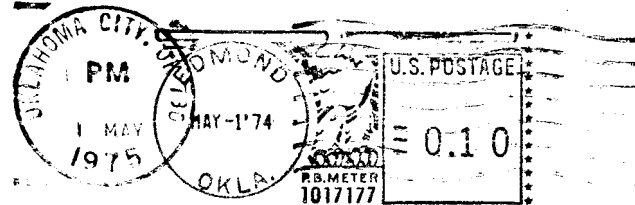
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