



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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(1960?)

## SOME PROBLEMS IN MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA ACCULTURATION<sup>1</sup>

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"The Indian Problem" is a term frequently used without precise definition. It serves, perhaps, to bring to the mind of the general public conditions of poverty, backwardness, drunkenness, disrespect for the law, and lack of education and community organization among the Indians. An objection to this approach is that it does not provide adequate or systematic understanding of the basic nature of this "problem," but refers rather to the easily observable external manifestations. The "Indian Problem" approach also seems to attribute to all Indians an inherent tendency toward socially unacceptable behavior. A more profitable approach is to identify some of the causes for the overt social disorganization by examining the cultural traditions of the Chippewa and their historical relations with the dominant white society.

Certainly there is evidence that Minnesota Indians occupy a disadvantaged position vis a vis the total state population when certain criteria are used as a basis of comparison. For example, based on official 1950 Bureau of the Census data (1960 data in such areas are not yet available), Minnesota Indians had a median annual wage of \$619 compared with the median annual wage of \$1,887 for the entire state population. With respect to unemployment, the Indian unemployment rate was 28.8% of the civilian labor force compared with 3.5% for the total state population. Education figures reveal similar differences: only 8.8% of the Indian population twenty-five years old or older had completed at least a high school education, compared with a corresponding figure of 35.6% for the state-wide population; the median number of school years completed was one whole year lower (8.0) for the Indian population than the comparative median for all races in Minnesota (9.0).

The occupational structure reveals that the Indian has a relatively low position in relation to the total population of the state. Based on the four highest occupational categories listed in the U.S. Census reports, only 16.8% of all employed Indians 14 years old and over were employed in these categories in 1950. On the other hand, more than half (51.5%) of the comparative non-Indian population were similarly employed. Minnesota Department of Public Welfare reports show that the Indian population (one half of one per cent of the total state population) accounted for 5.4% of all the public assistance recipients (9,216) and received 2.8% of all public assistance expenditures in 1960. In 1961 these figures increased to 9,951 Indians receiving assistance and 3.1% of all assistance payments made.

Commitments to various corrective institutions in the state show that the Indian rate is considerably higher than the non-Indian rate. The Minneapolis Workhouse admission figures for 1955, for example, show that 12% of the 7,307 admissions were Indians. Reports of 1955 admissions to the women's section showed that 282 of the 518 total admissions (54%) were Indian women (Berger 1956:13). Between January 1 and July 1 of 1962, Indians comprised 9% of all newly committed individuals admitted to Minnesota state correctional institutions and 9.6% of the total institutional population (Minnesota Department of Corrections 1962: 1,11)

In other less quantifiable areas, there is further indication of disorganization among Minnesota's Indians. No figures are available concerning drinking or the general lack of community organization and development, the so-called inability of the Indian to "help himself", but sufficient accounts have been given of these conditions to substantiate their presence. Also, absence of law and order has frequently been mentioned as a problem among certain Indian populations.

Thus, while the term "Indian Problem" cannot be taken as an analytic or diagnostic concept, it is not a complete misnomer. Evidence suggests that with respect to the total population of the state, the Indian population experiences a situation characterized by a relatively high rate of individual and social disorganization.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the current Indian situation from a cultural-historical perspective, focusing on several factors which may contribute to an understanding of the contemporary Chippewa Indians of Minnesota.<sup>2</sup>

Cultural Factors. The Chippewa were essentially a hunting and gathering people living in the northern woodland areas of the Great Lakes. The basic unit of the Chippewa social organization was the conjugal family. The temporary village, consisting of three to fifteen conjugal families, was usually the largest unit in the social structure. This village existed in the Spring and summer when the various small families came together from their separate hunting grounds. Landes says that it "was held together by little more than the consciousness of neighborhood, for no official activities characterized its existence" (Landes 1937: 1). Bushnell reports that the Chippewa "had few large villages or settlements. They lived for the most part in small scattered groups, and often moved from place to place . . . These villages . . . should more properly be termed "gathering places . . ." (Bushnell 1922: 14,15).

The small groups of Chippewa were associated with a chief or head man who served as a type of civil leader. These leaders were respected for their personal characteristics; allegiance to these leaders was more or less tenuous, as pointed out by Jones:

The chiefs are the heads or fathers of their respective tribes, but their authority extends no further than to their own body, while their influence depends much on their wisdom, bravery and hospitality. When they lack any of these qualities they fall proportionately in the estimation of their people. It is, therefore, of importance that they should excel in everything pertaining to the dignity of a chieftain, since they govern more by persuasion than by coercion. Whenever their acts give general dissatisfaction their power ceases. They have scarcely any executive power, and can do but little without the concurrence of the subordinate chiefs and principal men. They have no written code of laws, nor any power to put their people to death by their own will; but they are taught by their chiefs and wise men to observe a certain line of conduct, such as to be kind and hospitable. They are also encouraged to be good hunters and warriors, and great pow-wows, or medicine men (Jones n.d.: 108-109).

There was little permanent commitment to the leader who could be deserted if his leadership no longer proved satisfactory. Therefore, no highly centralized authority system existed in the Chippewa social structure. Leadership was tenuous and depended upon successful performance in the various familiar and important roles. These roles were clearly visible to the Chippewa and closely related to the subsistence or economic requirements of these people. In addition to the



prestige accorded successful hunters, trappers, rice gatherers and warriors, older Chippewas were granted esteem because their age gave evidence of having lived a good life. Jones reports that the advice of the "longdweller upon the earth is generally listened to with great attention, as it is from them that the youth receive their instructions respecting pow-wowism, medicines, and the traditions of their forefathers" (Jones n.d.: 63).

The culture allowed a high degree of individual freedom in accepting or rejecting the leadership of another. This individualism was perhaps the underlying feature throughout the traditional Chippewa culture.<sup>3</sup> Individualism is noted in Landes' description of the Chippewa outlook toward property rights:

All property, with one slight exception, . . . is held by individuals, not by groups. Society can only ascertain the legality of the acquisition. Beyond that, society has no voice. Indeed, the individual is urged to the farthest to do as he likes; legally he cannot be criticized when for example he bombards his neighbors with sorcery, or refuses to tolerate needy families on his rich trapping grounds. Individuals may grumble, especially close relatives, and there is a weak notion of fair play; but these are nothing compared with the valuation placed on ruthless individualism (Landes 1937: 87).

This individualistic theme is also basic to Chippewa conceptions of punishment and social control. The underlying principle of justice among the Chippewa was apparently one of torts or private concern for any wrongs. The individual (or close kindred, in some cases) was solely responsible for retribution. There was little total societal involvement in punishment for a misdeed. According to Landes, "No one had the right to interfere seriously with the affairs of another couple, or of another domicile, and this held also for a separating couple . . . In earlier days, too, no one had the right to rebuke a deserter before the community" (Landes 1937: 81).

Culturally then, the traditions of the Chippewa strongly emphasized individuality with tenuous nucleated leadership rather than strong central organization. Social control was defined in terms of individual rather than societal responsibility. The culture specified important roles which were related to the subsistence base; the successful performance of these roles assured prestige and a meaningful life.

Historical Factors. The first Chippewa contacts with white men were with explorers, trappers and traders. Warren attributes the lack of "civilizing" influence by the French to the class of Frenchmen who were in contact with the Chippewa. He asserts that they were nearly as illiterate, ignorant and superstitious as the Indians themselves, and that many were inferior to the Indian in personal character and morality (Warren 1885: 132-33). Subsequent relations of the Minnesota Chippewa with the whites reveal similar circumstances. Winchell reports:

As the whites increased in numbers and in power, so the Indians became segregated and concentrated, and annuity payments were made at other places, several principal villages being designated as payment-places, and annually visited for that purpose. Such "payments" became grand gala days, when not only the Indians gathered, but the white men who sold whiskey, resulting always in carousal and often in bloodshed, the result being, not infrequently, that the Indian went home poorer than he came, saddened and soured in spirit, and battered in body by the brawls in which he had engaged (Winchell 1911:637).



Other whites in contact with the Indians included school teachers and government agents who also were criticized for their general failure to effect a positive influence on the Indians. Following the Sioux uprising of 1862, an evaluation of Indian administration made it "evident to the officers of the government that the Indian department had degenerated throughout the whole country" (Winchell 1911:663). E.P. Smith, the first agent to report on the Nett Lake reservation following the change in the Indian Affairs Bureau is quoted by Winchell following his inspection in 1871.

On visiting the Nett Lake band . . . he found the place deserted. He found the blacksmith shop, the school house and eight houses erected for chiefs, agreeably to the provisions of the second clause, third article treaty of May 5, 1866, but all deserted, 'the first because the teacher had never been there, and was then engaged in keeping a trading post many miles distant, where the only educational aid he gave the Indians was the art of calculating how many pounds of flour, at 20 cents a pound, they could buy for one dollar. The blacksmith shop at Pelican Lake had never been used. The houses were unoccupied because surrounded by heavy forest (Winchell 1911:668-69).

Apparently the conditions of degeneracy and retrogression were widespread throughout all of the reservations in the state. Winchell notes:

Vice and rapine flourished far beyond the worst conditions ever known. The whites, many of them of the worst type, connected either with the lumbering industry or with the official and licensed traders, or as mere vagabonds, were crowding into the country, causing frequent collision with the Indians, in which almost invariably the Indians came out the greatest loser (Winchell 1911:663).

Another aspect of the historical relationship of the Indians with the whites was the use (or misuse) of alcoholic beverages. Whiskey was frequently used to "loosen up" the Indians to obtain agreements from them which they might otherwise be reluctant to make. Prompted by the seriousness of the liquor situation, as early as 1851 in a treaty with the Sioux and by 1854 in the Chippewa treaty at La Pointe, the federal government restricted spiritous liquors from being "made, sold or used on any of the lands herein set apart for the residence of the Indians . . . ." (Winchell 1911:625).

The Indians themselves were aware of the situation and the consequences of the heavy drinking. In the late 1860's the following conditions prevailed:

Affairs at Crow Wing, and hence at Gull Lake and other places under the influence of Crow Wing, had sunk to the conditions of a real Sodom. The schools had been abandoned. The streets were filled with crime and carousal. The Mille Lacs Indians refused to go there, fearing drunkenness, robbery and murder. The people were rapidly dying through the unrestrained dispensation of intoxicating drink. The chiefs and intelligent men of the bands observed the degradation and were alarmed for the future certain extinction of the people, unless they could get away from Gull Lake and Crow Wing . . . . Rev. J.A. Gilfillan . . . . kept a record for one summer of the murders committed by the Ojibwa upon themselves through the influence of whiskey. These murders, in the little village of Crow Wing, reached the appalling number of 75 in about as many days (Winchell 1911:663).

Restrictions against liquor were further strengthened by an 1892 federal law prohibiting liquor traffic on Indian lands and forbidding the sale of alcoholic beverages even to Indians who were not on reservations. This handling of the liquor situation, of course, defined it as a problem area and set off the Indian from the rest of the population in his ability and legal right to drink. Drinking was possible only in an unlawful context and frequently with less-than-desirable associates. Alcohol was accessible to the Indians only through high payments to bootleggers or through furtively concocted (and often dangerous) "home-brew."

In 1953, the ban against the purchase of liquor by Indians was removed. This law also gave local reservations the option of selling liquor on the reservation.

In addition to the relations of the Indians with the government already mentioned, a particular situation existed with respect to law enforcement. Early reports of conditions on Indian reservations stressed the need for laws that would control the problems that had arisen among the Indians. In 1863 the Board of Visitors stressed that:

The first thing needed is law. It must come from the government which has them in charge. The judge must be its officer and representative, and it must furnish the police. The criminal laws of the general government and of the state or territory where they reside must be extended over them. There can be no reason why they should not, like all other persons resident in our country, be placed in subjection to law . . . As they often reside remote from any officer authorized to administer law, it will be necessary for Congress to provide for the appointment of duly qualified persons, who shall reside at the Indian reservations and see that all laws are enforced . . . There is a great misapprehension in the public mind with reference to the Indian's tribal relations. It is generally supposed that he has a rude patriarchal government, of which the chief is the head, and that this is ample for his protection. The contrary is the case. A chief has no power or authority to make or execute laws for the protection of property or life. There are no such laws in the Indian country. Whenever the Indians have been brought in contact with white men, the chiefs become the instruments by which the trader and employer control the people, and in order to exercise this influence they must be furnished with the presents which are used as the means to secure it. They have no power to punish crime and never attempt it (Winchell 1911:659).

The movement to place agents at each reservation can be largely attributed to the inadequacy of former law enforcement. Owing to the inapplicability of federal law, however, this did not solve the problem. In 1869, General Hassler made an inquiry of the United States legal authorities and was informed:

. . . they have no means or authority for punishing crimes or offenses committed by Indians among themselves, or against the United States, and that all redress and punishment must be inflicted by the agent (Winchell 1911:665).

The situation was one in which agents were expected to enforce the law on reservations, but since reservations were under federal control, only federal laws could be effectively enforced. State and local laws and law enforcement agencies could not function efficiently on federal lands. The result was that the Federal government permitted tribal law to retain jurisdiction in the cases of minor wrongs, primarily because federal laws did not cover minor offenses or make provision for their persecution. As already pointed out, however, no comprehensive system of tribal law existed. Moreover, knowing that state and local agencies had no real



authority to bring about prosecution for crimes, the Indians held these agencies in disrespect, thus any law enforcement the agencies would have been able to furnish was minimized. Federal laws operated almost exclusively in the area of liquor restrictions (Levi 1956:126).

Not until 1953 when Public Law 280 was passed, did law enforcement at most state reservations shift from the federal government to local and state agencies. While other services which were transferred from federal to local and state agencies were accompanied by funds to subsidize the additional expense, the transfer of law enforcement responsibilities was not so underwritten. This legislation was accompanied by a general cessation of direct agent representation at the various reservations and a centralization of BIA operations.

The point should also be made that governmental Indian agencies tended to initiate, organize, supervise, and in almost every other way direct services which were conducted on behalf of the Indian. Where Indian labor and manpower could have been utilized, the federal government often brought in non-Indian workers. Native leadership was not encouraged and the Indian became accustomed to having most things done for him.

Accompanying these various historical occurrences was an overall process which is perhaps best described as the gradual decline and near destruction of the economic or subsistence base of the traditional Chippewa social structure. The wandering habits of these Indians were curtailed as they were confined more and more to specific localities. Wild game, upon which they were so dependent for their livelihood, diminished as settlement in hunting areas increased. The Mide-wiwin religion lost much of its meaning and relevancy as education and missionary activity changed the thought patterns of many of the Indians. Roles which previously had been meaningful (e.g., ability in warfare, hunting, trapping, and Mide ceremonies) decreased in importance. Only in the case of knowledge of the rice harvest did any significant basis remain for leadership in the community.

Discussion. It is now possible to look at some of the personal and social disorganization currently evident among the Minnesota Indian population in light of this brief cultural and historical background. Attention will be focused on three manifestations of disorganization frequently identified with respect to the Indian population: drinking, problems of law and order, and minimal community cooperation.

One of the underlying factors in the process of change has been a "breakdown" of the traditional Chippewa cultural base. As mentioned above, economic or subsistence techniques related to traditional Chippewa culture are virtually meaningless under present conditions. The social structure which previously defined meaningful roles for the Indians has been virtually destroyed. No longer is the Indian honored for being a good hunter or fisher, a knowledgeable Mide priest or an expert in war. On the other hand, the social structure of the dominant society emphasizes roles from which the Indian has been systematically excluded. The modern economic structure is almost totally alien to the Indian. He finds it difficult to get a job and his reservation background provides him with few of the social and psychological resources necessary for the retention of any job he may be able to obtain. He is often forced to rely on relief from welfare agencies--a practice which the dominant society has defined as being only for "inferior" people.

Elderly Chippewa presently feel that they are not granted the respect which would have been due them in the traditional culture. The younger people have been influenced by the dominant society values which emphasize youth to a much greater



extent than the Chippewa culture. The result is a breakdown of the former status system which gave respect and prestige to the older "longdwellers."

Any integrated society depends on a relatively coherent complex of social norms, values, expectations, roles, and prestige systems. When a relatively high degree of integration or coherence is not present--in this case owing to social change--we can expect social and individual disorganization to be manifested in various forms. According to Rose, "Social disorganization--in the form of one or more of the familiar social problems--occurs when a significant proportion of meanings and values are no longer sufficiently internalized to guide the behavior of a significant proportion of the individuals still in physical contact with one another" (Rose 1954: 12).

Heavy drinking (and its concomitants) has frequently been identified as one of the Indians' greatest problems. At one reservation, for example, group activities were consciously planned so that they did not conflict with "drinking periods." In planning a local council meeting, several of the men mentioned that it would be impossible to hold the meeting during one period of several days--immediately following the first of the month--"because everyone will be drunk then."

While many people have attributed the Indian's problem with alcohol to some genetic characteristic or the "purity of the Indian blood stream," there are much more adequate explanations. Excessive drinking can be seen as a response to the personal conflicts resulting from a lack of clearly defined roles or meanings and values in contemporary Indian life. The type of drinking done by the Indians is extremely significant in understanding Indian disorganization. Many Indians drink volume alcohol such as 3.2 beer and cheap wine almost to the exclusion of any other form of alcohol. The express intent of such drinking is to "drink to get drunk" or "to pass out." Drunkenness serves a function, as illustrated by one Indian man who said, "When I am drunk, I can be anyone I want to be--doctor, lawyer, hunter--anyone!" Drunkenness is an "escape" for the Indian. The "escape" is from the inconsistencies and conflicts caused by a lack of clearly defined roles. For the younger generation, drinking may serve as an escape from the boredom and lack of meaning in their reservation experience.

The history of liquor in the experience of the Indians has compounded this situation through the definition liquor as "bad" and the Indian as unable to handle it. The argument may be advanced that the Indian has not really learned how to drink or how to be moderate in his consumption of alcohol. He has been, until recently, denied the social control of drinking publicly and has been "forced" to restrict his drinking to illegal and furtive indulgence in "home-brew" or bootlegged liquor.

Application could be made at this point of the formulation of Julian Steward (Steward 1955:43-63). He suggests that acculturation studies make use of the concept of "levels of sociocultural integration"--e.g., national, folk or community, and family levels. Institutions associated with these levels of integration differ with respect to their complexity and form. Steward points out that "American Indians since post-white times have been potentially subject to influences from both the "national" and "folk" levels of European culture (Steward 1955:56-7). Thus, the "family" level of sociocultural integration of the traditional Indian culture, i.e., patterns of life of the small hunting and gathering units, has been influenced by the imposition of dominant society "national" institution, i.e., the reservation system, governmental controls and the national economy. While "national" institutions have been imposed on Indian "family" culture, little attention has been paid to the total effect of such "intervention" on traditional Indian institutions. Because of the isolation of the Indians, a continuity of traditions has

been supposed. However, to quote Steward, ". . . native patterns do not necessarily remain intact because individual Indians do not participate in white society. All 'tribes' have been brought into a relationship of dependency upon American culture through economic, governmental and often religious institutions. In most cases, the influence of the institutions of the larger sociocultural system has been sufficient to destroy the native pattern, often with traumatic effects. It was the most serious weakness of the New Deal policy for the Indians to suppose that an uncontaminated native core of attitudes and values could be preserved while the tribe became increasingly dependent upon national institutions" (Steward 1955:57).

The relative absence of law and order has been identified as another "problem area" of the contemporary Indian situation. An illustration of attitudes toward this "problem" may help to clarify the factors involved. A theft was committed involving government money at one state reservation. The boys responsible for the theft were discovered; upon the return of the money, no further disciplinary action was taken. This prompted the comment by a non-Indian: "These Indians are never punished. If they steal something and aren't caught--then they get away with it. If they are caught--then they just give it back and that's all there is to it! They don't see any reason why there should be anything else done about it!"

The cultural background of this situation suggests a plausible explanation. The private or individualistic nature of the culture includes a view of misbehavior in which only the person wronged has any recourse when an offense has been committed. Further, no one else really has any right to be concerned. Opposed to this is the dominant society view that an act against a person or property is a crime against society as well. Society has a responsibility to apprehend the guilty person and see that proper punishment is enacted. Owing to this discrepancy, it is not surprising that external law enforcement agencies have difficulty securing cooperation of Indian communities and that Indian communities are not more concerned about their "problem."

The cultural background of this situation suggests a plausible explanation. The private or individualistic nature of the culture includes a view of misbehavior in which only the person wronged has any recourse when an offense has been committed. Further, no one else really has any right to be concerned. Opposed to this is the dominant society view that an act against a person or property is a crime against society as well. Society has a responsibility to apprehend the guilty person and see that proper punishment is enacted. Owing to this discrepancy, it is not surprising that external law enforcement agencies have difficulty securing cooperation of Indian communities and that Indian communities are not more concerned about their "problem".

Furthermore, the problem of crime and delinquency in the Indians' case can only be adequately understood when it is remembered that they had been under federal control until only recently. Disrespect for state and local authorities, coupled with the introduction of laws in areas which were previously "legal vacuums" has been to a considerable extent responsible for the present conditions. In addition, reluctance of local agencies to deal with internal or local Indian problems contributes to the lack of community law and order.

The final problem discussed here is the lack of effective community organization or cooperation. While this factor is perhaps less visible as a problem area, most people who have worked closely with the Indians have become aware of it. For example, at one Minnesota reservation, effective regulation of rice harvesting procedures was consistently thwarted by individual violations of rules set up by the duly elected rice committee. Indians "riced" illegally at night, trespassed in areas of the rice beds set aside for additional ripening, and took it upon themselves to lower the water level in the lake by removing boards from the dam. The



problem may be stated in terms of the unwillingness of some people to accept and abide by a majority decision.

The Chippewa culture did not necessitate the acceptance, on the part of the minority, of a majority decision. Where disagreement with an authority occurred, the person was able to leave the band of the particular leader or to challenge his leadership. Further, subject to change since it depended on a person's continued successful performance in various meaningful roles. Because of the cultural allowance for actions based on individual autonomy, it is not surprising that coordinated community activity is limited.

In addition, it should be pointed out that the Indian Reorganization Act has only been in effect since 1934. This act authorized the establishment of local self-government by the various Indian groups. The act is based on dominant society conceptions of collective government with the democratically elected representative body making decisions for the entire group. Democratic institutions are not central to traditional Chippewa culture, however, and this difference may help to explain some of the local Indian councils' difficulties.

The "helping orientation" of agencies which have historically dealt with the Indians has also contributed to the lack of development of community organization and cooperation.

Conclusion. The above discussion deals only with a few of the "problems" of the contemporary Minnesota Indian situation. Hopefully, the major underlying sources of other difficulties are included in the few topics treated here. In any event, the background provided by the cultural and historical review and the theoretical interpretation seem to provide a more complete understanding of those forms of individual and social disorganization which have often been referred to as "the Indian Problem".

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>This paper is an outgrowth of my field experience at the Nett Lake, Minnesota reservation in 1961, and a growing interest in the contemporary Indian situation in the state.

<sup>2</sup>While other than Chippewa Indians are included in the total Indian population of Minnesota, the seven principal reservations are all Chippewa and more than 95% of the Indians in the state are Chippewa. No attempt is made here to apply this discussion to non-Chippewa Indians, though there are some grounds for pointing to various similarities in the conditions of all Minnesota Indians. Since my own field work experience was among the Nett Lake Indians, it is probably that the discussion will be most applicable to this group. However, basic similarities in the cultural traditions and historical experiences of the majority of Minnesota Chippewa warrant at least consideration of these factors for the wider state Chippewa population. There is no implication that all Minnesota Indians fit into the "problem" category.

<sup>3</sup>Hickerson uses historical and ethnographic sources to cast doubt on the widely held view of a strong individualism or "atomism" among the southwestern Chippewa of pre-reservation Minnesota and Wisconsin (Hickerson 1962). While accepting the scholarly contribution of Hickerson, it does not entirely discredit the individualistic interpretations of traditional Chippewa life (See for example Landes 1937; Barnouw 1950)



The difference of intent of Hickerson and myself must be noted. Hickerson essentially contrasts the southwestern Chippewa with the Saulteaux or northern Chippewa and finds that the southwestern group evidenced "a marked degree of cohesion in contrast to the northern (Canadian) branch (Hickerson 1962:9). On the other hand, it is my intent to contrast the traditional Chippewa culture with that of the dominant white society. In contrast to the dominant white society, both southwestern and northern Chippewa groups exhibit an individualistic orientation.

It should be added that individualism or "atomism" as a culture theme would be most applicable to Chippewa Indians of the northern regions of Minnesota (e.g., Nett Lake, Lake Vermillion and Grand Portage) because of the geographic and cultural similarities and historic ties of these groups with the Canadian or northern Chippewa (Hickerson 1962:86).

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Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
4th Floor, Federal Building  
Bemidji, Minnesota

July 12, 1963

To Members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe:

Our present Constitution and Bylaws was approved by the Secretary of the Interior, on July 24, 1936. This document does not meet the needs of our people today. Your Tribal Executive Committee decided to have this document amended, and appointed the Constitutional Committee to draft the necessary changes.

The Constitutional Committee has now come up with the attached amended document for your consideration. The major changes are the delegate system will be abolished, and each reservation will elect its own Tribal Executive Committeemen, in addition to its own Reservation Council. The other major change is that the Reservation Council will be called The Reservation Business Committee, and will be able to do more at the reservation level without going back to the Tribal Executive Committee. In other words, the reservation will have more authority to sponsor projects, even though the other reservations may not be interested. Such projects might be in connection with Public Housing, Credit, Area Redevelopment, et cetera. The attached document has been reviewed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

It is planned to have meetings in the near future with our communities to explain the attached document. Also, it is planned to have a referendum vote sometime later this fall, not later than October 30, 1963, at which time members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will have the chance to vote for, or against, the amendments.

The Tribal Executive Committee has also decided to have the membership be given the opportunity of expressing their views as to how any future judgment, or claims funds, should be spent. This voting on the claims money will be held at the same time that the members vote on the attached document.

Your Constitutional Committee feels that the attached document will best serve the needs of the Tribe. They stand ready to discuss and explain the document with any member. They also urge each member to do all he can to encourage others to participate in the forthcoming referendum vote.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Allen Wilson, Chairman  
Peter DuFault, Secretary  
Bernard Martin, Member  
Simon Howard, Member  
Jerry Martin, Member  
Paul LeGard, Member  
Lawrence Connors, Member

5-18-63

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

We, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, consisting of the Chippewa Indians of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations, and the Nonremoval Mille Lac Band of Chippewa Indians, in order to form a representative Chippewa tribal organization, maintain and establish justice for our Tribe, and to conserve and develop our tribal resources and common property; to promote the general welfare of ourselves and descendants, do establish and adopt this constitution for the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota in accordance with such privilege granted the Indians by the United States under existing law.



## ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is hereby organized under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

Section 2. The name of this tribal organization shall be the "Minnesota Chippewa Tribe."

Section 3. The purpose and function of this organization shall be to conserve and develop tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian trust property; to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; to preserve and maintain justice for its members and otherwise exercise all powers granted and provided the Indians, and take advantage of the privileges afforded by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and all the purposes expressed in the preamble hereof.

Section 4. The Tribe shall cooperate with the United States in its program of economic and social development of the Tribe or in any matters tending to promote the welfare of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe of Indians.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall consist of the following:

- (a) Basic Membership Roll. All persons of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood whose names appear on the annuity roll of April 14, 1941, prepared pursuant to the Treaty with said Indians as enacted by Congress in the Act of January 14, 1889 (25 Stat. 642) and Acts amendatory thereof, and as corrected by the Tribal Executive Committee and ratified by the Tribal Delegates, which roll shall be known as the basic membership roll of the Tribe.
- (b) All children of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born between April 14, 1941, the date of the annuity roll, and July 3, 1961, the date of approval of the membership ordinance by the Area Director, to a parent or parents, either or both of whose names appear on the basic membership roll, provided an application for enrollment was filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates by July 4, 1962, one year after the date of approval of the ordinance by the Area Director.
- (c) All children of at least one quarter (1/4) degree Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born after July 3, 1961, to a member, provided that an application for enrollment was or is filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates or the Tribal Executive Committee within one year after the date of birth of such children.

Section 2. No person born after July 3, 1961, shall be eligible for enrollment if enrolled as a member of another tribe, or if not an American citizen.

Section 3. Any person of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood who meets the membership requirements of the Tribe, but who because of an error has not been enrolled, may be admitted to membership in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by adoption, if such adoption is approved by the Tribal Executive Committee, and shall have full membership privileges from the date the adoption is approved.

Section 4. Any person who has been rejected for enrollment as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall have the right of appeal within sixty days from the date of written notice of rejection to the Secretary of the Interior from the decision of the Tribal Executive Committee and the decision of the Secretary of the Interior shall be final.

Section 5. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to deprive any descendant of a Minnesota Chippewa Indian of the right to participate in any benefit derived from claims against the U. S. Government when awards are made for and on behalf of and for the benefits of descendants of members of said Tribe.

### ARTICLE III - GOVERNING BODY

The governing bodies of the Minnesota Chippewa shall be the Tribal Executive Committee and the Reservation Business Committees of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations, and the Nonremoval Mille Lac Band of Chippewa Indians, hereinafter referred to as the six (6) Reservations.

Section 1. Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of each of the six (6) Reservation Business Committees elected in accordance with Article IV. The Tribal Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, select from within the group a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall continue in office for a period of two (2) years or until their successors are elected and seated.

Section 2. Reservation Business Committee. Each of the six (6) Reservations shall elect a Reservation Business Committee composed of not more than five (5) members nor less than three (3) members. The Reservation Business Committee shall be composed of a Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and one (1), two (2), or three (3) Committeemen. The candidates shall file for their respective offices and shall hold their office during the term for which they were elected or until their successors are elected and seated.

#### ARTICLE IV - TRIBAL ELECTIONS

Section 1. Right to vote. All elections held on the six (6) Reservations shall be held in accordance with a uniform election ordinance to be adopted by the Tribal Executive Committee which shall provide that: (1) All members of the Tribe, 21 years of age or over, shall have the right to vote at all elections held within the reservation of their affiliation. All questions arising from the term "affiliation" shall be resolved by the Reservation Business Committee and its decision shall be final. (2) All elections shall provide for absentee ballots and secret ballot voting. (3) Each Reservation Business Committee shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its voters. (4) The precincts, polling places, election boards, time for opening and closing the polls, canvassing the vote and all pertinent details shall be clearly described in the ordinance.

Section 2. Candidates. A candidate for Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Committeeman must be an enrolled member, or be eligible to be an enrolled member, of the Tribe and reside on the reservation of his affiliation at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the election. No member of the Tribe shall be eligible to hold office either as a Committeeman or officer until he or she shall have reached his or her twenty-first (21) birthday on or before the date of election.

Section 3. Term of Office.

- (a) The first election of the Reservation Business Committee for the six (6) Reservations shall be called and held within ninety (90) days after the date on which these amendments become effective in accordance with Section 1, of this Article.
- (b) For the purpose of the first election, the Chairman and one (1) Committeeman shall be elected for a four-year term. The Secretary-Treasurer and any remaining Committeemen shall be elected for a two-year term. Thereafter, the term of office for Officers and Committeemen shall be four (4) years. For the purpose of the first election, the Committeeman receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected for a four-year term.

#### ARTICLE V - AUTHORITIES OF THE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee shall, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations of the Department of the Interior, have the following powers:

- (a) To employ legal counsel for the protection and advancement of the rights of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; the choice of counsel and fixing of fees to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative.



- (b) To prevent any sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of tribal lands, interest in lands, or other assets, including minerals gas and oil.
- (c) To advise with the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates or Federal projects for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, except where such appropriation estimates or projects are for the benefit of individual reservations.
- (d) To administer any funds within the control of the Tribe; to make expenditures from tribal funds for salaries, expenses of tribal officials, employment or other tribal purposes. The Tribal Executive committee shall apportion all funds within its control to the various Reservations excepting funds necessary to support the authorized costs of the Tribal Executive Committee. All expenditures of tribal funds, under the control of the Tribal Executive Committee, shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times. The Tribal Executive Committee shall prepare annual budgets, requesting advancements to the control of the Tribe of any money deposited to the credit of the Tribe in the United States Treasury, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative.
- (e) To consult, negotiate, contract and conclude agreements on behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with Federal, State and local governments or private persons or organizations on all matters within the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee, except as provided in the powers of the Reservation Business Committee.
- (f) Except for those powers hereinafter granted to the Reservation Business Committees, the Tribal Executive Committee shall be authorized to manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with tribal lands, interests in lands or other tribal assets; to engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the Tribe; to borrow money from the Federal Government or other sources and to direct the use of such funds for productive purposes, or to loan the money thus borrowed to Business Committees of the reservations and to pledge or assign chattel or income, due or to become due, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, when required by Federal law or regulations.
- (g) The Tribal Executive Committee may by ordinance, subject to the review by the Secretary of the Interior, levy licenses or fees on non-members or non-tribal organizations doing business on two or more reservations.
- (h) To recognize any community organizations, associations or committees open to members of the several reservations and to approve such

organizations, subject to the provisions that no such organizations, associations, or committees may assume any authority granted to the Tribal Executive Committee or to the Reservation Business Committees.

- (i) To delegate to committees, officers, employees or cooperative associations any of the foregoing authorities, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated authorities.

#### ARTICLE VI - AUTHORITIES OF THE RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEES

Section 1. Each of the Reservation Business Committees shall, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations of the Department of the Interior, have the following powers:

- (a) To advise with the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates on Federal projects for the benefit of its reservation.
- (b) To administer any funds within the control of the Reservation; to make expenditures from Reservation funds for salaries, expenses of Reservation officials, employment or other Reservation purposes. All expenditures of Reservation funds under the control of the Reservation Business Committees shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times. The Business Committees shall prepare annual budgets requesting advancements to the control of the Reservation of tribal funds under the control of the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (c) To consult, negotiate and contract and conclude agreements on behalf of its respective Reservation with Federal, State and local governments or private persons or organizations on all matters within the power of the Reservation Business Committee, provided that no such agreements or contracts shall directly affect any other Reservation or the Tribal Executive Committee without their consent. The Business Committee shall be authorized to manage, lease, permit or otherwise deal with tribal lands, interests in lands or other tribal assets, when authorized to do so by the Tribal Executive Committee but no such authorization shall be necessary in the case of lands or assets owned exclusively by the reservation. To engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the Reservation; to borrow money from the Federal government or other sources and to direct the use of such funds for productive purposes or to loan the money thus borrowed to members of the Reservation and to pledge or assign Reservation chattel or income due or to become due, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative when required by Federal law and regulations. The Reservation Business Committee may also, with the consent of the Tribal Executive Committee, pledge or assign Tribal chattel or income.

- (d) The Reservation Business Committees may by ordinance, subject to the review of the Secretary of the Interior, levy licenses or fees on non-members or non-tribal organizations doing business solely within their respective reservations. A Reservation Business Committee may recognize any community organization, association, or committee open to members of the Reservation or located within the reservation and to approve such organization, subject to the provision that no such organization, association or committee may assume any authority granted to the Reservation Business Committee or to the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (e) To delegate to committees, officers, employees or cooperative associations any of the foregoing authorities, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated authorities.
- (f) The powers heretofore granted to the bands by the charters issued by the Tribal Executive Committee are hereby superseded by this Article and said charters will no longer be recognized for any purposes.

#### ARTICLE VII - DURATION OF TRIBAL CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The period of duration of this tribal Constitution shall be perpetual or until revoked by lawful means as provided in the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

#### ARTICLE VIII - MAJORITY VOTE

Section 1. At all elections held under this constitution, the majority of eligible votes cast shall rule, unless otherwise provided by an Act of Congress.

#### ARTICLE IX - BONDING OF TRIBAL OFFICIALS

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee and the Reservation Business Committees, respectively, shall require all persons, charged by the Tribe or Reservation with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property, to give bond for the faithful performance of his official duties. Such bond shall be furnished by a responsible bonding company and shall be acceptable to the beneficiary thereof and the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the beneficiary.

#### ARTICLE X - VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

Section 1. Any vacancy in the Tribal Executive Committee shall be filled by the Indians from the reservation on which the vacancy occurs by election under rules prescribed by the Tribal Executive Committee. During the interim, the Reservation Business Committee shall be empowered to select a temporary Tribal Executive Committee member to represent the reservation until such time as the election herein provided for has been held and the successful candidate elected and seated.



Section 2. The Reservation Business Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members shall remove any officer or member of the Committee for the following causes:

- (a) Malfeasance in the handling of tribal affairs.
- (b) Dereliction or neglect of duty.
- (c) Unexcused failure to attend two regular meetings in succession.
- (d) Conviction of a felony in any county, state or Federal court while serving on the Reservation Business Committee.
- (e) Refusal to comply with any provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe.

The removal shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 3. Any member of the reservation from which the Reservation Business Committee member is elected may prefer charges by written notice supported by the signatures of no less than 20 percent of the resident eligible voters of said reservation, stating any of the causes for removal set forth in Section 2 of this Article, against any member or members of the respective Reservation Business Committee. The notice must be submitted to the Business Committee. The Reservation Business Committee shall consider such notice and take the following action:

- (a) The Reservation Business Committee within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the notice of charges shall in writing notify the accused of the charges brought against him and set a date for a hearing. If the Reservation Business Committee deems the accused has failed to answer charges to its satisfaction or fails to appear at the appointed time, the Reservation Business Committee may remove as provided in Section 2 or it may schedule a recall election which shall be held within thirty (30) days after the date set for the hearing. In either event, the action of the Reservation Business Committee or the outcome of the recall election shall be final.
- (b) All such hearings of the Reservation Business Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of this Article and shall be open to the members of the Reservation. Notices of such hearings shall be duly posted at least five (5) days prior to the hearing.
- (c) The accused shall be given opportunity to call witnesses and present evidence in his behalf.

Section 4. When the Tribal Executive Committee finds any of its members guilty of any of the causes for removal from office as listed in Section 2 of this Article, it shall in writing censor the Tribal Executive Committee member. The Tribal Executive Committee shall present its written censure to the Reservation Business Committee from which the Tribal Executive Committee member is elected. The Reservation Business Committee shall thereupon consider such censure in the manner prescribed in Article 3 of this Article.

Section 5. In the event the Reservation Business Committee fails to act as provided in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article, the reservation membership may, by petition supported by the signatures of no less than 20 percent of the eligible resident voters, appeal to the Secretary of the Interior. If the Secretary deems the charges substantial, he shall call an election for the purpose of placing the matter before the reservation electorate for their final decision.

#### ARTICLE XI - RATIFICATION

Section 1. This constitution and the bylaws shall not become operative until ratified at a special election by a majority vote of the adult members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, voting at a special election called by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote, and until it has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENT

Section 1. This constitution may be revoked by Act of Congress or amended or revoked by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior if at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote. No amendment shall be effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call an election when requested by two-thirds of the Tribal Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE XIII - RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be accorded by the governing body equal rights, equal protection, and equal opportunities to participate in the economic resources and activities of the Tribe, and no member shall be denied any of the constitutional rights or guarantees enjoyed by other citizens of the United States, including but not limited to freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech, the right to orderly association or assembly, the right to petition for action or the redress of grievances, and due process of law.

ARTICLE XIV - REFERENDUM

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee, upon receipt of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, or by an affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the Tribal Executive Committee, shall submit any enacted or proposed resolution or ordinance of the Tribal Executive Committee to a referendum of the eligible voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall call such referendum and prescribe the manner of conducting the vote.

Section 2. The Reservation Business Committee, upon receipt of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the reservation, or by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Reservation Business Committee, shall submit any enacted or proposed resolution or ordinance of the Reservation Business Committee to a referendum of the eligible voters of the reservation. The majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the Reservation Business Committee. The Reservation Business Committee shall call such referendum and prescribe the manner of conducting the vote.

ARTICLE XV - MANNER OF REVIEW

Section 1. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Tribal Executive Committee, which by the terms of this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative, shall be presented to the Superintendent or officer in charge of the reservation who shall within ten (10) days after its receipt by him approve or disapprove the resolution or ordinance.

If the Superintendent or officer in charge shall approve any ordinance or resolution it shall thereupon become effective, but the Superintendent or officer in charge shall transmit a copy of the same, bearing his endorsement, to the Secretary of the Interior, who may within ninety (90) days from the date of approval, rescind the ordinance or resolution for any cause by notifying the Tribal Executive Committee.

If the Superintendent or officer in charge shall refuse to approve any resolution or ordinance subject to review within ten (10) days after its receipt by him he shall advise the Tribal Executive Committee of his reasons therefor in writing. If these reasons are deemed by the Tribal Executive Committee to be insufficient, it may, by a majority vote, refer the ordinance or resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, who may, within ninety (90) days from the date of its referral, approve or reject the same in writing, whereupon the said ordinance or resolution shall be in effect or rejected accordingly.



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Section 2. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Reservation Business Committee, which by the terms of this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, shall be governed by the procedures set forth in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Reservation Business Committee, which by the terms of this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to approval by the Tribal Executive Committee, shall within ten (10) days of its enactment be presented to the Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall at its next regular or special meeting, approve or disapprove such resolutions or ordinance.

Upon approval or disapproval by the Tribal Executive Committee of any resolution or ordinance submitted by a Reservation Business Committee, it shall advise the Reservation Business Committee within ten (10) days, in writing, of the action taken. In the event of disapproval the Tribal Executive Committee shall advise the Reservation Business Committee, at that time, of its reasons therefor.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Preside at all regular and special meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee and at any meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in general council.
- (b) Assume responsibility for the implementation of all resolutions and ordinances of the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (c) Sign, with the Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee, on behalf of the Tribe all official papers when authorized to do so.
- (d) Assume general supervision of all officers, employees and committees of the Tribal Executive Committee and, as delegated, take direct responsibility for the satisfactory performance of such officers, employees and committees.
- (e) Prepare a report of negotiations, important communications and other activities of the Tribal Executive Committee and shall make this report at each regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee. He shall include in this report all matters of importance to the Tribe, and in no way shall he act for the Tribe unless specifically authorized to do so.
- (f) Have general management of the business activities of the Tribal Executive Committee. He shall not act on matters binding the Tribe until the Tribal Executive Committee has deliberated and enacted appropriate resolution, or unless written delegation of authority has been granted.
- (g) Not vote in meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee except in the case of a tie.

Section 2. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall preside. When so presiding, he shall have all rights, privileges and duties as set forth above under duties of the President, as well as the responsibility of the President.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Keep a complete record of the meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee and shall maintain such records at the headquarters of the Tribe.
- (b) Sign, with the President of the Tribal Executive Committee, all official papers as provided in Section 1 (c) of this Article.
- (c) Be the custodian of all property of the Tribe.

- (d) Keep a complete record of all business of the Tribal Executive Committee. Make and submit a complete and detailed report of the current year's business and shall submit such other reports as shall be required by the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (e) Serve all notices required for meetings and elections.
- (f) Perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Tribal Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Treasurer of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Receive all funds of the Tribe entrusted to it, deposit same in a depository selected by the Tribal Executive Committee, and disburse such tribal funds only on vouchers signed by the President and Secretary.
- (b) Keep and maintain, open to inspection by members of the Tribe or representatives of the Secretary of the Interior, at all reasonable times, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Tribe.
- (c) Make a monthly report and account for all transactions involving the disbursement, collection or obligation of tribal funds. He shall present such financial reports to the Tribal Executive Committee at each of its regular meetings.

Section 5. Duties and functions of all appointive committees, officers, and employees of the Tribal Executive Committee shall be clearly defined by resolution of the Tribal Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II - TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee shall be held once in every 3 months beginning on the second Monday in July of each year and on such other days of any month as may be designated for that purpose.

Section 2. Notice shall be given by the Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee of the date and place of all meetings by mailing a notice thereof to the members of the Tribal Executive Committee not less than 15 days preceding the date of the meeting.

Section 3. The President shall call a special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee upon a written request of at least one-third of the Tribal Executive Committee. The President shall also call a special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee when matters of special importance pertaining to the Tribe arise for which he deems advisable the said Committee should meet.



Section 4. In case of special meetings designated for emergency matters pertaining to the Tribe, or those of special importance warranting immediate action of said Tribe, the President of the Tribal Executive Committee may waive the 15 day clause provided in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 5. Seven members of the Tribal Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum, and Roberts' Rules shall govern its meetings. Except as provided in said Rules, no business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.

Section 6. The order of business at any meeting so far as possible shall be:

- (a) Call to order by the presiding officer.
- (b) Invocation.
- (c) Roll Call.
- (d) Reading and disposal of the minutes of the last meeting.
- (e) Reports of committees and officers.
- (f) Unfinished business.
- (g) New business.
- (h) Adjournment.

### ARTICLE III - INSTALLATION OF TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. New Members of the Tribal Executive Committee who have been duly elected by the respective reservations shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee following election of the committee members, upon subscribing to the following oath:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) that I shall preserve, support and protect the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and execute my duties as a member of the Tribal Executive Committee to the best of my ability, so help me God."

### ARTICLE IV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended in the same manner as the Constitution.

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#### ARTICLE V - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall begin on July 1 of each year.

Section 2. The books and records of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be audited at least once each year by a competent auditor employed by the Tribal Executive Committee, and at such times as the Tribal Executive Committee or the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative may direct. Copies of audit reports shall be furnished the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

#### ARTICLE VI - RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Section 1. The Reservation Business Committee shall by ordinance adopt bylaws to govern the duties of its officers and Committee members and its meetings.

Section 2. Duties and functions of all appointive committees, officers, and employees of the Reservation Business Committee shall be clearly defined by resolution of the Reservation Business Committee.

## PROPOSED DISCUSSION OUTLINE ON INDIAN STUDY

### I. Goal of meeting (Discussion Leader)

We already have a broad position on Indian problems arrived at during our study last year. Our purpose at this meeting is to become aware of the kinds of legislation which were proposed, and either passed or defeated, during the last legislative session; and then to refine our areas of agreement (particularly as they relate to health, education and welfare) about the state's responsibility. Out of this should come some general principles and direction for League activity during the 1964-65 legislative session.

### II. Introduction

The resource person should recap our position as of May, 1963, as a starting point for discussion. She might then spend about 20 minutes on a resume of the "Capitol Letter on Indian Affairs" relating it to the health, education and welfare chapters of Indians in Minnesota. The "Capitol Letter" is not intended to stand alone for study, but is an adjunct to the larger resource piece. The creation of an Indian Commission (p. 6) should be stressed. We are already able to work for its improvement as is clear from the enclosed position.

For the purposes of discussion, the material breaks into 3 main categories.

1. Health and Education
2. Welfare
3. Remedial programs (Education in a broad sense.)

1. Health and Education. The state's participation in health and education programs is fairly clear. The mortality and morbidity rate is higher for Indians than any other group in the state. The main diseases held responsible for this are gastroenteritis and upper respiratory infections. Drs. Barr and Finkelstein of the Minnesota Department of Health stated that these cannot be eliminated by medical procedures alone, but are primarily attributable to poor nutrition, unsanitary conditions, and deplorable housing.

In education there are no federally operated Indian schools in the state. Almost all Indian children attend integrated schools in consolidated school districts. Schools with almost non-integrated populations do exist on the Red Lake Reservation. Problems in this area would relate to the high drop out rate, orientation of teachers to the problems of Indian children, counseling, etc., the improvement of which does not necessarily require legislation. In both health and education, the state sets and enforces standards.

2. Welfare. Unlike health and education, the state's participation is more limited in welfare. Programs are administered locally with state supervision, but only when the state has administrative control can they enforce standards. Since welfare has been a local concern, residence requirements have been set up on a county or township basis. The crucial question is one of state participation versus local determination. It is part of our present position that the financial burden should be shared by the whole state in order to broaden the base for payment.

Clearly, the burden of relief on counties with large Indian populations is great and the tax base is low. (You may wish to reproduce the charts on pp. 46-48 of Indians in Minnesota or make bar-graphs from them.) How do members feel about reimbursement to counties for the cost of Indian relief? For the administrative



costs of such programs? How do the members feel about residence requirements for welfare? About ADC to the chronically unemployed? About standards of assistance? As we said above, the question revolves around this point: Is it worth diminishing local control to get a broader base for payment and establishing standards of assistance?

3. Remedial programs or education in a broad sense. Included here would be programs for vocational retraining, counseling for urban living, adult education programs concerned with maternal and child care, nutrition, health education, etc. Here the main question is one of cost. Such programs are usually costly. What would your members want the League to do if legislation were proposed to set up any of these programs?

### III. Visual Aid possibilities

Reproduce charts from Indians in Minnesota or use bar-graphs adapted from them. Minnesota State Highway Map showing reservation lands, state and federal forest lands, the Great River Road, etc.

INDIAN STUDY

REPORT FORM

On the subject of state financial participation in welfare programs as explained above, unit # \_\_\_\_\_, LWV of \_\_\_\_\_ feels:  
(your League)

WHY? (use back of this page for full explanation)

Regarding remedial programs, unit # \_\_\_\_\_, LWV of \_\_\_\_\_  
(your League)  
would like the League to take the following position:

WHY? (use other side)

Send your unit consensus to your local League Board which will send on to the state League the composite thinking in your whole League. (We are interested in knowing in detail the kinds of comments units make on these sheets.) Report any areas of agreement, any significant minority and most important FILL IN THE WHY SECTION. Was the discussion complete and thorough? Do the members feel strongly about this agreement? Or was it kind of casual? Do your members want the League to act on Indian legislation in the next session? This information will help us formulate a position which accurately reflects your collective opinions.

Capitol



Letter

ON

INDIAN AFFAIRS

■ A Report on the 1963 Minnesota Legislature



When someone asks a League of Women Voters lobbyist what she does at the legislature, she usually says, "Our main function is to give the legislators information about a particular issue." In this case we are considering a particular segment of the population. Our lobbyist might add: "Most other lobbyists represent a special interest; our only interest is the public interest." Although in this case we are concerned about one group, there is nothing self-seeking about that concern.

Our Indian item reads that the League of Women Voters will study specific areas where legislation would be effective in improving the situation of the Minnesota Indian. It is desirable, therefore, to examine the work of the last legislature and to ask as we look at each bill, whether it will help or hurt Minnesota's Indians. Such an evaluation is defensible in the sense that every citizen or legislator has some special point of view from which he judges legislation, whether it results from his belonging to a political party, business, profession, religious group, or geographical area. However, it raises some questions which should be considered by LWV members.

We have sifted through all of the bills introduced in the 1963 session of the legislature--over 2000 of them--and all of the Minnesota 1963 Laws, numbering 888. Some have an obvious and direct relation to Indian affairs, aimed at benefiting Indians or Indian areas. Some name Indians and grant, or would have granted, assistance to counties with large Indian populations. Some, particularly those relating to health and welfare, will affect Indians who receive those services. Some may have application in that they were intended to extend a state service into rural areas, and for this reason may be utilized on or near reservations. Some relate to the economic development of a section of the state which contains Indian reservations. The connections become more and more remote...until Indian interests merge with the interests of the whole state.

We find, too, that we are confronted with many issues. It is perhaps simple enough to decide that it is a 'good thing' for library books to be available to rural children, but can we have an organized opinion on the sale or acquisition of lands by the state? Can we judge the proper course of highways, or decide to support recommendations for improving public welfare procedures without a thorough study of the whole state system? Our present League position is that the financial burden for Indian services should be shared by all the counties within the state. Does this policy give us sufficient grounds to support reimbursement to all counties for welfare services to needy persons of Indian ancestry? We support the idea of an Indian commission. Will our position be sufficiently broad for us to support its recommendations for legislation?

The bills we have chosen for this resumé do not constitute an exhaustive list. When we spread out a map of the state with one hand, and leaf through the catalog of laws with the other, we conclude that no one has the sophistication now to perceive all of the relationships. For example, a scenic, historic and recreational route is proposed to extend along the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling to Ortonville with the hope that it will encourage development along this waterway. We note that three Sioux communities lie along its path. Will it provide an avenue for the development of those communities? And in what sense? Will Indian communities serve as side shows along the way as has happened in some other states? When we consider the purchase of lands for state parks we see that one in Freeborn County is remote from Indian country, but what of Grand Mounds State Park in Koochiching County? Our curiosity is aroused. We have purposely left this question unanswered. The number of such questions is unlimited.

It is beyond the power of one committee in one organization to pursue the applications of every bill. An atmosphere must be created in which all citizens of the state, and particularly their elected representatives, are willing to look at the new dimensions for Minnesota and remember that Indians are citizens, too.

What follows is a review of the 1963 laws which we hope will convey to you what our legislature did in relation to Minnesota's Indians. We have quoted or digested what we considered to be the pertinent sections. Where we quoted we thought it important that you be able to consider first-hand the intention of the legislature and the possible ramifications of the law. Where we thought some background was needed, we made comments, and you will find them so labeled. Our purpose is to help you evaluate where you want this LWV program to go in the future.

#### LAWS AIMED AT SPECIFICALLY BENEFITING INDIANS OR INDIANS AREAS

Chapter 174 - H.F. No. 456 - deals with harvesting wild rice in public waters. It provides that only hand-propelled water craft not larger than 3 x 18 feet may be used; that only small hand-operated flails may be used; that the use of any mechanical harvesting devices is prohibited.

COMMENT: This law is not new. It was amended by the last legislature and is of interest in that it represents an agricultural contribution by the Minnesota Indians. Minnesota is the largest producer of wild rice in the world. All producers, both Indian and non-Indian, are required by Minnesota law to use the Indian method for harvesting wild rice because it is more productive than the commercial methods used in other states and Canada. It results in conservation of the resource and insures reseeding of the rice beds.

Chapter 500 - S.F. No. 1280 - deals with commercial fishing on the Nett Lake Reservation. It amends Minnesota Statutes 1961, Sec. 102.30, to read: "The commissioner of conservation may permit the transportation, sale and disposal of fish taken within the Red Lake Reservation on Upper Red Lake and Lower Red Lake and from waters within the Nett Lake also known as Bois Forte Indian Reservation under such rules, regulations and conditions as the commissioner may prescribe."

COMMENT: This law is a response to a specific Indian request.

Chapter 765 - S.F. No. 1790 - in Sec. 4, Subd. 2 (a) provides that \$1000 out of the \$200,000 appropriated for aid to county and district agricultural societies be made available each year "to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to be expended as may be directed by the Indian Council for the purpose of encouraging such activities and arts as will advance the economic and social interests of their people and particularly to promote a program of agricultural development that will utilize to the greatest possible extent the lands and forest owned by them. This appropriation may be used to help maintain an agricultural extension service; to promote 4-H Club work, or for premiums for the competitive display of exhibits at any Fair or Exposition that may be arranged under the direction of the Council."

Chapter 837 - H.F. No. 1937 - in Sec. 2, Subd. 5, appropriates \$20,000 for 1964 and the same amount for 1965 for scholarships for Indian students.

COMMENT: This represents a token increase over the \$15,000 granted for 1963.

Chapter 888 - H.F. No. 1852 - relates to interim and other study commissions created by the legislature. We quote pertinent portions dealing with the Indian Affairs Commission.

Sec. 2. (Indian Affairs Commission.) Subd. 1. (Creation, Membership.) There is created a state commission on Indian affairs to consist of the governor or a member of his official staff designated by him, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of public welfare, the commissioner of conservation, and the commissioner of business development, who shall be ex officio members thereof, but each may designate a member of his staff to serve in his place; three persons who are of



at least one fourth Indian ancestry, one of whom shall be a member of the Red Lake band of Indians, one of whom shall be a member of the Consolidated Chippewa Indian tribes, and one of whom shall be a member of the Sioux Indian tribes, all such three members shall be appointed by the governor after consultation with the tribal councils of the respective Indian groups; two members of the state house of representatives, two members of the state senate appointed by the committee on committees of the senate, and three members at large, appointed by the governor. Vacancies in the offices of the appointive members shall be filled by the appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired term.

Subd. 2. (Terms) To ensure a continuity of work, the initial appointments shall be: One of the three members selected from the Indian tribes shall be for a term of one year, one thereof for a term of two years, one thereof for a term of three years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified; of the three members at large one thereof shall be for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Appointments for succeeding terms shall be all for three years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Subd. 4. (Meetings.) The commission shall meet quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or at the written request of five members of the commission. A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum.

Subd. 5. (Officers, Personnel.) The commission shall elect a chairman and such other officers as it may deem necessary. The legislative research committee shall furnish from members of its staff personnel who shall coordinate the activities of this commission and secure the cooperation of all units of government, federal, state, and local, so that full use may be made of and benefit had from services available from these governments.

Subd. 6. (Duties.) The commission shall have as its primary duty to acquire information in the fields of employment and housing, civil rights, education, health and welfare, and law and order so that:

(a) Through its reports and recommendations adequate legislation may be enacted when it is required;

(b) Plans and programs may be worked out with Indian people who need assistance in finding employment, acquiring education, improving housing, getting medical care, developing natural resources and generally in becoming self-sufficient.

Further duties of the commission shall be:

(a) To provide information for and direction to a program designed to assist our Indian citizens to assume all the rights, privileges, and duties of full citizenship;

(b) To coordinate and cooperate with the many governmental and private agencies providing services to Indian people on the local, state and national level;

(c) To help implement the findings of various private and governmental units, and to have access to such records as are necessary to obtain needed information. The commission also shall have the right to call upon various state departments for such technical advice and services as are needed to fulfill the purposes of the commission.

Subd. 8. (Annual Report.) The commission shall make an annual report to the governor on its activities, its findings, and its recommendations, and a full report to each regular session of the legislature as early in the legislative session as possible.



Sec. 12 (Membership, Meetings, Powers and Duties, Reports and Termination of Commissions.) Subd. 3. (Subpoena Powers, Employees, Expenses.) Commissions created by this act may subpoena witnesses and records and employ such assistance as it deems necessary and convenient to accomplish its purposes, and the members and staff shall be reimbursed for all expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties...

Subd. 4. (Cooperation of State Agencies.) All state agencies shall cooperate with each of the foregoing commissions in assisting them in effectively accomplishing their purposes. The facilities of the legislative research committee and the revisor of statutes shall be utilized by each of the foregoing commissions to as great an extent as possible.

COMMENT: The Indian Affairs Commission was granted an appropriation of \$20,000 for the biennium.

The creation of this commission was probably the most important piece of legislation dealing with Indian affairs to come out of the 1963 session. Does it meet the LWV criteria for an effective agency? Is it acceptable to the Indians themselves? Yes, for the most part, but they would like to have a commission staff and fear the commission will be a study rather than an action group. Is it permanent? Yes, pending further appropriations from future legislatures. Is it staffed by professionally qualified people? Not as yet. However, the commission is trying to secure an executive secretary. Is it authorized to act in setting up, carrying out, and coordinating programs, and empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies? Yes. Is it provided with adequate funds? No, its funds are very limited.

#### A LAW INVOLVING THE SALE OF INDIAN LAND

Chapter 765 - S.F. No. 1790 - in Sec. 6, Subd. 1 (e) appropriates \$50,000 for the acquisition and development of 82.90 acres for the historic site of Kathio on Cormorant Point, Mille Lacs Lake in Mille Lacs County. The amount is specified non-cancelable; it is to be available until purchase and development has been completed.

COMMENT: The state's intention to purchase this historic site, the scene of a major battle between the Chippewa and Sioux Indians and former Sioux 'capitol,' caused a real stir among Mille Lacs Indians. It was the original intention of the state to acquire the land through eminent domain proceedings. However, it turns out that the land is Indian owned and is actually reserved land held in trust by the federal government. Acquisition by the state is not therefore guaranteed. Without arguing the merits of the issue, we can question procedures. What has the state gained by authorizing a purchase which Indians oppose and which calls upon the federal government to stand between the state and the Indian to see that his rights are protected? Would not some preliminary investigation have revealed the protected status of the land and the owners' unwillingness to sell?

#### LAWS TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO INDIANS

Chapter 764 - S.F. No. 1718 - in Sec. 2, Subd. 17, appropriates \$82,433.56 to Becker County to reimburse the county for "the support of dependent and neglected children and indigent persons of Indian blood from July 1, 1960 to June 30, 1962 to be paid by state warrant forthwith upon the final enactment of this act."

COMMENT: Bills were introduced requesting appropriations of money to Cass, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Mille Lacs and Becker counties in reimbursement for moneys expended to care for needy persons of Indian blood. Only Becker county was reimbursed, as they have been for over a decade. Part of the explanation for their selection for payment lies in this historical precedent. Other factors seem to

be that Becker operates under the township system for administering relief (poor townships appeal to the county for help) and that Becker has not been declared to be a distressed county. If it were so classified, it would be eligible for state aid to distressed counties. As was pointed out in Indians in Minnesota, p. 50, the state has an equalization aid program for all welfare programs by which it reimburses counties with a limited tax base for expenditures over and above their ability to pay. State aid to distressed counties is limited to those with an assessed valuation of less than \$13 million (according to Minnesota 1963 Laws, Chapt. 764). After the county has spent of its own funds in the amount of 150% of the statewide average mill rate for welfare, the state pays 75% of all additional costs. Obviously and according to the Department of Public Welfare, counties with a large Indian population stand to gain more financially with 100% reimbursement for Indian services, such as Becker receives, than they do under the system of aid to distressed counties.

It is the recommendation of the Department of Public Welfare that reimbursement be given all counties for the cost of welfare furnished Indians. At the present time Indians require, proportionately, six times the amount of public relief received by the overall population. This creates a problem in the Twin Cities where it is estimated that about half of Minnesota's Indians reside. In the counties where the majority of rural Indians live, there are large tracts of nontaxable land (state and national forest land and Indian reservation land) which means the tax base is low. An unsuccessful bill (S.F. No. 278, H.F. No. 414) introduced in the 1963 legislative session declared that the care and relief of Indians is a matter of special state concern and responsibility. "To carry out this responsibility, the commissioner of public welfare shall reimburse counties for the cost of relief furnished to Indians to the extent that state and federal funds are available for this purpose." It further stated that "for the purposes of this act the commissioner of public welfare shall define relief and shall make rules and regulations for the administration thereof, including standards of assistance, manner and form of grants, and shall have the authority to negotiate for and accept grants from the United States government."

This bill did not become law. It would have benefited financially some 14 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Welfare in Minnesota is administered locally with state supervision. The state cannot now insist upon standards of assistance, unless it is involved in administration as it is with the categorical aids under social security. Welfare amounts granted recipients by the counties vary greatly. Many counties are reluctant to accept state recommended standards. This fact could have contributed to the defeat of the bill.

Chapter 764 - S.F. No. 1718 - Sec. 25. (Federal Grants for Indians.) The commissioner of public welfare is authorized to enter into contracts with the department of health, education, and welfare and the department of the interior, bureau of Indian affairs, for the purpose of receiving federal grants for the welfare and relief of Minnesota Indians. Such contract and the plan of distribution of such funds shall be subject to approval of the Minnesota public relief advisory committee as authorized Section 2, Subd. 16, of this Act.

#### LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH AFFECT INDIANS

Chapter 837 - H.F. No. 1937 - in Sec. 2, Subd. 8, deals with aid to rural public libraries. It provides that "not to exceed \$5,900 each year may be expended for administration and for providing direct library service to rural areas including incorporated or unincorporated places with a population of 10,000 or less. The balance for financial assistance to rural public libraries as defined in Subd. 8:

<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
\$175,000	\$200,000



A rural public library is a public library serving 20,000 or more persons or serving less than 20,000 persons with the approval of the commissioner of education in a rural area and receiving annually from public funds financial support of at least one mill on the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the area served by the library. Applications for financial assistance shall contain such information as the department requires including descriptions for rural areas served by the applicant and the number and distribution of the persons residing therein; the local plan of the applicant for promoting library service in the rural areas it serves and an estimate of the financial assistance to put such plan in effect, and a statement of the ability of local government within the area served by the applicant to finance operations out of public funds raised by local taxes. Financial assistance shall be granted to an eligible applicant proposing an economical and practical plan for the promotion of library service in the rural area in such amount and subject to such conditions as the department determines after considering the information contained in the application for assistance and the total amount of state and federal funds available for the promotion of rural library service in the state.

"In connection with this appropriation the department shall submit to the United States commissioner of education a plan for the extension of public library service to rural areas pursuant to the Library Services Act, Public Law No. 597."

*COMMENT: A frequently stated concern is that little or no library service is afforded reservation areas. Does this law provide an avenue through which something can be accomplished to remedy this situation? Local Leagues in reservation areas may wish to pursue this further.*

Chapter 595 - S.F. 977. AN ACT to provide medical assistance for aged persons.

*COMMENT: Any state wishing to participate in the federal plan for medical assistance to the aged presented in Public Law 86-778 of the United States of America (Kerr-Mills) declares its intention to participate and the manner in which it will administer the program. Chapter 595, Minnesota 1963 Laws (called MAA) becomes effective July 1, 1964. It states: "Medical care for the aged persons whose resources are not adequate to meet the cost of such care is hereby declared to be a matter of state concern. To provide for such care a state wide system of medical assistance for the aged with free choice of vendor is hereby established." Further, "'Medical assistance' or 'medical care' means payment of part or all of the cost of the ... care and services for individuals 65 years of age or older who are not recipients of old age assistance but whose income and resources are insufficient to meet all of such cost."*

Medical assistance to the aged will take in an additional group not covered by old age assistance. A person is eligible, for example, who alone or with his spouse has an equity in real property not in excess of \$15,000. If married, he can have \$1000 in liquid assets and an annual income of \$2400. These figures are considerably higher than those needed to qualify for old age assistance. Also, the amount of money allowed recipients of MAA in reimbursement for medical services will be higher than that allowed under old age assistance.

The provisions of this act are very lengthy and detailed. For a full account in this case, please see the law itself.

Will MAA benefit Indian citizens? Undoubtedly it will have some effect. However, many Indians now are poor enough to be eligible for old age assistance and participate in that program. Those recipients are ineligible for MAA.



COMMENT: Three bills relating to public services which failed to become law should be noted. In addition to recommending reimbursement to counties for the cost of welfare services granted to needy persons of Indian ancestry, the Department of Public Welfare recommended that counties be reimbursed for certain administrative expenses (S.F. No. 1319). The reimbursement was to be based on a formula including a consideration of such factors as per capita income, population and county expenditures in salaries and expenses of county welfare board employees. It was intended that the state also reimburse counties for new employees hired to coordinate services for the aged, the mentally ill, the mentally deficient, etc.

When services to welfare recipients are increased, the cost of administration also increases, and this places an additional burden on counties whose welfare programs are necessarily large. It was believed that this measure would have been useful in developing child welfare services, particularly for Indian children.

Another unsuccessful bill was S.F. No. 28, relating to aid to dependent children. This bill proposed to extend the definition of "dependent child" to include a child who is deprived of parental support by reason of the unemployment of a parent. States decide whether or not to take advantage of such categorical aids offered under the Social Security Act as old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, etc. Minnesota has never participated in the federally supported aid to children of the chronically unemployed. This bill was aimed at our participation in this program. An unemployed parent was defined in S.F. No. 28 as "a person who is not gainfully employed, is actively seeking employment and is registered with the Minnesota state employment service." It further states, "Counties are authorized to assign unemployed parents to work relief projects established pursuant to section 261.26 and the rules and regulations of the commissioner of public welfare."

The third bill (S.F. No. 276) would have given the commissioner of public welfare authority to "enter into such agreements with other departments of state government or private agencies, as he deems necessary, to provide vocational rehabilitation training to public assistance recipients." This program would probably have been quite costly. However, if we accept the dictum that social welfare programs should be designed to help people to help themselves, and if the charge is true that relief programs are usually palliative rather than remedial, some such program as this might have to be considered.

#### LAWS AIMED AT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SECTIONS OF THE STATE CONTAINING RESERVATIONS

COMMENT: In this section, you will find those laws and one resolution relating to the Great River Road, the Omnibus Natural Resources and Recreation Act of 1963, the Northeastern Minnesota Economic Problems Interim Commission, the Interim Commission on Minnesota River Valley Development, and the development of the Red River Basin. One should refer to a map of Minnesota while reading this section. Notice, for example, how wide the Red River Basin is and the fact that counties are included which are not adjacent to the river. Also notice which ones contain reservation land. In explaining the Great River Road, one legislator said that the road will probably not be completed for another 10 years, and that during that time amendments will be introduced to adjust its route. Recommendations also will be made by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. Recognizing the potential economic benefit, he then said, "All I know is that if it doesn't run through my town, they will have to answer to me." The Indians stand to gain or lose as well. We hope there will be someone to represent their interests.

Chapter 143 - H.F. No. 166. AN ACT relating to the Great River Road and directing the commissioner of highways to designate, establish and locate its route.

The route follows the course of the Mississippi River closely, beginning with Trunk Highway 26 at the Iowa border in Houston County to the junction of Trunk Highways 2 and 71 in Bemidji. It passes through the Leech Lake Reservation. From Bemidji, two legs are described, a westerly leg running along the river to Itasca, and from there north through the Red Lake Reservation on Trunk Highway 89 to Fourtowns. From there it goes north to Warroad and on to the Canadian border. The easterly leg runs along Trunk Highway 71 to International Falls and to the Canadian border.

Chapter 168 - H.F. No. 176. AN ACT relating to the Great River Road; alternate route designation.

This alternate route between the easterly and the westerly legs described in Chapter 143 would run northeast on Highway 71 to Trunk Highway 72, then north on Highway 72 to Trunk Highway 11 near Baudette, then west on 11 to Warroad, and from there, north to Canada. This route, which would be an alternate means of getting from Bemidji to Warroad, would not pass through the Red Lake Reservation.

Chapter 169 - H.F. No. 177. AN ACT authorizing county boards of the counties lying adjacent to the great river road to provide financial assistance to the Mississippi river parkway commission of Minnesota, the commissioner of highways, or the division of state parks in the construction, development, and promotion of the great river road.

Sec. 1. The county board of any county lying adjacent to the great river road or through which the great river road passes as now existing or hereafter established, may grant to the Mississippi river parkway commission of Minnesota, the commissioner of highways, or the commissioner of conservation such sums of money as are available and which it deems advisable not to exceed \$2000 per year, for the following purposes: the promotion and development of the great river road in Minnesota; the paying of actual expenses of commission members incurred in the performance of their duties as commissioners; the purchase of stationery and office supplies; and the payment of dues to the national Mississippi river parkway commission, for the purchase of lands and interests in lands including scenic easements by the grantees, in addition to the normal right of way required for the great river road. Such lands and interests in lands may include parkway features such as lands necessary for recreation, safety rest areas, and the conservation of natural scenic beauty, including such areas as submarginal lands, faces of adjacent hillsides, lakeshore and river banks, swamps and residual parcels and areas of historical, archaeological and scientific interest, in accordance with the joint report to congress and the plan proposed by the state and approved by the secretary of commerce and the secretary of the interior.

Sec. 2. Such grants of the county may come from any moneys available in the county treasury and the county may levy not to exceed \$2000 in any year upon all the taxable property within the county for the purpose of making the grants herein authorized.

Chapter 875 - S.F. No. 284. AN ACT establishing a Mississippi river parkway commission; and repealing Minnesota Statutes 1961, Section 161.142, Subdivision 1.

Sec. 1. Subd. 1. It is declared to be the policy of the state and to be in the best public interest for the promotion of public safety, recreation, travel, trade and the general welfare of the people to cooperate with the federal government and with the interstate Mississippi river parkway planning commission. To carry out such policy and to aid in the promotion and securement of a scenic parkway and highway for the state of Minnesota and to aid in securing the location of federal parks within Minnesota a Mississippi river parkway commission is created. Such commission shall also work toward the planning, construction, maintenance, and improvement of the great



river road or Mississippi river parkway which is to follow generally the course of the Mississippi river and extend from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Subd. 2. The commission shall be composed of nine members of which three shall be appointed by the governor, three shall be members of the senate to be appointed by the committee on committees, and three shall be members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker. The members of the commission shall be selected immediately after final enactment of this act and shall serve for a term expiring at the close of the next regular session of the legislature and until their successors are appointed. Successor members shall be appointed at the close of each regular session of the legislature by the same appointing authorities. Members may be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The commissioner of highways, the commissioner of conservation, and the director of the Minnesota historical society shall be ex officio members, and shall be in addition to the nine members heretofore provided for. Immediately upon making the appointments to the commission the appointing authorities shall so notify the Mississippi river parkway commission, hereinafter called the national commission, giving the names and addresses of the members so appointed.

Subd. 6. The commission shall be an affiliate of the national commission and as a member of the national commission may pay an annual fee of not to exceed \$1000 for its equal share of the planning program of the national commission.

The legislature passed a resolution, No. 2 - H.F. No. 16, memorializing Congress to establish a great river road as an interstate system from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Chapter 790 - H.F. No. 1291. AN ACT establishing a long range program to preserve, develop and maintain the natural resources of the state; creating a Minnesota Outdoor Recreational Resources Commission and prescribing its powers and duties; imposing certain taxes to finance such program; appropriating moneys therefor; amending Minnesota Statutes 1961, Sections 297.02, Subdivision 1, and 297.13, Subdivision 1.

## ARTICLE I

Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the Omnibus Natural Resources and Recreation Act of 1963.

Sec. 2. The purpose of the legislature in this enactment is to lay the basis for establishing a long term, comprehensive program to preserve, develop and maintain the natural resources of this state so as to assure present and future generations of residents and non-residents such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be necessary and desirable. Such resources include, but without limitation, forests, parks, historic sites, wildlife areas, access to and improvement of lakes, rivers, streams, scenic areas, and camping grounds. It is the purpose to provide for the essential planning, basic topographic mapping, hydrologic studies, and both ground and surface water research necessary for such recreational and conservation purposes, and to provide an inventory of presently available outdoor recreational resources, state owned public lands, lands held in trust for the taxing districts, all other publicly owned lands devoted to recreational purposes, as well as the privately owned and commercially operated recreational facilities and opportunities. It is the intention of this legislature to study and examine anticipated future needs and the extent to which private and commercial facilities will need supplementation of publicly subsidized and operated facilities and opportunities.

## ARTICLE II

Sec. 5. Subd. 1. The commission shall proceed as soon as practicable to inventory and evaluate the state's outdoor recreation resources and opportunities, including presently inaccessible lake and stream lands in the public trust funds, and tax-forfeited lands, whether or not reserved from sale. It shall appraise and inventory outdoor recreation facilities offered to the public by private or commercial operators



and the extent to which such facilities now need or may be expected to need supplementation in the future. The commission shall obtain and appraise all information available through private organizations and groups, utilizing to the fullest extent possible studies, data and reports previously prepared or currently in progress by public agencies, private organizations, groups, and others. The commission shall compile such data and in the light of data so compiled and of information available concerning trends in population, leisure, transportation, and all other pertinent factors shall determine the amount, kind, quality, and location of such outdoor recreation resources and opportunities as will be required by the year 2000, and shall recommend what policies should best be adopted and what programs be initiated at each level of government and by private organizations, citizens groups and interests as will meet such future requirements.

*COMMENT: This Commission consists of 14 members, 7 from the Senate and 7 from the House of Representatives. Each state department or agency whose services or interests relate to this Commission are asked to appoint a liaison officer to work with the Commission and its staff. These liaison officers will form an advisory council and this council will include in addition a member of the professional park and recreation staff from each city of the first class, a designee of the federal forest service, national park service, bureau of outdoor recreation, corps of army engineers, and the University of Minnesota, and a designee by the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service.*

*COMMENT: The number and length of these laws indicates the importance which the legislature attaches to the development of Minnesota through the Great River Road, and the assessment of the state for recreational purposes. Minnesota is the scene of a pilot recreational project, financed in part by the federal government and the findings here will be applied to other states. It is not for us to say that reservation areas should be developed for the tourist trade. We must guarantee the Indians' right to make that decision and to be included in plans for the economic betterment of a section of the state which includes their land. This applies to the following two bills as well.*

Chapter 888 - H.F. No. 1852 - relates to interim and other study commissions created by the legislature. Portions quoted deal with two which have pertinence to this part of our review.

Sec. 4. (Northeastern Minnesota Economic Problems Interim Commission.)

A Northeastern Minnesota Economic Problems interim commission is hereby created to study and consider the problems relating to chronic unemployment and economic instability in northern Minnesota, including: Problems relating to transportation rates and practices from the lake port of Duluth to destination; problems involving the further development of the tourist and vacation travel industry; problems related to the development of agricultural promotion and marketing and the development of forest product research and marketing; and the benefits derived from vocational training and retraining; and to make recommendations for such changes as may be determined to be advisable and for the purpose of improving economic conditions and employment opportunities in northern and northeastern Minnesota.

Sec. 6. (Interim Commission on Minnesota River Valley Development.) An interim commission is hereby created to study and consider problems relating to the development of the Minnesota river valley. The commission shall continue the study commenced under Extra Session Laws 1959, Chapter 82, Section 1, Subdivision 2 (2) (b).

Chapter 343 - S.F. No. 1100. AN ACT relating to tax levies by certain counties for the purpose of the development of the natural resources throughout the Red River Basin of Minnesota.

Sec. 1. Laws 1959, Chapter 556, Section 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. The board of county commissioners of the counties of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Wilkin, and Clearwater may annually levy a tax of not to exceed one fourth of one mill, in excess of existing limitations, for the sole purpose of maintaining existing and new programs which develop and promote the natural resources of the counties of the Red River Basin of Minnesota. These tax moneys shall be provided to the "Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association" for allotment as appropriate.

Sec. 2. This act shall become effective as to any county named in Section 1 only after its approval by the board of county commissioners of the county, and upon compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021.

CONCLUSION: As we consider the legislation passed and proposed, we see a variety of approaches to the problems of Minnesota Indians, particularly in the fields of health, education and welfare. In addition we see an interrelationship between the Indians' needs and the needs of Minnesota as a whole. Improving the Indians' conditions, developing their human and natural resources and promoting their welfare as part of the general welfare can only be achieved if we constantly remind ourselves that they are part of our society.

## OUTLOOK FOR WORK

## STATE ITEM I 1963-1964

Chairman: Mrs. Harold Watson  
 2140 W. Hoyt Avenue, St. Paul 8  
 Telephone: MI 5-3004

Board Committee:  
 Mrs. E. J. Diefenbach  
 Mrs. N. E. Duff  
 Mrs. John Lundquist



"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will study specific areas where legislation would be effective in improving the situation of the Minnesota Indian."

We have already arrived at a general position regarding the affairs of Minnesota Indians. It includes support of a declaration of state responsibility for Minnesota Indians and of an effective state agency to facilitate solutions to their problems. We believe that acceptance by Indians is essential for the success of any program designed to assist them. We believe that the federal government should extend its services and that the residence requirement should be abandoned in favor of a need criterion. We believe that nationally the financial burden for Indian services should be shared by all the states and that, on the state level, costs should be shared by all the counties. Our criteria for an effective agency are that it should be:

- . acceptable to the Indians themselves
- . permanent
- . staffed by professionally qualified people
- . authorized to act in setting up, carrying out, and coordinating programs
- . empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies
- . provided with adequate funds

We believe that programs at all levels of government must be based on a constructive view of the Indian citizen as an asset to be developed rather than an exigency, crisis or availability of services from other sources. It is on this general position that we hope to build more specific decisions.

For study we suggest that you concentrate on the "special problems" section of the booklet, Indians in Minnesota. The subjects of health, education and welfare problems form a logical unit for attention during 1963-64, and economic problems and administration of justice can be emphasized the following year (1964-65). We recommend supplementing study of those sections of the booklet with appropriate selections from its bibliography and with outside interviews or speakers. Hopefully we can address ourselves to such questions in welfare as equalization of aid throughout the state to allow us to qualify for federal funds, problems faced by some counties overburdened by Indian relief costs, residence requirements for welfare assistance, criteria for help, etc.; in education, vocational counseling and training for urban living, adult education programs, guidance and counseling for school children, scholarships, etc.; in health, emphasis on health education programs--preventive medicine, maternal and child care, nutrition, sanitation, housing, individual good health habits, etc.--improvement of welfare procedures where they relate to health care, and improving understanding between neighboring communities and Indians.

Since we are to study specific areas where legislation would be effective in improving Indian conditions, it would be helpful to analyze what effect legislation introduced in the 1963 session has had or would have had on Indian affairs. Therefore, we intend to send you an evaluation of those bills pertaining to such matters as area redevelopment, distressed areas, historic sites (where Indian land was involved), the Indian commission, wild rice, conservation, welfare, game and fish, etc.



We feel that such an analysis may be used to make legislators aware of the impact such legislation has on Indian affairs (a fact not readily appreciated by a legislator who is not aware of Indian problems), that it might show where legislation designed for another group of citizens could with slight alteration assist Indians as well, and that it might reveal gray areas where the state does not have clear jurisdiction.

Last year Mrs. O. H. Anderson asked, "Have we the courage to break out of accepted and outmoded molds into bolder concepts of organization and program?" In the introduction to this "outlook" Mrs. Whiting speaks of "our ambitious purpose of helping democracy succeed through increasing the participation of informed citizens in their government." We have a bold new plan which will inform citizens and increase their participation in government. It involves the League's providing basic information regarding the operation of the state and local government and the processes of the legislature to the Indian citizens and in particular to the tribal councils. If your League is located where such a course is deemed valuable, carrying it out will be the responsibility of the Voters Service and Public Relations Chairmen and you. It will be set up through the cooperation of the state League, the adult education specialists of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal representatives. Estimates now are that in order to be effective, it would have to consist of a meeting a week for about three months. Are you game?

In November we will send you an analysis of legislation as it pertains to Indians. You may plan a meeting on Indian problems based on an expanded consideration of Indians in Minnesota before the new material arrives. A second meeting, scheduled after the first of the year, may be used to consider legislative possibilities.

We suggest the following schedule:

November - Material from state Board regarding Indian legislation  
 January or February - Discussion meetings based on this information  
 MARCH 1 - Deadline for Indian consensus

#### PUBLICATIONS

Local League Handbook (national)  
 Publications Catalogs (national, state)  
 Facts (national, state)

Indians in Minnesota (state)  
 New material to reach you this year  
 Local bylaws, budget, program

File

February 23, 1964

Mrs. Harold Watson, Indian Affairs  
State Organization Service  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Watson,

As a Minneapolis League of Women Voter member from Unit 41, I would like to call to your attention what I believe are inaccurate statements in the State League publication, "Capital Letter on Indian Affairs".

On page 4, under "A law involving the Sale of Indian Land" and specifically to, (1) "Comment...It was the original intention of the state to acquire the land through eminent domain proceedings". This is incorrect. The State Historical Society can not purchase land unless the owners are willing to sell, nor would the State Legislature approve such purchase for the Historical Society.

(2) The next sentence, "...it turns out that the land is Indian owned and is actually reserved land held in trust by the Federal government", is also incorrect. A few years ago the District Office of the United States Division of Indian Affairs held hearings on this particular subject and concluded after studying information from many sources that land involved did not belong to an Indian band; the State District Probate Court, also gave the same ruling. The decision handed down was that Melvin and Douglas Eagle were sole owners of the two parcels of land that the State Historical Society wished to preserve for a historical site and that Mr. Melvin and Douglas Eagle were free agents in managing their property. With this information the land in question was not reserved land held in trust by the federal government.

(3) Referring to your last statement, "...owner's unwillingness to sell"--my information is that from the beginning the Eagle brothers were quite willing that the Society take over their land for they too realized its historical value to the state. They were so willing that they agreed to take the parcels of land off the market for a whole year until the Society could go to the Legislature to procure the necessary funds to purchase the property. Does this sound like 'unwillingness to sell'?

One more statement that I would like to question, "...would



not any preliminary investigation have revealed the protected status of the land...". Were you not aware of the many hearings on this subject? When putting your information together for all state League members and interested citizens, were the following consulted: The District Office of Indian Affairs or Mr. Russell Fridley, Director of the State Historical Society, or the Minneapolis Civil Liberties Union or Mrs. Sally Luther who at the time was the governor's representative to see that the Indian's rights were being protected? They were all present at the committee hearings before the legislature granted money for this purchase. I do believe these sources would have put your information in the correct perspective.

I suggest that you not take this letter as your sole source of data, but that you contact Mr. James Hawkins, at the District Office of Indian Affairs, in Minneapolis. I understand he has a large portfolio concerning this particular land sale. Also, Mr. Russell Fridley, Director of the Historical Society who made the personal contact with most all the parties involved, and the State Legislators on the committee who heard all interested parties and finally granted state money for this historic site.

My experience in working on League resource material led me to believe that all facts concerning any given subject must be questioned--all information verified and if controversy exists both sides should be presented in League material. Even with all the above, I do take great pride in reading League material knowing that the material is factual, accurate and current.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John T. Gailley  
4729 Aldrich Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

cc: Mrs. William Whiting, State President, League of Women Voters  
Mrs. Jane Gayl, Minneapolis Board Member on Indian Affairs  
Mrs. Mary Lou Hill, Secy. Minneapolis League of Women Voters  
Mr. Russell Fridley, Director of Minn. State Historical Society



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# INDIANS IN MINNESOTA

Supplemental information to chapters on "Administration of Justice" and "Economic Development" in League of Women Voters publication INDIANS IN MINNESOTA

Published by  
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis  
84 S. 6 St. Room 414 FE 3-6319

November 1964

## STATE CURRENT AGENDA I

"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will study specific areas where legislation would be effective in improving the situation of the Minnesota Indian."

Our general position regarding the affairs of Minnesota Indians has been broadened. It now includes support of a declaration of state responsibility for Minnesota Indians and of an effective agency (state) to facilitate solutions to their problems. We believe that acceptance by Indians is essential to the success of any program designed to assist them. We believe that the federal government should extend its services and that the residence requirements should be abandoned in favor of a need criterion. We believe that nationally the financial burden should be shared by all the counties. Our criteria for an effective agency are that it should be:

- . acceptable to the Indians themselves
- . permanent
- . staffed by professionally qualified people
- . authorized to act in setting up, carrying out, and coordinating programs
- . empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies
- . provided with adequate funds

We believe that programs at all levels of government must be based on a constructive view of the Indian citizen as an asset to be developed. An underlying philosophy is that legislation should not single out a special group, that if laws need change, wherever possible it should be done without reference to a particular race, religion or national origin, unless government services have been given or withheld on the basis of these factors.

Of specific benefit to Indian citizens would be:

1. The creation of remedial programs particularly in vocational training and retraining, counseling for urban living, health education, child care, etc.
2. Broadening the base for payment for welfare through state finance of welfare programs, and setting and enforcing state standards for welfare.
3. The abolition of residence requirements for welfare between counties or townships within the state and state reimbursement for the administrative costs of those welfare programs in which the state participates.

We will work for specific state legislation aimed at benefiting Indian citizens in these areas, and in the general case will point out to legislators the benefit of such legislation to Indians.

## STATE CURRENT AGENDA I

"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will study specific areas where legislation would be effective in improving the situation of the Minnesota Indian."

We are embarking on our third year of study of the "Indian Item." So far we have had an over-all view of the situation, plus a study in detail of the problems of health, education and welfare. This year we are directing our attention to the dual problems of economic development and the administration of justice. You will find excellent presentations of both areas in our INDIANS IN MINNESOTA. As supplementary material the mimeographed sheets update you on current activities of the Indian Commission. Also, you will find a brief resume of bills before Congress which, if enacted, would have a direct bearing on law enforcement in Minnesota.

A summary of the Van Loon report, upon which much proposed state legislation for the economic betterment of Indians has been based, is also included. A claim has recently been settled with the Red Lake Band which, possibly, can affect the economic picture of this reservation. Plans for the disbursement of the funds are included.

Our purpose is to inform ourselves as fully as possible on the many facets of the problems encountered by Indians. In this way we will be able to carry basic information to the general public, as well as to some of our legislators, and thereby assist our Indian citizens through a public education program.



## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Most of the Indian citizens of Minnesota, like most other Minnesotans, do not become involved in circumstances which bring them to the attention of law enforcement officers. Those who are arrested may not receive justice; and on the other hand, law abiding residents in Indian areas may not be adequately protected.

Before considering current developments, a quick summary of the problems is in order. Four points made by INDIANS IN MINNESOTA are:

1. Most reservations (six of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Sioux communities) have been under state law since 1953. In that year, the federal government gave to the state the supervision of the administration of justice. Since law enforcement is a function of local communities, the responsibility was given to the counties. Those counties with a low tax base (because of tax-exempt land, reservations, state and national forests, etc.) found this to be a financial drain. Indians, integrated into the same system of justice as their neighbors, have charged that a vacuum was created which resulted in little or no law enforcement.
2. The Red Lake reservation chose not to accept state law enforcement and continues to enforce local ordinances in a tribal court under the direction of the United States Code of Federal Regulations. Federal courts have jurisdiction over ten major crimes. (Non-Indians on the reservation are covered by state law.) Because of inherent tribal rights, Indians at Red Lake are not always protected by United States constitutional rights, including the right to legal counsel and the right to appeal a decision of the tribal court.
3. Many agree that discriminatory treatment exists in some localities, particularly in those adjoining reservations.
4. Indians are frequently ignorant of their rights. The Indians' background of being under different laws and court jurisdictions at different times and places -- together with foggy areas of rights granted in treaties but untested in court -- has caused great confusion to both Indians and law enforcement officers. Like most disadvantaged persons, Indians have been fearful of recrimination and are reluctant to press for their rights.

### Recent Developments

The Minnesota Commission on Indian Affairs held hearings on law enforcement at White Earth reservation this summer. Typical statements taken from Commission minutes made by law enforcement officers define the difficult problems:

Lowell Benshoof, county attorney of Becker county, speaking of small towns, said, "There is no local law enforcement officer, no local law enforcement effort. You take Detroit Lakes, you've got five or six local policemen; they have their own policemen in Lake Park and other places, but Ponsford and White Earth not being incorporated, they have no local law enforcement officials, and the sheriff tries to take care of the important things -- he's 25 or 30 miles away, and it's not easy."

John Cahill, county sheriff, Bemidji, said, "Speaking of problems, I think perhaps the greatest problems any of the sheriffs have are drinking and automobile driving. We pick up many who have been involved in automobile accidents, who are drunk, driving drunk, no particular point in bringing them into jail. If we don't charge them with an offense, we take them home. We know that if we bring them into jail, they'll serve the 90 days; they won't pay a fine; they won't have any money available, and as soon as they get out, they'll do the same thing again. The cost is a luxury which we can't afford."

Milton Hockel, game warden, Mahanomen: "We apprehend somebody. The person is not gainfully employed, and maybe their wife has a job, and he doesn't have any money. You assess a fine, and the lady says he's her husband; she loves him and needs him and can't get the money to pay his fine, but she goes about her tasks and raises \$2 a week for fine money. So we cannot punish the people who are guilty. In some cases we apprehend someone and assess a fine; he doesn't have the money, has a 19 or 20-year-old wife with a child way out in the wilderness. Can we throw him in jail and leave his wife with a little baby stuck out there in the wilds by herself? It's a tough job. Sometimes I wonder . . . I'm giving you a lot of bad angles, and I wish I knew the solution, but I don't."

Reverend Kramer, who has had his missions broken into and church functions interrupted by gatecrashers, stated, "First we call the sheriff and the sheriff says he's busy but will see if he can get somebody out there. Well, by the time anybody got there, if they ever did get here, the affair had to be closed down, and everybody had to go home. Now this same thing has been happening for quite a while, and what about it when you can't walk down the streets of your own town and feel safe? This is really, in a nutshell, the problem. I think it is a very serious problem, and I'm not going to get very many more clergy to come out and work in these communities. The greatest amount of teachers have long ago moved out of the community, by and large, and other people are moving out of the community, all because houses are being broken in on and nothing is done about it. It is a tough problem of the sheriffs, but it points up the real need for some aggressive law enforcement, not sitting and waiting for the call to come in, but the need to have a law enforcement officer right there when the problem is liable to come up."

Judge Keith Kraft, Probate Court, Park Rapids, stated, "In some cases, due to lack of counsel, a case is not presented as well as it should be in misdemeanor cases. There's no denying that. They can't afford it, and if they don't have counsel, their case is not presented as a matter of defense as well as it should be. The only solution is that I hope we have a good sheriff, and before he takes his case to the county attorney for consideration and deliberation, there may be a possible conviction, that these two gentlemen would have gone over the matter, and certainly I don't think that any sheriff or county attorney in this room would come into court with a case that they didn't feel they had adequate evidence on for conviction. So at least there is some protection to the person who may not be able to retain counsel."

#### Reservation Law Enforcement In Minnesota

Attorney General Walter Mondale, when he spoke to the Minnesota League of Women Voters Council meeting last spring, described the problem as partly one of rural law enforcement. Local control may prevent state tyranny, he said, but it results in lack of revenue for proper programs and possible hesitancy to prosecute certain cases for fear of reprisal. An elected sheriff tends to reflect whatever prejudices might be commonly held in a community, he stated.

The Attorney General suggested:

1. A state subsidy to poorer counties for improved law enforcement. Wisconsin and Nebraska, included with Minnesota in Public Law 280, have such subsidies. This suggestion is supported by Governor Rolvaag and also by the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Minnesota Council of Churches in a study made early last year.
2. Adequate training including human relations training. Mondale told the Council that two-thirds of the law enforcement officers in Minnesota have had no training at all.



3. A better system of providing legal counsel for those unable to afford it. Although in theory everyone in this country is equal before the law, it is suggested that some are more equal than others. Justice Hugo Black has said, "There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends on the amount of money he has."

#### Law Enforcement In Minneapolis

The Minneapolis area also has problems in the law enforcement field. At a meeting of the Subcommittee of the Indian Affairs Commission held this past July, several facets of this problem were brought out.

Mr. Keve of the Hennepin County Department of Court Services in Minneapolis, which deals with the probation of juveniles, estimated that about one percent of their case load dealt with Indians. It was his feeling that the basic cause of much of the juvenile delinquency of these people directly relates to a serious breakdown in the family -- its structure, system, unity. He stated that the probation officers express a general feeling of frustration in working with Indian children because of a serious breakdown in communication with them. They do not understand the children's background, attitudes or feelings, so that rapport is superficial. The officers feel that after probation expires the youngsters quickly return to delinquent activity. (There is no study which denies or confirms this.)

Mr. Keve stated he would like to have an Indian on the professional staff. The job qualifications are high, preferably a masters degree in social work and in juvenile work. All of their probation officers are encouraged to attend any institutes or courses on human relations that are offered in the area. Time off is given to these officers for the purpose.

Mr. Esau, Director of Correctional Services of the Hennepin County District Court, deals with adult probation. He stated the problem with Indians is essentially no different than with any other group. However, failure rate -- violation of probation to the point of revocation -- is much too high. It is 42 to 48 per cent for Indians as compared to 26 per cent generally. He ascribed this failure to instability in employment, lack of motivation and inadequate housing. His department has found that careful placement of Indians on probation in jobs where they are in contact with stable employees not on probation has been quite successful. These jobs are worked out by the department in conjunction with certain employers in Minneapolis who are willing to help with this problem.

Captain Farrell, former Director of the Police Training School of Minneapolis stated that the most frequent charges made against Indians arrested in Minneapolis are drunkenness and assault. In these two categories the involvement of the Indian is considerably greater than is his number in the population. The Indian tends to be brought in on "drunk charges" more frequently, however, because he is more visible to the police, i.e. drunk on "skid row," rather than "at home" or in front of a fashionable restaurant.

Captain Farrell's feeling was that Minneapolis police are not adequately trained in handling minority groups. In February of 1964, a six-week course was presented for the police department. This covered the subjects of psychology of human behavior, the city and its citizens, minority questions, Civil Rights, alcoholism as a social problem, and community resources. He recommended a state program of police training he developed, possibly at the University through the office of the Minnesota attorney general.

Mr. Rolf Stageberg of the Minneapolis Workhouse gave some 1962 statistics regarding Indian commitments. Roughly, 10 per cent of those committed were Indians. In numbers of Indians there were 359 individuals committed with 77 of these being hard core repeaters who accounted for 577 commitments. 122 individuals were committed only once. Of the total of 359, 25 per cent were women, with drunkenness the most frequent cause.



He stated that if they had the personnel and services to reach the first time offenders, they might contribute considerably toward the integration of the Indian into the urban community. He, too, stressed the desire to have a qualified Indian on his staff.

#### Reservation Law Enforcement In Other States

Minnesota was one of the first five states to have law enforcement on reservation lands conferred on it by Public Law 280. Congress consented in the law to surrendering Indian jurisdiction to any other states that wanted it, but no provision was made for making Indian consent mandatory. Several states have made moves to take over the administration of justice in reservation areas in order to prosecute welfare cases, divorces, adoption, mental hospital commitments, breaches of contract, accident damages and the like. Legal systems differ from tribe to tribe and state to state, vacuums being created where a specific offense isn't covered by a special federal law or Indian statute locally. Some tribes, for instance, have no civil codes, thus rendering lawsuits impossible.

The South Dakota legislature passed a law recently to take over jurisdiction in "Indian country," but Indians have circulated petitions and the question will be put to South Dakota voters this fall. United States Congressman Ben Reifel from South Dakota, an Indian himself, says that Indians are fearful that the quality of law enforcement will go down, the counties won't be able to handle the job and large tribal areas would exist in a state of virtual anarchy. (Such a state was said to exist at Nett Lake reservation in Minnesota before two counties agreed to hire jointly a full-time deputy to fill the void.) United Press International quoted Mr. Reifel as saying that Indians were also worried about whether they could get "a fair shake" from the white man's courts and that tribal councils were reluctant to give up their powers.

#### Bills In Congress

In this regard, it is interesting to note the legislative proposals made in the U.S. Senate in the summer of 1964. After several years of hearings, the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights has proposed eight bills for consideration.

The bills are:

S. 3041 - providing the federal government shall have concurrent jurisdiction with that of the states with respect to offenses of non-Indians in Indian country. (Hearings showed a difficulty in getting states to exercise jurisdiction over crimes of non-Indians in areas where Indian justice is under federal supervision, such as Red Lake. It is interesting to note here that Red Lake had asked that its own tribal court be given such jurisdiction.)

S. 3042 - requiring expeditious approval of contracts between tribes and their attorneys by the Justice Department. (Administrative delays, often over a year, on approval by Department of Interior officials had imposed severe hardships on tribes in need of counsel. This bill sets a 90 day limit.)

S. 3043 - authorizing states to assume piecemeal jurisdiction over Indian tribes with the consent of the tribes. (This bill gives states the opportunity to assume criminal and/or civil jurisdiction in Indian country and requires consent. It would replace Public Law 280 which is repealed herein.)

S. 3044 - amending the "major offenses act" by adding "aggravated assault" to the list of offenses committed in Indian country over which the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction. (At Red Lake, and where there are other tribal courts, the federal courts were given jurisdiction by Congress over 10 major crimes. To this is added one more so that serious felonies by Indians against Indians can be handled properly. Tribal courts, for example, cannot impose more than a six month sentence.)

S. 3045 - directing the Secretary of the Interior to draft and recommend to Congress a model code governing the administration of justice by Indian courts. (Testimony convinced the subcommittee that a new code was needed which would assure rights of the U.S. Constitution in tribal courts, assure that individuals being tried are advised of these rights, that qualifications be set for judges and provision made for their training.)

S.- 3046 authorizing the U.S. Attorney General to receive and investigate complaints by Indians alleging that they have been deprived of their constitutional rights. (Like its counterpart in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it gives an alternative procedure for cases which slip past safeguards, such as arbitrary decision making by Bureau of Indian Affairs officials, denial or discrimination in health and welfare services or employment.)

S. 3047 - protecting the constitutional rights of Indians from being infringed upon by their tribal governments. (The powers of tribal governments not being limited the same ways as our local and state governments, freedoms have sometimes been denied individuals. This bill would subject the tribal governments to limitations which would provide for full United States Constitutional rights for the individual.)

S. 3048 - authorizes an appeal from tribal courts to federal district courts in cases of alleged deprivation of rights. (This provides for appeal in cases of criminal action upon conviction by an Indian court.)

#### Civil Rights and Political Action

INDIANS IN MINNESOTA observes that Indians tend to plead guilty, whether they are or not, that they have ceased to believe justice is possible at the hands of the white man. How bad is the situation? According to Sam Newlund, writing in the Minneapolis Tribune, it depends on whom you ask. Police brutality has been charged and denied at Cass Lake. Newlund says that an FBI investigation concluded the charges were without provable substance. Robert Treuer, Adult Education Specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who has taught and lived at Cass Lake told League members on a tour of the reservation, "When a boy's mother tells me the policeman beat up her son, and when the boy says the policeman really roughed him up, and when the policeman tells me, "Boy, did I teach that \_\_\_\_\_ a lesson!", I conclude that there is probably some substance to the complaint." The problem of drunkenness in relation to law enforcement problems was mentioned frequently by the people Mr. Newlund talked to and at Commission hearings. This problem is not necessarily just one of addiction to alcohol, observers say. The basic problem is more likely boredom, discontent, frustration seething within the individual and unveiled by alcohol. The Becker County attorney was quoted as saying, "You take a lot of whites and put them on a reservation and let them hang around the beer parlors and you'd have the same problem."

Newlund's articles brought a response from Peter Dufault, chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, who said, "There is no question that police brutality and violations of due process exist: that in some communities the very opposite problem plagues Indian and non-Indian alike-- a lack of law enforcement. We suffer from these two extremes -- from our Cass Lakes and our White Earths." The Minnesota Chippewa have recently set aside \$2,000 for the beginning of a legal defense fund to defend individuals who do not get their full rights.

Dufault, like many Indians increasingly sensitive about the general image the public has of Indians, feared Mr. Newlund's articles would give readers the impression that all Indians cause law enforcement problems. "We are not exclusively, or even predominantly, a bunch of drunks, a lazy and indolent people, despite the impression to this effect." He pointed to a number of "vigorous" self-help and development projects in different Indian communities, improvements in their tribal governments, increasing leadership and better relationships with the Bureau, state

and local governments.

That Indians must become more active and interested and press for their rights is apparent in both reservation and urban areas. Lee Cook, Indian social worker at Waite Neighborhood House in Minneapolis, sees the need for "a really active Indian political group." Several Indian groups in the Twin Cities have begun to see their roles of increased political participation and lobbying. Mrs. Harold Watson, State Indian Item chairman and a League lobbyist, has said that in the last legislative session virtually no Indians were present and showing concern about legislation involving Indians.

The question of whether Indians serve on juries in northern Minnesota was brought up at the Commission hearings. Testimony seemed to agree that they do serve on juries but in less than their proportion to the population. Mrs. Burnside, who appeared before the Commission, was recorded as commenting, "I want to say as to why more Indians haven't been on juries, I think it is a fact that until people are interested and start thinking about the problem, they're indifferent to everything. You have to seek the minorities out, unless they are very forward people...Until people are educated or have their minds opened up enough to think just a little bit, they're just going to be indifferent to everything. That's how the world ~~has~~ got... We have been mostly with white people, and their general attitude is that the Indians don't care, so look at it here, just the fact there are all these Indians here, they do care..."

Roger Jourdain, chairman of the State Indian Affairs Commission and chairman of the Red Lake tribal council, says that Indians wish to work with the legislature and others for the solution of problems and not alienate themselves from those who would help.

Robert Treuer of the Bureau says the Indians' interest in the civil rights situation in northern Minnesota today reminds him of "that found in Negro urban areas ten years ago. It will grow but at present there is no interested leadership". The present law and order problems reflect a lack of participation by Indians in local affairs, he said, adding that their increased and continued interest would force the solution of some of their problems.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The President signed Public Law 88-663 on October 13, 1964, regarding disposition of judgment funds awarded to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. This claim was an adjustment of payment made on lands of the Red Lake Band ceded to the federal government by treaty in 1863.

The total amount of the claim allowed to the Band was \$1,797,761.74. Of this amount ten per cent will be paid out for legal fees. A per capita distribution of some \$200 is planned for all members of the Band. This will probably be made before Christmas.

The program that the Band has proposed for the use of the rest of the judgment funds includes \$200,000 for use in a tribal credit program from which members of the Band may borrow for any worthwhile project such as purchase of fishing equipment, or for improvement of homes.

The proposed program also includes a scholarship fund of \$20,000 to be used as local incentive awards for high school graduates. About \$250,000 will be used by the Sawmill Enterprise and other such projects. Another \$200,000 is to be set aside for industrial development on the reservation, and \$100,000 is to be set aside as a reserve trust fund for emergency purposes.

### Summary of the Van Loon Report

The Van Loon report is the result of a survey of the potential resources of Minnesota Indian reservations, done by Craft and Van Loon of New York. It was sponsored by the Governor's Human Rights Commission and the Iron Range Resources Commission. It was published in 1956. It is based on two premises:

1. The Indians are not very different from other people who have grown up in similar parts of the United States and who have had about the same amount of education.
2. No two people are alike.

A program to bring economic aid to the Indians must, therefore, satisfy the following conditions:

1. It must make it possible for individual Indians or groups of Indians to get direct help in evaluating the economic soundness of their ideas and plans, and in carrying them out.
2. It must make it possible for persons who might be interested in establishing industries in regions where the Indians live to get detailed information on the possibilities that exist and on the conditions which must be met.
3. It must make it possible for the facilities of the University, of the State Business Development Department, and other sources to be made available to the Indians, and to those who would like to establish industries among them.
4. It must be realistic.
5. It must be self-liquidating.

To be able to do these things, the Program must:

1. Be simple in concept and execution.
2. Make personal help possible to individual Indians as well as to area groups.

3. Bring the best in knowledge and thinking along economic lines to bear on the problems of the Indians.
4. Have the cost of the service carried by the improvement it brings to the area.
5. Provide help in management.

An organization must be established. It will be comprised of an over-all committee, an executive secretary or director, his secretary, possibly an outside consultant and a department for business management.

The committee, called The Committee for Economic Assistance to the Indians, should be made up of five to seven members. Suggested members include a representative from the membership of the Sub-committee for Indians of the Governor's Human Rights Committee, a member of the Red Lake Band, a member of the State Legislature, a representative from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, a faculty member of the University of Minnesota, a representative from the Sioux, and a businessman with a background in banking or rural economics. The committee would evaluate the soundness of ideas for projects brought before it.

The Committee would have a fund at its disposal with which to pay for the following:

1. Salary and expenses of the Executive Director and his staff.
2. Required research.
3. Establishment of projects which the Committee decides will improve the economic status of Minnesota Indians.
4. Other expenses which the Committee feels are justified.

It will be a revolving fund. Repayment will be made to it from the gross receipts of projects initiated by the organization.

The Committee will select an Executive Director. The Director should be a man of Indian background or one who has lived in Indian territory and is sympathetic to the problems. College education is not a requisite, but balance and common sense are. He should be able to act much as a county agent does, determining feasibility of projects and giving counsel in planning and later in management of projects.

The program would be set up to operate in four different ways, as follows:

1. To help Indian individuals, groups or communities establish activities which will provide employment in their environs.
2. To help non-Indian individuals or companies establish activities which will provide employment for Indians in Indian territory.
3. To help Indians get non-Indian industries established in their environs.
4. To help Indians establish businesses of their own in parts of the State other than where they now live.

The report gives detailed procedures for the establishment and management of enterprises. Specific financial arrangements are laid out in full detail. It recognizes that capitalization of these businesses will be the greatest initial problem. Recommendation is made for interest free loans from the Organization. While this is contrary to conservative banking practices, it is workable and ultimately will result in long term economic and financial gain for the entire state.

A specific example of how the plan would work follows.

An Indian with the idea of starting a wild rice parching plant would approach the Director. The Director would investigate, perhaps get advice from the University of Minnesota and, finding the idea sound, present the idea to the Committee.

If the Committee approved, it would ask him for specific plans. Perhaps it would finance a bit of research on the matter. At its next quarterly meeting if the plan still appeared to be sound it would advance funds for the project to get started.

With the help of two or three friends the Indian could furnish labor worth about \$1800 for erecting parching sheds and firepits. Perhaps he could provide a building site worth \$200. In this case he would be providing an equity of about 36 per cent of the \$5700 necessary to start the business. According to the proposed formula he would be given an interest free loan of 14 per cent-- interest free for five years, after which it would gather interest. He also would get a ten year mortgage at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to cover the remaining 50 per cent of the investment.

While it is difficult to definitely pin-point income from such a business, he could profit about \$600 in a season. Employment would be created for other Indians. Community income would be increased since the total rice crop could be processed and not go to waste.

Other types of enterprises which are suggested as possibilities are: sporting goods manufacturing, small plastic products manufacturing, wood products processing and manufacturing, food products processing and nursery products processing.

In this proposal several problem areas exist. Mr. Van Loon specifically warns that supervision and guidance will be necessary for some period of time after the various industries are set up. Also, since few Indians have any sales experience, it would seem desirable for these enterprises to be developed in the position of sub-contractors to companies with established sales outlets.

The final section of the report deals with forest management. Minnesota forests are in sore need of good management practices to realize full potential. Such management will not only increase productive yield but also furnish work to hundreds of men for some period of time. Forest products industries will be necessary to utilize the culled trees and in turn will furnish jobs and improve the general economic condition of the State.



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The Minnesota Voter for July and August 1964

### Indian Item Committee

Mrs. George Batson	377-1717
Miss Randi Carley	St 1-9537
Mrs. Franz Gayl	Fe 8-1252
Mrs. C. H. Hartung, Chm.	869-6665
Mrs. Elliot Mjolsnes	929-3519
Mrs. Leo Mosier	Ja 2-1906
Mrs. Robert Schimke	823-0527
Mrs. Thomas Scott	339-5128
Mrs. R. E. Shelton	Ta 3-7869
Mrs. Glenn Speidel	Wa 2-0840
Mrs. F. Watz	825-1362

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis  
84 South Sixth Street, Room 414, 333-6319

November 1964

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOUR OF INDIAN RESERVATIONS

<input type="checkbox"/>	ADW	ADW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWW	WWW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LWM	LWM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EDW	EDW
<input type="checkbox"/>	JVS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RUN	
<input type="checkbox"/>		

The LWV two day tour of Indian reservations, i.e., Red Lake, Leech and Mille Lacs, pointed up the multiple problems of the Minnesota Indians. Not only is it difficult to gain accurate information; but when the facts are known, the problems so frequently hinge on "the human factor," that overall solutions are not applicable.

Red Lake Reservation - a vast expanse of natural timbered land surrounding the beautiful and enormous upper and lower Red Lakes was the first of the reservations visited. Mr. Louis Jourdain, Chairman of the Red Lake Tribal Council, had arranged for the tour group to assemble in the high school cafeteria. There, Mr. Jourdain, Mr. Olson, superintendent of the Red Lake schools, and Mr. Jerome Morelock, Red Lake Agency Superintendent, spoke informally to the group. Questions were raised on many aspects of reservation life.

The reservation contains 650,000 acres of land and water. It has a population of around 2500 people. This number is quite stable, the number of births offsetting the emigration from the reservation. The land itself is owned communally by the Band. Residents may build homes and live in them, but the land is not individually owned. Housing, other than that furnished for Bureau personnel and teachers, is quite primitive. Most of the homes of the Indians are one or two room shacks. Depending upon the individual occupants, some are quite tidy. Others are slovenly in appearance, with rusted cars, abandoned household equipment and trash of all sorts lying in the door yards. Electricity and telephones are available to the residents; some of the homes do use both facilities. Except for the community of Redlake, where a water and sewage system is available for the school, hospital and housing for the teachers and Bureau personnel, the people are dependent upon individual wells and outdoor privies.

The school system was discussed in great detail - with many questions asked and answered. On the reservation are slightly more than 1000 school age children. Of this number, 250 are enrolled in the Catholic school in Redlake, which has grades from one through eight. The public school system runs on a 6 - 6 plan. In Ponemah the elementary school has 112 students. In Redlake there are about 430 in the elementary grades and 380 in the junior-senior high school. The public school buildings are modern, well kept and well equipped. They are supported through state aids and federal monies. Public Law 815 makes available funds for the construction of facilities. Public Law 874 (Impact Aid) furnishes one-half the average maintenance cost of all Minnesota schools to the Red Lake schools. The Johnson-O'Malley Act furnishes monies to the schools under the supervision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Since these lands pay no real estate tax and the only tax money available to the district is \$800 paid annually by a small railroad line on reservation land, the funds obviously must come from state and federal sources.

The school system employs 42 teachers, about half of whom live on the reservation in houses, apartments or dormitories. Rent for these units is just sufficient to cover upkeep on them.

The school superintendent stated that Redlake High School drop-out rate is about 25%. Some youngsters leave at the age of 14 or 15. It is not known whether they ever continue elsewhere. Some stay on until their senior year, when extras such as pictures, rings and graduation costs place an economic burden on them. However, there has been an annual increase in graduates: 19 in 1963, 28 in 1964 and a potential of 37 in the class of 1965. All 28 graduates of 1964 have enrolled in schools for further education. This was the first year that so many students wished to go on to schools that there was difficulty in finding

sufficient funds for this purpose. At the last minute, funds were made available so all could continue. Mr. Olson reported that there were presently on the reservation 49 boys, aged 16 to 21, not high school graduates and not presently enrolled in school. Indian youths of 18 years or over may enroll in trade schools even though not high school graduates. These schools are located in Grand Rapids and Thief River Falls and Wadena. A Bureau of Indian Affairs program may take care of fees, housing, etc. for these students.

The schools come under the Minnesota State Department of Education, so are comparable to other Minnesota schools. Methods and standards are the same for non-Indian schools. However, this very fact tends to create a problem in education. Indian society places value on speaking only when you have something to say. The Indian child, then, has a tendency not to volunteer for recitation nor even to recite when called upon unless very sure of his material. Teachers need to be better acquainted with the Indian traditions and society in order to understand the Indian child's reaction to classroom situations.

A PTA has been established at Redlake, but it has not been active. Very limited adult education is available through evening classes. Mr. Olson stated that a typing course was available one year and sewing a second year. Few adults participated, however, and no suggestions have been advanced by the Indians for further courses.

Mr. Jourdain discussed the problem of unemployment on the reservation. There is a commercial fishery which is run as a cooperative. About 200 families belong to this. It was established during World War I. A contract with a Chicago firm assures a definite market for the annual catch. This is limited by the Department of Fisheries to ensure good conservation practices. The fishery was still in operation at the time of the tour. About 20 men were working in the building at the time - weighing, cleaning, filleting and packing the fish in ice for shipment. This is a seasonal industry and by November these men will be unemployed.

A second industry is the sawmill. This is a new (1963) automated mill, where only a few are employed. The planing mill was not operating. A truck which was supposed to be there to carry away wood chips had not arrived, so the operation had been shut down. The market for crate wood which is produced there is steadily declining. Boxes for the fishery are produced here. Mr. Jourdain stressed the need for a wood products industry on the reservation to utilize the wood as well as provide employment for men of the reservation who do not wish to leave it.

The average annual income on the reservation is \$1000. This is basically derived from fishing, lumbering, employment in the fishery or sawmill, and farming. A small number are employed in maintenance of roads on the reservation. A small cash income comes from crafts sold to non-Indians. It was estimated that on the reservation there are 1150 adults between 18 and 55 years of age, of whom 550 were employable, but unemployed at the time of the tour.

Mr. Morelock stated everything possible is being done to encourage industries to settle on the reservation. He listed four problems which discourage industry.

1. There are no buildings now available - a plant would have to be built.
2. Housing is not available on the reservation for employees.
3. There is a transportation problem. Anything produced there would have to be trucked out.
4. The climate is such that for long periods during the winter the reservation is virtually isolated.

Within the last year an attempt has been made to encourage tourists to use the facilities of Red Lake for picnicing, camping and fishing. A recreation area has been established. Admittance fees are charged running from \$1 a car to \$5 a bus. Camping permits are \$1.50 a day or \$5.50 a week. Fishing permits run from \$2.50 per day to \$10.50 for the season. During the summer guided tours of the reservation are available through the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce. A selected group of Redlake high school students are trained and serve as guides.

The fishery and sawmill are managed by white men. The Redlake trading post is owned and run by whites. When the question was put to Mr. Jourdain, "Why don't the



Indians run these enterprises?" he stated that because of the Indian's close family ties and loyalty to friends, he is not a good businessman. He will give money or material goods to those in need without security. Also to run a trading post, a large capital outlay is necessary, as much of the business is conducted on credit. The Indians generally do not possess nor have access to such sums of money as are required, he stated.

Mr. Jourdain was asked what his feeling was regarding the Minnesota Indian Commission. He stated that he felt it was not moving fast enough. (He is currently the Commission chairman). He stated again, as he had before, that groups have studied and restudied the problem year after year, but that is the most that happens. He asked that interested persons help change the stereotyped image of the Indian as a lazy drunken savage.

On the following day the group toured the Leech and Mille Lacs reservations. From Bemidji to Ball Club the bus detoured through the village of Cass Lake. This community has been accused of showing considerable prejudice against the Indian. It was investigated by the FBI this past summer when charges were made of police brutality. The town is bisected by a highway - on one side of which lives the white population with the business section, community facilities, and housing typical of a midwestern small town. On the other side of the highway live the Indians. This is tribal land and the housing is what appears to be standard for our Minnesota Indians -- run down shacks with outdoor privies.

In the community of Ball Club (Leech Lake Reservation) the group was greeted by four ladies of the community at the site of the future recreational area. This village after several futile attempts to get the government to help them build a community center, banded together under the leadership of their council and set about raising funds to build it themselves. Fifteen acres of reservation land have been set aside by them for a recreational area and for the building. They have held two pow-wows, suppers and other fund raising projects which have netted them about \$1800. After they had this money, the government suddenly allocated funds for a building. So, the present plan is to use the funds raised in furnishing a kitchen and in establishing a library in the building. Plans for the one-story 20 x 40 foot building include a full basement and furnace, electricity and indoor plumbing. Plans are being made for a baseball diamond, pow-wow ring and playground for the children on the recreational site.

The community has about 100 residents - no business district, but a multiplicity of taverns (owned and run by whites). The Indians do not live on tribal lands so are paying property taxes. The children of the community are bussed to Deer River (about 7 miles away) for school. The only industry in the community is a wild rice processing plant and a sawmill owned and managed by whites. The Indians harvest wild rice and sell it to the processing plant for much of their cash income. Some members of the community work in nearby mines. Through a trading post in Grand Rapids, the women of the community sell their bead work for cash. The proprietors of this store have done much to encourage Indian crafts and have been officially adopted into the band in recognition of their interest and assistance.

This community was exceptionally gracious to the LWV. After touring the recreational site the group was invited to a coffee party (held in the largest tavern) where the ladies of the community talked informally with the group. The atmosphere was of cordiality and of mutual esteem.

At Vineland on the Mille Lac Reservation the LWV saw the housing development. From \$250,000 in funds allocated by the government for the purpose, 31 houses are under construction. This is one of five such pilot projects on Indian reservations in the U.S. Indian residents of the community are employed and trained to do as much of the work as they can.

The houses, ranging from two to four bedroom units, are one-story ranch style homes similar to those found in poorer quality tract developments about the metropolitan area. Because of soil conditions (high water table and rock outcroppings) these are built on concrete piers. They will be heated by oil space heaters, but will have electricity and indoor plumbing. Each house will be furnished with a kitchen stove and a used refrigerator.

These dwellings are constructed on reservation land. The BIA in conjunction with the Indian council made a survey and determined on the basis of need who would get the houses. The family will to intent "own" the house, but cannot sell it. In the case of a family leaving the reservation, the house can be assigned by them to a relative. If this is not done, the house reverts to the band and the council can reassign it to another family. In all there are about seventy families living here.

The new housing is quite a contrast to the old. Most of these consist of one or two room shacks with families of up to 12 or 16 members living in them. Some are small cottages which were erected during the 1930's as part of a housing project. They are in various stages of deterioration - some quite neat, although obviously needing painting and repair. Others are in such a condition that only demolition would appear to be advisable.

At Vineland the group assembled after the tour at the school for a talk with Mrs. Dorothy Lemke, a third and fourth grade teacher, who has conducted a homemaker program in the evening for the women of the community.

The school, a clean, cheerful, modern brick building has an enrollment of 70 pupils in grades one through six. There are three teachers. Mrs. Lemke's classroom was cheerful, sunny and resembled those of metropolitan area schools. It was equipped with audio-visual facilities including a tape recorder and TV. There are three classrooms, a very small combination library-science room, a combination cafeteria-gymnasium which has been used as the meeting room for the homemaker program. One unusual feature was the shower room. Here the children get a hot shower once a week.

The school has a hot lunch program which provides these youngsters with 80% of their daily food requirement. The noon hour lunch period is supervised by the mothers of the community - thus giving the teachers a free lunch hour.

The library while small is well used. The books are well cared for and a further library service is provided every other week by a bookmobile. The three teachers bring their newspapers to school to be used in the classes after which the children are permitted to take them home for their families. They in turn pass them on to other families so that the community does get to see and read a paper.

The school is financed through State and Federal funds, as is Red Lake. Here again there is very little taxable land for school support. School attendance rate is good - average daily attendance last year was 95%. Children beyond the sixth grade level are bussed to Onamia schools. This year there are 32 Vineland students enrolled there.

Mrs. Lemke is in her seventh year of teaching in the Vineland school. She stated that the first three years she was "not comfortable" with the children. Only through prolonged work with the Indians has she been able to feel that she is effective in reaching them. She had long wished to set up some sort of group activity among the adult women. Finally after many discouraging comments by white associates, she announced she was starting a program. At first just a few women turned out. Each week, however, interest increased so that soon she had a group of from 10 to 25 in regular attendance. One of the earliest projects which the group undertook was quilting. When the quilt was completed the ladies decided to "give it to someone who needed it."

After the housing program was started at Vineland the ladies showed interest in preparing furnishings for their new homes. Through Bureau personnel, government surplus furniture was located and delivered to the Vineland community. This furniture was all in need of repair, so the group started working together to make it serviceable. Frames were repaired, springs retied or replaced, upholstery either patched or repaired. Each woman who worked on the project was permitted to select furniture for her home. At the time of the visit much of the furniture had been reconditioned and was ready to be moved into the homes.

Army surplus fabric (raw silk used for targets) has been acquired also. This was being washed, dyed and made into drapes at the time of the tour. Mrs. Lemke stated that one great problem here was the fact that her sewing machine was the only one available to the ladies. Many of these families will have to destroy all of their belongings, including bedding and clothes, when they move into the new housing -- vermin infestation in the shacks is almost impossible to prevent.

She stated that the number of interested and active participants in the program has steadily increased. At the time of the tour 35 to 40 women were attending work sessions. A more recent communication from her indicated that in October the number had reached 70. The men are also becoming actively interested and are learning to use the simple hand tools with which all of the work has been done.

This program has been established and continued by volunteer help (Mrs. Lemke) with no financing by the government (other than the cast off furniture) and no private agency assistance.

Comments by members of the tour group seemed to center on the theme - help the Indian to help himself. Many of the ladies expressed a feeling that in many instances the government is not doing all it can along this line. In some of the schools it appeared the school personnel made no attempt to stimulate the adults to interest in either educational or recreational programs for themselves or their children.

Several days after completion of the tour, an outside source brought up the fact that due to lack of coordination of government agencies the sewage and water system would not be installed in the new houses at Vineland for at least another year or possibly longer. Upon investigation this proved to be the case. The group was not informed of this at Vineland. It would seem that with all the questions raised this should have been mentioned unless there was intent to keep this from public knowledge.

There can be no doubt that economically the Indian is far behind his white counterpart in the same locality. Some members of the touring group expressed their feeling that everything is not being done that could be done to interest industries to the reservations. Effort must be made to utilize this great untapped resource - The Indian of Minnesota.



MAR 18 1966

University American Indian Affairs Committee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Indian Serving Agencies

January 27, 1966

This brochure has been prepared as a service to University students and staff, University organizations, and citizens of the State of Minnesota who might be interested in working with these organizations to assist American Indians in this State.

This is the first issue of what we hope to be a regular, yearly publication. Please notify me of any errors or omissions contained herein. Your suggestions for modification of the next reprint of this brochure will be most appreciated.

Matthew Stark  
Assistant Professor and Coordinator  
Human Relations Programs  
Student Activities Bureau  
Office of the Dean of Students

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1. American Civil Liberties Union, Minnesota Branch  
Lynn Castner, Executive Director  
925 26 Upper Midwest Bldg.  
5th & Hennipen  
Minneapolis 55401  
333-2534

The purpose of the ACLU is to maintain the rights to free speech, free press, free assemblage, and other civil rights, and to take legitimate actions in furtherance of this object.

2. American Friends Service Committee - Minnesota Area  
Orville J. White, Chairman  
270 W. Cottage Place  
St. Paul
3. American Indian Development, Inc.  
D'Arcy McNicklem, Director  
Boulder, Colorado

Inter-cultural education.

4. American Indian Employment and Guidance Service  
Mrs. Beverly Oien, Director  
2215 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis

To obtain employment for urban Indians.

5. American Indian Inter-Tribal Association  
Daniel White Eagle, President  
175 Charles Avenue  
St. Paul

6. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith  
Allen S. Birndorf, Regional Director  
303 Gorham Building  
635 Second Ave. North  
Minneapolis

The league is a non-partisan Jewish agency, founded in 1913, to combat racial and religious prejudice and discrimination.

7. Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York 27, New York

To assist Indian tribes in their efforts to achieve full economic, social, and civil equality with other American communities.

8. Broken Arrow Service Guild  
Mrs. Ramona Erickson, President  
2636 29th Avenue South  
Minneapolis

Sponsored by the United Church Women of Greater Minneapolis. A sewing group which has a small scholarship fund for Indian youths.

9. Catholic Interracial Council  
Chas. Whisler  
2388 University Avenue  
St. Paul

Implementation of what is deemed healthy for this society, using whatever tools or techniques at hand. The council works to provide minority groups with the opportunity of having suitable homes, jobs, schools, and courteous service in public places.

10. Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee  
Howard LaVoy, Tribal Manager  
420 Federal Building  
Bemidji 56610

11. Community Action Program  
Wm. H. Stava, Director  
Box 665  
Cass Lake

Goal is to eliminate poverty.

12. Community Action Program  
Curtis H. Lind  
Cloquet

A statewide technical assistance unit with the responsibility of assisting communities with local programs to combat poverty.

13. Community Action Program  
George V. Goodwin  
White Earth

Service to community. Academic and social education.  
To eliminate poverty.

14. Community Health and Welfare Council  
Omar Schmidt, Executive Director  
Citizens Aid Building  
404 South Eighth Street  
Minneapolis 55404

Planning and coordinating social, health and welfare and recreation services in Hennipen County.

15. Department of Public Welfare  
Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul

Administration of public welfare programs.

16. Edward F. Waite Neighborhood House  
Arthur Goldman, Director  
2215 Park Ave. So.  
Minneapolis

Primarily social action and education and attempting some political action.



17. Fond du Lac Indian Reservation  
Sherman Dale Smith, Chairman  
1390 David Road  
Cloquet

18. Governor's Human Rights Commission  
Larry Borom, Executive Director  
Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul  
221-2158

The commission carries out responsibilities in statewide human rights education. It has promoted the organization of and cooperates with local human relations committees in the State of Minnesota.

19. Grand Portage Indian Reservation  
John Flatle, Chairman  
Grand Portage

20. Hiawatha House of Bargains  
Gerald Sheehy, Manager  
1100 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis  
823-4696

21. George Holland  
Economic Opportunity Office  
State of Minnesota  
State Office Building  
St. Paul

22. Human Relations Committee  
Mrs. Helen Tyler  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
807 N. E. Broadway  
Minneapolis

To promote the improvement of inter-group relations throughout the school community.

23. Indian Council Fire  
Williard La Mere, President  
27 East Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

24. Indian Rights Association  
Lawrence Lindley, General Secretary  
1505 Race Street  
Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

Primarily education of the public to create favorable attitudes to get action (political, social, etc.) to give opportunity to Indian people of all ages.

25. Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota  
Samuel L. Scheiner, Executive Director  
2639 University Avenue  
St. Paul  
Mi. 6-7356

The council carries on educational programs and activities, public speaking contests, forums and debates to disseminate material on human relations, human rights, group relations, and sound American citizenship.

26. Labor's Committee for Minnesota Indian Youth  
Louis E. Lerman, Executive Director  
2639 University Avenue  
St. Paul  
Mi. 6-7356

This committee works toward inspiring Indian boys and girls to go on to advanced education. Minnesota Labor Unions in cooperation with the Jewish Labor Committee and the State Department of Education sponsor a four day tour for 30 to 40 Indian youths who are seniors in high school in close proximity to reservations. They are brought to the Twin Cities where they have an opportunity to look over the college and vocational-technical schools and potential sources of employment. The committee has also functioned as a "Jobs for Minnesota Indians" committee, placing numerous Indians in jobs.

27. Leach Lake Indian Reservation  
Allen Wilson, Chairman  
Ball Club, Minnesota 56622

28. League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
Mrs. William Whiting, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
State Organization Service  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis 55415

The league will support legislation to insure services for

Indian citizens which are equal to those provided for other citizens. The League will work for a declaration of responsibility for Indian citizens by the State and for an effective agency to facilitate solutions to their problems.

29. Legislative Indian Affairs Committee

John Buckanaga  
Room 309  
State Capital Building  
St. Paul  
221-2009

30. Lower Sioux Indian Community

Albert Prescott, President  
Morton, Minnesota 56270

31. Lutheran Committee for Indians

Mrs. Roger Osborne, Chairman  
1300 4th Ave. South  
Minneapolis

Local religious goals.

32. Mille Lacs Indian Reservation

Sam Yankee, Chairman  
McGreger 55760

33. Mille Lacs Reservation Community Action Program

R. B. Jorgensen, Assistant Director  
Star Route, Omania

Self help program - home improvement and recreation.

34. Minneapolis Fair Employment Practice Commission

Mr. Louis H. Ervin, Executive Director  
250 Fourth St. So. Room 515  
Minneapolis  
330-2090

The Commission was recently reestablished by a City Council Ordinance in October, 1963, to function in the areas of education, social action; relative to minority groups in the City of Minneapolis. The Commission through committees on education, employment, housing and law enforcement, seeks, with the support of community institutions and organizations to secure full, equal opportunity for all Minneapolis citizens.



35. Minneapolis Lutheran Minority Mission  
Rev. Loren Spaulding  
1300 Fourth Ave. South  
Minneapolis

Minneapolis local Indian organization. Religious.

36. Minneapolis Mayor's Commission of Human Relations  
Michael Gaines, Executive Director  
222 Public Health Center  
250 Fourth St. South  
Minneapolis  
330-2735

The Minneapolis Mayor's Commission on Human Relations operating through citizen-wide committees in the fields of education, employment, housing and law enforcement, present to the committee for publication, policy of the city of Minneapolis in these human relations areas.

37. Minneapolis Urban League  
Robert Williams, Executive Director  
619 Produce Bank Building  
Minneapolis  
Fe.5-2197

The League promotes the purpose of the National Urban League Movement. The League is an interracial educational, service agency that follows social work standards, and practices in improving the living and working conditions of Minneapolis's minority population.

38. Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Stephen Fligelman, Chairman  
834 North Seventh Street  
Minneapolis  
335-6551

The bi-partisan group which operates in a fact-finding and advisory capacity. It investigates areas such as employment, housing and the administration on justice. Findings are reported to the USCCR in Washington.

39. Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
John Flatte, Chairman  
Peter Du Fauet, Secretary-Treasurer  
Fond du Lac Indian Reservation

40. Minnesota Council of Churches  
Rev. Alton Motter, Executive Director  
122 West Franklin Avenue  
Minneapolis

41. Minnesota Council on Religion and Race  
Miss Sally Todd, Administrative Secretary  
1645 Hennipen Avenue  
Minneapolis

Goals for social education.

42. Minnesota Indian Scholarship Committee  
Mr. George P. Risty, Chairman  
State Department of Education  
St. Paul

Made up of individuals who by their education and past experience are very interested in educational opportunities of Indians of school and college age. Monthly meetings are held. Reports from Federal, State and others, also the lists of those Indian students graduating from high schools, etc. Some are assisted and encouraged to complete their education so they can be profitably employed in their chosen field of endeavor. This field may be academic or in the trades, etc.

43. National Congress of American Indians  
Mr. Vine Deloria, Executive Director  
1765 P. Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

44. Nett Lake Reservation  
Vincent Chosa, Chairman  
Tower 55790

45. Planning and Research Council  
Greater St. Paul United Fund and Council  
William Hoffman  
400 Wilder Building  
St. Paul

Community organization, planning for community services in health and welfare.

46. Prairie Island Indian Community  
Amos Owens, President  
Welch 55089

Social education.

47. Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
Roger Jourdain, Chairman  
Red Lake 56671

48. St. Paul American Indian Club  
Mrs. Nellie D. Spears, President  
733 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Paul

Meetings twice a month, a pow-wow the first Saturday of each month, and a Christmas party and a picnic for members and friends in June.

49. St. Paul American Indian Dance Club  
Mrs. Geraldine Bell  
138 North Dale St.  
St. Paul

Working for an Indian Center and social get-together once a month.

50. St. Paul Council of Human Relations, Inc.  
John Greenman, President  
65 E. Kellogg Blvd.  
St. Paul

The Council through its Indian Committee works closely with the United Church Committee on Indian Aid and Referrals. With the help of volunteers this office seeks to assist Indian families in making the adjustment to city life.

51. St. Paul Human and Civil Rights Commission  
Seth Phillips, Executive Secretary  
1745 City Hall and Court House  
St. Paul  
223-4288

The Commission is established to eliminate discrimination in employment, education, housing, public accommodations and public services in the total St. Paul community. Any person who feels he has been discriminated against by any St. Paul company, employment agency, labor union or in the purchase of any house, or the use of any educational facility, or public accommodations, or services on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry should file a complaint with the St. Paul Human and Civil Rights Commission.



52. St. Paul Urban League  
Sam Jones, Executive Director  
65 East Kellogg Blvd.  
St. Paul  
Ca. 2-2539

The League promotes the purpose of the National Urban League movement. The league is an interracial educational, service agency that follows social work standards, and practices in improving the living and working conditions of St. Paul's minority population.

53. State Commission Against Discrimination  
Vi Kanatz, Executive Director  
State Office Building  
St. Paul  
221-2896

The Commission's responsibility is to secure compliance with the Minnesota State Act Against Discrimination. The Commission also has a prevention program.

54. State Department of Education  
Indian Education Division  
Roy H. Larson Director  
Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul

Education of our Indians in order that they may take their place in our society in a congenial and useful manner.

55. Thunderbird Sewing Group  
Mrs. Jessie Larson, President  
4712 Nicollet Avenue So.  
Minneapolis

56. Twin Cities Chippewa Council  
Donald Glass, President  
1592 East Hoyt  
St. Paul

57. United Church Committee on Indian Work  
109 East Grant Street  
Minneapolis  
Fe. 6-3639  
and  
785 Dayton Ave.  
St. Paul

The UCCIW assists and guides Indian newcomers arriving in the Twin Cities by means of referral and acquainting them with churches, welfare and social agencies.

58. United Church Women of Greater Minneapolis  
Christian Social Relations Department  
Rev. Helen Galaska  
122 Franklin Avenue  
Minneapolis  
332-2571

The United Church Women coordinate and stimulate efforts of Protestant and Orthodox Church Women's groups in the realm of social relations.

59. United Episcopal Church Committee on Indian Work of  
Minneapolis and St. Paul  
Rev. Raymond Baines  
109 East Grant Street  
Minneapolis

60. United Scholarship Service  
Miss Tilly Walker  
1450 Pennsylvania Street  
Denver 3, Colorado

Concerned with the Educational needs of American Indians and Spanish-American young people.

61. United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Minneapolis Area Office  
1312 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis 55408  
Ada Deer, Community Services Coordinator  
334-2893

To promote maximum Indian economic self sufficiency, to promote full participation of Indians in American life, and to promote equal citizenship responsibilities and privileges.

62. United States Public Health Service  
Division of Indian Health  
Robert Gillespie  
203 Federal Building  
Bemidji

To upgrade and promote better health of Indian recipients.

63. Upper Midwest American Indian Center  
Ed Benton  
1812 Clinton Avenue South  
Minneapolis

Social Education.

64. Upper Sioux Indian Community  
Dean Blue, Chairman  
Granite Falls 56241

65. Urban American Indian Committee of Minneapolis  
Everett Martin, President  
1040 Emerson Avenue No.  
Minneapolis

66. Wa-Woki-Ya Sewing Circle  
Mrs. Peter Waukazo, President  
13522 B. County Road 15  
Minneapolis

67. White Earth Indian Reservation  
Bernard Mrtin, Chairman  
Callaway, Minnesota 56521

Work closely with the community action program on the  
White Earth Indian Reservation.



A T I M E F O R A C T I O N

MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

BACKGROUND MATERIALS: Indians in Minnesota, 1964 Statement of Indian Position,  
1965 Outlook for Legislative Action.

Governor-elect Harold LeVander is at this time considering budget requests from all state departments. He is also considering the proposal to merge various agencies concerned, directly or indirectly, with civil rights. According to an article in the Minneapolis Tribune, December 6, it was stated that as far as placing the Indian Affairs Commission in a Department of Human Rights is concerned, he had not "reached a firm conclusion." He was, however, inclined toward the view that it should be included. Mrs. Mary Jo Richardson, appointed by Governor-elect LeVander to implement his civil rights program, has informed us that letters to Mr. LeVander supporting the separate existence of the Indian Affairs Commission would be appropriate at this time. In this action area this may be the critical moment.

Our position regarding such an agency states that it must be: "acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies, and provided with adequate funds."

1. "acceptable to the Indians themselves"

Three Indian members of the Commission are appointed by the major Minnesota tribes. These tribes also have the power to remove their delegates. The Indian members are the Chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the President of the Minnesota Consolidated Chippewa Tribe, and the Chairman of the Upper Sioux Indian Community, who was named by agreement of all Sioux Communities. These Indian leaders see that for the first time in Minnesota they have official representation on a state governmental body. They consider this to be a breakthrough in state-tribal relations. They have stated that if this Commission is submerged, so that other non-Indians can control their affairs, they will withdraw completely. They believe that however well-meaning citizens at large might be they are not qualified to make the crucial decisions regarding the lives and property of Indian tribes. In a sense it is a question of home rule.

2. "permanent"

The present Commission was set up as a "permanent" Commission. It is permanent in the sense that any agency is - depending upon the good will of the administration and legislature to continue its operation and give it adequate funds.

3. "staffed by professionally qualified people"

The present Executive Director is a Chippewa Indian. He graduated from Bemidji State College with a degree in Education. He has taught school, was President of the Minnesota Consolidated Chippewa Tribe, worked as the Education Specialist for the U.S. Public Health Service, has served on the Governor's Human Rights Commission and the Fair Employment Practices Commission (now SCAD), was employed as public relations and advertising representative and purchasing agent for three years for a wild rice industry, served as Chairman of a Board of Education. These items, selected as pertinent from his employment and experience history, would indicate that the above criterion is currently being met.

4. "authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies"

The Commission has ironed out intergovernmental roadblocks in such matters as these:  
Obtained Bureau of Indian Affairs approval for use by students under BIA programs of

the new vocational-technical schools at Detroit Lakes and Bemidji. BIA policy had been to send students only to such schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. Brought about the release of monies and approval of plans for public housing projects in Minnesota Indian reservations. To date, \$3,907,084 have been authorized. Acted as advisor and intermediary between tribal governments and the federal government in securing a revolving credit loan fund of \$96,500. Cooperated with the Department of Business Development in a study of the Indian work force and the reasons for failure of businesses in reservation areas. Is working with the state Department of Education regarding the problem of consolidation of school districts in some Indian areas. Played a key role in unifying Indian organizations in the Twin Cities to combine their resources for concentrated action on their problems in the metropolitan area. Solicited the cooperation of the Governor's Human Rights Commission and the State Commission Against Discrimination and organized citizens to form a Human Relations Council in Bemidji following a "crisis" in that community in November. Has acted as the channel of information between state departments and Indian tribes at the request of both governmental levels.

5. "provided with adequate funds"

The Commission is requesting \$83,306 for the next biennium. It had \$30,000 to operate for 1965-67. Because of the time involved in getting appointments made by the legislature and the governor, organizing the Commission and locating and hiring staff, the money spent represents 18 months of operation. The Commission now has less than \$400, excluding salaries, to operate from January 1 to July 1, 1967. Thus, their present appropriation is proving inadequate for this biennium. They are requesting an additional staff person. This accounts for the increased request.

The League of Women Voters supports the State Commission Against Discrimination as the enforcement body for anti-discrimination laws. We also support the multi-purpose, intergovernmental function of the Indian Affairs Commission. We recognize that these functions are different and cannot be effectively combined.

Write now on behalf of your League; ask your members to write as individuals; think of another organization which might help (the separate maintenance of the IAC is strongly supported by the Minnesota Council of Churches); let us know how you have responded to this Time for Action by filling out and returning the enclosed card. Letters should be addressed as follows:

Harold LeVander, Governor-Elect  
State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. LeVander,

*Leg. Ses. '67*

STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
TO THE SENATE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
IN REGARD TO S.F. 1287

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the general principles contained in S.F. 1287 and H.F. 1545 but opposes the inclusion of the Indian Affairs Commission in a Department of Human Rights.

When the League began its study of problems of discrimination in 1961 we took a position favoring anti-discrimination legislation, enforced by commission administration. We intended to include the problems of Indians in Minnesota in our study, but as we progressed it became increasingly clear to us that, while Indians faced discrimination and prejudice, most of their affairs had nothing to do with human rights at all but rather were related to problems of economic development, education, law enforcement and public health - problems similar to those facing any other community. Since reservation land is federal land, these problems were complicated by jurisdictional battles between various levels of government.

It was agreed that the legislature should establish a state agency which would be answerable to that body; that the agency should not depend on volunteers; that it should be empowered to bargain on the question of where federal responsibility ends and state responsibility begins; that it should coordinate services and offer the assistance of experts. Its task was to be to remove impediments to progress.

We believe the present Indian Affairs Commission constitutes such a body. Its accomplishments in the fourteen months since it acquired a staff are very impressive. We believe it should be allowed to continue, but more importantly, primary decisions regarding their lives and property should be left to the Indians themselves. These would be decisions they could accept and live by since they would be their own, and their plans could be altered and improved as experience might dictate.



STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
TO THE HOUSE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
IN REGARD TO H.F. 1545

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the general principles contained in H.F. 1545 and S.F. 1287 but opposes the inclusion of the Indian Affairs Commission in a Department of Human Rights.

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T I M E F O R A C T I O N

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - ADEQUATE FUNDING

A clear-cut victory for the Indians of Minnesota was accomplished in both the House and Senate Civil Administration Committees when the human rights merger bill was amended to exclude the Indian Affairs Commission. The League of Women Voters strongly supported the Indians in this effort. Now we need to support the adequate funding of the separate Indians Affairs Commission.

The Commission's budget request will be heard soon before the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. We need your letters to all legislators, telling of your support for the IAC budget request. If your legislator is on either of these Committees, mention that in your letter and tell him you want the Commission to receive the full request. The \$30,000 appropriated for the last biennium proved inadequate to hire needed staff and to realistically cover travel expenditures. The \$83,000 now being requested is a very small part of a billion dollar state budget.

Other groups such as the Minnesota Council of Churches support a separate Indian Affairs Commission so contact people in your community and ask them to respond. Do involve your members in this easily understood Time for Action. It is a necessary follow-up to our successful lobbying effort to retain the IAC as a separate agency.

Please fill out the enclosed card to let us know how you responded to this Time for Action.

House Appropriations Committee

Fitzsimons	Gearty	Norton
Long	Gimpl	Rutter
D. Anderson	Grussing	Searle
T. Anderson	Gustafson	Sillers
Barr	Hall	Skaar
Barrette	C. A. Johnson	Smith
Carlson	Johnston	Sommerdorf
Erickson	Klaus	Swanstrom
Fischer	Lee	Voxland
Flakne	Mrs. McMillan	Weaver
	Morris	Wolcott
	Nelson	

Senate Finance Committee

Sinclair	N. Hanson	Novak
W. R. Anderson	R. Hanson	Ogdahl
Benson	Harren	Olson
Davies	Higgins	Popham
Dosland	Josefson	Popp
Grittner	McKnight	Rosenmeier
Mel Hansen	Nelson	Sundet

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

October 16, 1968

To officials of Indian tribal governments and organizations:

Within three months, the 1969 session of the Minnesota Legislature will begin. In the course of its work during the following weeks and months, bills will be introduced and laws will be passed that will affect Minnesota's American Indian people.

We are writing to you because we want you to know that the League of Women Voters is willing, as in the past, to help in whatever way it can to work for laws that Indian people think would be helpful. However, we wish to know more about what Indian leaders are currently thinking that Minnesota lawmakers should do -- knowing this would help determine what the League would work for.

More important, we think, would be to persuade legislators to listen to Indian leaders. On this basis, we would like to sponsor a one-day conference where legislators, as well as members of the League and other interested organizations, could hear and discuss proposals that would benefit Indian people. If tribal governments and organizations were to invite legislators, and if the League also urged them to attend, we think a fair number of legislators would come.

Unfortunately, lack of time prevents our waiting to hear from you before we need to start planning. Therefore, we hope you will agree with the Indian leaders we have talked to (and the State Indian Affairs Commission which passed a motion endorsing the idea) and see this as a useful project. In order to get as many ideas as possible, we are enclosing a questionnaire which we hope you will answer frankly and return in the enclosed stamped, addressed envelope.

We are planning to have this conference on December 10th at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, 105 University Avenue, in St. Paul. We have chosen this site because we think it would be easily accessible to legislators, being near the State Capitol. The meeting would be open to all interested persons and we will gladly investigate possibilities for helping with transportation for Indian people. Indian leaders participating would have expenses paid.

Please let us know what you think are the most important problems or issues among your group and whether you think we're on the right track. If there is enough interest, we will send you a program and invitation at a later date.

Very truly yours,

*Mrs. O. J. Janski*  
Mrs. O. J. Janski, President

*Mrs. Glenn Speidel*  
Mrs. Glenn Speidel, Conference Chairman



Enc: Questionnaire  
Return Envelope



October 16, 1968

QUESTIONNAIRE  
(Indian Leaders)

1. In response to your letter about a conference on what the state legislature could do to help Indian people, we think having the conference is a

Good idea (Comments?)

Poor idea (Comments?)

2. These are the major problems which we think the state might be able to do some-  
thing about: (Please number those you think are especially important in the  
order of their importance. If you just check them, we will assume you think they  
are equally important.)

1. Housing
2. Education
3. Employment-economic development
4. Treaty Rights (game, fish, trapping, wild ricing, etc.)
5. Health
6. OEO programs
7. BIA programs
8. Justice - law enforcement
9. Public Welfare
10. Discrimination - civil rights

Any others?

3. Here are the names of people we think ought to be part of the program: (Please  
state which of the above topics they are especially interested in.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (your group)

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
January, 1969

TO: State Board

FROM: Dottie Speidel, Chairman  
Pre-legislative conference on Indian affairs

ATTENDANCE: About 200 persons attended the conference on December 10 (our incomplete list indicates there were 12 legislators, 59 League members, 24 agency representatives and 3 members of the press. At least 45 attending were Indian. Legislators included Sens. Brown, Kirchner, Welter, Mosier and Reps. Erdahl, Dunn, Humphrey, North, Christensen, Ulland, DeGroat and Trygg. Governor LeVander sent Wallace Hoaglund as his representative.) Indian participation was strong and excellent.

MONEY: On the Friday before the conference (our deadline to the church ladies), 175 reservations had been made. Virtually none were from reservation Indians. On the day before the conference, I attended a meeting of the Indian Affairs Commission and met many people who were staying over for our conference but for whom we had no reservations. I may have over-reacted when I raised our lunch reservations to 225. The church ladies settled with us for 200 lunches. I strongly suspect that only about 175 ate lunch there. It was difficult to know who to charge, i.e. we had 36 names on a guest list of participants and resource people but it was difficult to define "participant"--some participants preferred to participate from the floor, and contributed to the discussion just as much thereby. Those who registered people took a liberal interpretation of who were participants, as I had instructed. These were some of the built-in problems and I am sorry we didn't come out better financially.

Income

\$131 income in cash at conference  
18 income in checks at conference  
33 prepaid registrations at office  
3 late payment

\$176

Expenses

\$300.00 lunches, paid to church women .  
10.00 rent of microphone  
10.00 bonus paid to janitor  
1.50 reimbursement to Rep. DeGroat, a participant who was charged erroneously  
1.25 transportation expense, Mrs. Theresa Pindogayosh, panelist  
1.25 transportation expense Mrs. Ignatia Broker, panelist  
8.00 baby sitter expense Mrs. Shirely Martin, panelist  
8.00 baby sitter expense Mrs. Grace Torgerson, panelist

\$340.00

In addition, travel expenses totalling \$179.30 for panelists coming from reservation areas will be paid by the Indian Community Action Program.

No expenses need to be repaid conference committee members. Ann Phillips supplied cases of spaghetti when we decided something hot ought to be added to the lunch, Joan Goodard and Juanita Berryman donated supplies such as name tags and I do not expect to be reimbursed for long distance telephone calls and postage for the correspondence which turned out, I feel compelled to tell you, to be monumental!

FOLLOW UP: It is imperative to follow up the conference in three ways:

- 1) print up summaries of the panel discussions and distribute them to legislators, Indians and local leagues.





League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
February 1969

Testimony as given by Mrs. O. J. Janski to House  
Governmental Operations Committee on Indian Affairs Commission Bill  
February 28, 1969

I am Mrs. O. J. Janski, President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, an organization of 5,800 members in 68 Minnesota communities.

The League of Women Voters has supported a state Commission on Indian Affairs ever since our first consideration of Minnesota's Indian citizens in 1961. Our position regarding such an agency states that it must be: "acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies, and provided with adequate funds." We believed that such an agency, standing outside of other departments, could help to untangle the jurisdictional conflicts between various levels of government. It could assist the state in discharging its proper obligations in the areas of education, health, welfare, human rights, law enforcement and economic development. Despite the difficulties which it seems to have faced, the Indian Affairs Commission seems to us to be the agency with the greatest possibility of meeting these responsibilities.

Our first criteria: that the agency must be acceptable to the Indians themselves, is the most important part of our position. Through a system in which Indian tribes have been able to select **their** representatives to serve on the Commission, we have seen over the past six years an increasing willingness on the part of Indians to come to the legislature and to state departments with some hope that their requests will receive friendly attention. Their asking for a greater voice in their own affairs, through increased membership on the Commission, is a further expression of that faith. Indian citizens have communicated to the League of Women Voters their desire that the Commission include urban Indians who comprise perhaps half of the state's Indian population and who face problems quite different from those residing on reservations. In addition we have been told that the Reservation Business Committees would like to share in these deliberations.

We urge this committee to act favorably on these Indian requests.

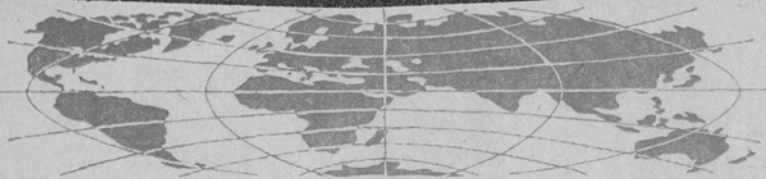
League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wahasha Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
April 1969

Testimony as given by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
to Senate Civil Administration and Metropolitan Affairs  
Committee on Indian Affairs Commission Bill

The League of Women Voters has supported a state Commission on Indian Affairs ever since our first consideration of Minnesota's Indian citizens in 1961. Our position regarding such an agency states that it must be: "acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to utilize the services of other existing agencies, and provided with adequate funds." We believed that such an agency, standing outside of other departments, could help to untangle the jurisdictional conflicts between various levels of government. It could assist the state in discharging its proper obligations in the areas of education, health, welfare, human rights, law enforcement and economic development. Despite the difficulties which it seems to have faced, the Indian Affairs Commission seems to us to be the agency with the greatest possibility of meeting these responsibilities.

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**The Minneapolis Star**  
Program of Information on World Affairs

# The WORLD TODAY

Mon., Sept. 22, 1969

★ 1B

## *Sense of cultural identity continues strong for Indians*

### **I. Nature of Reservations**

TO THE CASUAL observer, a reservation may appear to be simply a pocket of poverty in an affluent society. But a reservation is more than meets the eye. There are few visible signs of the persistence of Indian cultures, and the intricacies of legal status and federal policy are not readily perceived. But the casual observer should not be misled. In reality an Indian reservation is a complex unit formed by a history of cultural change, the impact of government policy, and other influences such as education and the mass media. There are approximately 200 reservations in 26 states. Each is different, but it is possible to gain some understanding of their general features.

There are other features of culture which usually have not persisted. Traditional crafts may be used for symbolic reasons and for making decorative items, but they are seldom if ever used for making everyday utensils. Many items of non-Indian technology have diffused very widely on reservations.

Almost everywhere there has been massive change in the subsistence base of Indian cultures. Contact with non-Indians usually led to the destruction of the Indian economy. Only in the southwest, where some Pueblo farmers worked in the traditional way, do Indians make their living in the way that their ancestors did before the coming of the white man.







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