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House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Eightieth Congress
Washington, D. C.

Sept. 24, 1947.

PC

Navajo Reservation

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GEORGE Y. HARVEY,
CLERK

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter, with respect to appropriations of funds for the improvement of the Navajo Indian Reservation, has been received in the Chairman's absence, and is being referred to the Subcommittee having jurisdiction over appropriations on the subject matter for their consideration when appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs are before them.

Very truly yours,

George Y. Harvey

Clerk.

Coleman

September 19, 1917

Chairman of the Appropriation
Committee
The Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have been shocked to learn of the living conditions of the Navajo Indians. I believe that special funds should be set aside for the improvement of the Navajo Reservation.

I hope you will give careful consideration to a request for appropriations for this purpose.

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,

*Same to
House of Reps.*



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 12 1947

*Navajo
Reservation*

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was most happy to have your letter of August 20, with which you enclosed a letter of August 16 from Mrs. Gertrude Faber Franklin of Toledo, Ohio, regarding the Navajo Indians.

The conditions in which these Indians live must shock any humane person who becomes aware of them. It is only too bad that more people in and out of Congress are not acquainted with the problem.

K. M. ...
In order that we might place the entire matter before Congress at an early date, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has made a rather intensive study of the needs of these people in the field of education, health, and economic opportunity. On the basis of the Commissioner's recommendations, we expect to go before the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress with a request for special funds to be devoted solely to the Navajo Reservation.

I am certain that a letter from you to the Chairman of the Appropriation Committees in the House and the Senate would be most helpful in securing serious consideration for such a Navajo program.

The enclosed factual statement provides the basic situation, with an outline of the kind of action that needs to be taken. The material was prepared about a year ago, following a visit to Washington of a large delegation of Navajo Indians. These delegates joined in the recommendations set forth.

If you would find occasion to devote one of your columns to the Navajos, I know that they, as well as all of us who are concerned for the future security of these brave and deserving people, would be most grateful to you. *for that*

Sincerely yours,

Cap
Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11.

Enclosure 259

September 8, 1947

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

In 1900 the Navajo Tribe numbered about 20,000. It numbers
over 50,000, and its population is increasing at the rate of over a
thousand per year, considerably faster than the rate of increase in the
land.

SEP 12 1947

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of Toledo, Ohio, regarding the Navajo Indians.

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If you would find occasion to devote one of your columns to the
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the future security of these brave and deserving people, would be most
grateful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Further addition of land to the Navajo Reservation can be made only
by Act of Congress. For many years, the annual appropriation bill for
the Department of the Interior has stipulated that Federal funds appro-
priated in the bill may be used for the purchase of land for the
in the States of Arizona and New Mexico.

(Sgd) CAP
Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11.

hundreds of roads are regularly used to reach schools,
hospital, and other public buildings. Only 100 miles are surfaced. The
unsurfaced roads are in bad condition, and constitute a serious obstacle
to the education and health program, as well as to the economy of the
Reservation.

Enclosure 299

Human Resources

Approximately 90 per cent of the population cannot speak English, which seriously limits their ability to participate in the white economy and particularly, their opportunities to obtain work outside the reservation.

The Navajos are notably intelligent, comparing favorably with other racial groups of the Nation in ability to learn. They also display marked mechanical aptitude and artistic ability.

The Navajos are patriotic and have served their country well. Approximately 3,400 were in the armed services during World War II, and about 15,000 were engaged in war work. Their war bond purchases and contributions to the Red Cross were remarkable in view of their small income.

Indians living in Arizona and New Mexico are not allowed to vote and have no political voice, despite the fact that by Act of Congress in 1924, all Indians were decreed to be citizens of the United States. Three Indian veterans recently brought suit in the New Mexico courts to gain the franchise. They lost their suit in the local court and are about to appeal to the New Mexico Supreme Court, and if necessary, to the United States Supreme Court. A similar suit is soon to be brought in the Federal court by Arizona Indian veterans. The Department of the Interior and the Indian Service believe that this disenfranchisement of the Indians is in violation of the Federal Constitution and are supporting the Indians' attempt to gain the vote.

Education

Education is a very serious problem which must be solved before the Navajos can attain their proper social and economic standing in the Nation.

There are over 20,000 Navajo children of school age, but the total school facilities (including Federal and Mission Schools), will accommodate but 6,000 children. Half of these facilities, the boarding schools, are over 30 years old -- obsolete and worn out. The other half, the day schools, are critically under-financed and under-staffed for the task to be accomplished. Yet in 1868, the United States made a solemn treaty with the Tribe, promising a school and a teacher for each 30 children of school age.

Health

The health of the Navajo population is extremely poor. Infant mortality, and the incidence of tuberculosis, dysentery, trachoma, pneumonia, and venereal disease is markedly high.

Although the medical services now available are of high quality, the six available hospitals with 450 beds are far from being sufficient for the needs. Lack of funds has made it impossible to replace certain old hospital buildings, to increase hospital and other medical facilities, and to provide an adequate hospital and field staff. Five small hospitals, with a total of 145 additional beds, are presently closed for lack of funds, personnel, or adequate equipment.

At least 37 physicians and 11 dentists are needed to furnish adequate field and hospital service for the Navajo population. This would be at a rate of one physician for each 1,500 of population, and one dentist for each 5,000. At present, there are 20 physicians, no resident dentists, and one travelling field dentist.

Minimum rural standards would require one field nurse to approximately 2,000 persons, or a total of 25. On the Navajo Reservation at present, there is one field nurse. There are no field physicians. Nor is there personnel to direct adult education in health, sanitation, improved housing and the like, which is an essential component of the drive to improve Navajo health standards.

Industrial Possibilities

The few major products of the reservation such as wool, timber, and hides are now disposed of in the form of raw material to be processed outside the reservation. Raw materials of this type bring the lowest price. However, the greatest resource of the Navajos — their own manpower — which is now little utilized, could be devoted to processing these raw materials. This would not only increase the income received for the products, but it would also provide wages for many Indians.

The inadequacy of good roads, scarcity of water in sufficient quantities, and lack of electricity obviously prevent the establishment of large mass production industries on the reservation. However, even though the establishment of mass production industries were feasible, they would not be desirable or practicable for the Navajo country. The population is scattered over a large area, and it would be impossible to bring a large group of workers into centrally located plants.

The types of industry suitable for the reservation are such as involve producing consumer goods in small establishments employing between 15 to 50 workers, except at Shiprock on the San Juan River, where water in sufficient quantities is available for developing larger production units.

Among the possible industrial developments are wool scouring and weaving; sash and door, toys, and other woodworking; tanning, leather-working, and shoe manufacture; flour milling and baking; canning; and numerous others.

Conclusions

In order to retard the severe erosion of the range land, the number of livestock should not exceed the carrying capacity of the range. The remedial program of practical measures to control erosion and silt flow must be continued.

If the range can be maintained, and all possible lands subjugated for irrigation, approximately 35,000 Navajos could continue a land-based economy in moderate circumstances. Surveys show that a significant addition of new irrigation developments is possible, provided that large-scale projects can be financed.

Increased income from both livestock and farming can be achieved only through an adequately-financed and adequately-staffed adult education program.

Educational facilities, with a suitable plant and staff for all children, are essential for efficient use of resources and for training for employment off the reservation.

A medical and health program, in keeping with minimum rural standards for the Nation, is essential to maintain proper health standards.

An adequate program of welfare to assist needy families, as well as facilities for the physically handicapped and the socially delinquent, are essential.

The construction of the necessary schools, hospitals, and irrigation works would employ most of the excess Navajo manpower for years, at the same time giving them training in productive skills.

The Navajos must have a more diversified and better balanced economy. Small industrial plants should be established to utilize Navajo manpower and increase cash income. Such manpower, properly trained, could make a major contribution to the economic expansion of the Southwest and to the strength of the Nation in peace and war.

The Navajo Viewpoint

Leaders among the Navajos have indicated to the administration, the general public, and members of Congress that they subscribe to and desperately desire the solutions indicated above.

Recy Kreeg sent 8.20-47.

The report which this woman
makes is nothing new to me, but it
is a disgrace. Shall I write to
Congressmen & will you see that
I get factual material for a
column?

Thank woman - say how
written Recy Kreeg. It is a
disgrace.

Acc Cinn /
I have been
asked to write
you in behalf of
the many Women
Clubs of Amer in
their endeavors to
make application
for a Cong Charter
at the next
session of Cong.

I hope very
much you will
give them
applic ~~you~~
consideration

Navy Wives Clubs of America



NAVY WIVES CLUBS OF AMERICA

Tacoma, Washington
4014 South M Street
September 24, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
c/o United Feature Syndicate
220 East 42nd. Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Since you entertained the Navy Wives at the White House, some years back, and so generously gave of your time and efforts, to give us a helping hand, we have come a long way. Since we were not satisfied to stop there we once more come to you for assistance.

The Navy Wives Clubs of America Inc; are endeavoring to make application at the next session of Congress for a Congressional Charter. The Honorable Senator Harry P. Cain, has promised that he will sponsor our application, however, we have been informed that unless we obtain a great deal of influential backing we cannot hope to succeed.

In view of this information, I am contacting all those who I know are aware of the efforts of the Navy Wives, and asking that they please contact Senator Cain, and make known to him, that we are worthy.

I sincerely hope that I am not imposing too much on your precious spare time to asked that you once again give us, that so very much appreciated helping hand, once again.

Very sincerely yours,

Helen Wadsworth
Helen Wadsworth (Mrs. Harvey)
National President
Navy Wives Clubs of America Inc.

CAIN
STON

Navy Wives

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

file

Oct. 9, 1947

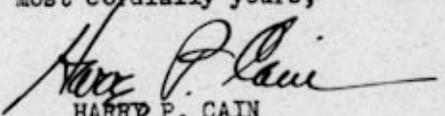
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apt 15-A
29 Washington Square, W.
New York 11, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your very welcome note of October 6th which concerned itself with a prevailing ambition of Navy Wives to secure a Congressional Charter during the coming session of Congress.

I only know that such a proposal is being studied by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Donnell is the sub-chairman having jurisdiction and he told me before the last session recessed that the over-all charter problem was by no means a simple one. A number of requests are before the committee and the latter is endeavoring to adopt a policy which will be fair and reasonable for all. I shall, however, make it my personal business to study the charter request in question.

I enjoyed your note for personal reasons and I do trust that you are both well and happy.

Most cordially yours,

HARRY P. CAIN