

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PROGRESS REPORT No. 5, May 26, 1961

Here is another "Round-up" of suggestions and ideas that you have sent in for consideration in working out the Statement of Indian Purpose at the AICC in June, along with reports of the meetings and conferences that have been taking place in preparation for AICC.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 9, 1961 (Southern Plains Regional Meeting)

Preamble:

In order to preserve the cultural heritage of the American Indian tribes, we request that a mandate and a statement of policy be prepared and agreed upon by the American Indian tribes and be presented to the proper authorities for action in carrying out this mandate in order to preserve the diminishing tribal land base and to promote the economic security, and general well-being of the American Indian people, thereby assuring these tribes of a policy consistent with the perpetuation of all their values.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

A. With regard to industrial development:

1. There be a program of development of the human and natural resources of the reservations and that technical and financial assistance be granted to tribes to carry out this program.
2. There be a program of bringing industry to the reservations.
3. Special funds be appropriated for industrial development, aside from the present revolving credit fund many tribes look to for small economic enterprises.

B. With regard to housing development:

1. There be special appropriations of funds for Indian reservation low-cost housing developments and that these developments utilize local Indian labor.

C. With regard to law and order:

1. That the situation regarding the maintenance of law and order on each reservation in the Aberdeen Area, whether under the jurisdiction of Federal, State or Tribal agencies shall be investigated with the consent and cooperation of the local people.
2. That the Public Law 280 should be amended to include the factor of consent of the American Indian tribes.

D. With regard to education:

That Federal aid and special assistance be continued and expanded in the areas of Indian Education as:

1. Federal aid and other assistance is needed for education at the local level to provide, improve, and bring about a high standard and quality of education on the reservations at all levels comparable to the standards of the national average.
2. Vocational training and on the job training programs.
3. Grants and loans for students to attend schools of higher learning.
4. Adult education facilities on the reservation to be expanded in co-operation with the expressed needs of the people it involves.

E. With regard to health and welfare:

1. That a Federal program of health and welfare services should be continued and expanded for the American Indian in keeping with local conditions. There should be consent between the U.S.P.H.S. and tribes prior to modification of any services to Indians.
2. That there be appropriation of more funds for Public Health Service to Indians and that there be a revision of the present budget, thereby having more funds for adequate patient care.
3. That there be a specialist in the field of health stationed at all U.S.P.H. hospitals and that a study be made as to the present rotation of doctors on the two year basis to find out if this method serves the Indian people best.
4. That U.S.P.H.S. continue dental service to Indians.
5. That clinics be established, with local consent, for reservations not presently having local clinical facilities.
6. That residency status should not be required and that tribes should have a voice in determining eligibility for access to U.S. P.H. services.

F. With regard to termination of Federal Services:

That the Federal Termination Act of August, 1953 (83rd Congress U.S.) be repealed and in its place a new policy of encouraging American Indians in their efforts for self-determination (not termination) be instituted so that all American Indian tribes may go ahead without fear to achieve their goals of self-sufficiency.

PEMBROKE, NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 14, 1961 (Regional Meeting)

A. Overriding concern with education.

1. Quality of education - lack of qualified teachers.
2. Lack of facilities.
3. Inadequate facilities.
4. Need for vocational training facilities.
5. Need for industrial arts training facilities.
6. Need for more and better truancy officials to help keep down the number of drop outs of Indian children.
7. Need for adult education to help members in the community learn the basic skills of reading and writing.
8. Equal education - all of the groups attending come from areas of "segregated or separate" school facilities. Some of this was by choice; some imposed upon the Indians. However, each group attended expressed desires for equal education.
9. Need for long term loans for higher education of Indian children (particularly expressed by non-reserved groups).
10. Need for counseling program for Indian youth.
11. Need for special education program or facilities for retarded Indian children.
12. Survey of curriculum in schools of southeast for purpose of analyzing and correcting, if inaccurate, the history and interpretation given Southeastern Indians and other Indians in textbooks.

B. All the Indians attending felt that the American Indians had not been accorded first class citizenship. Thus, they recommend that First Class citizenship for American Indians should become a reality.

C. Wherever racial discrimination exists against American Indians steps should be taken to eliminate this action. The steps should first be taken through negotiation. Should this fail, it should be done by other means. Discrimination was felt in education, public accommodations, and job opportunity.

D. T.V. and radio have usually portrayed Indians as a barbarous race. We recommend that these policies be changed to truly portray the Indians, as they are, peacefully intended in a complex world.

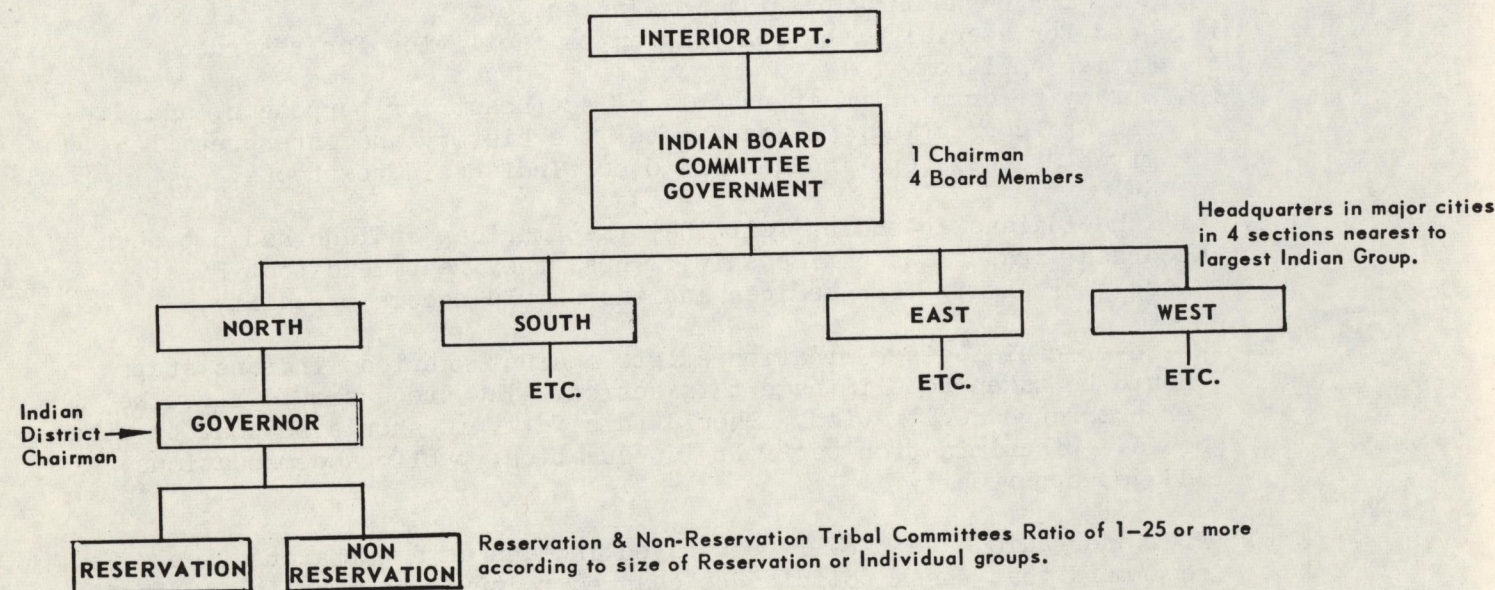
E. There is great need for a rural slum clearance in the southeast. Therefore, we recommend expanded housing opportunity for American Indians. In drawing up housing opportunity for Indians, it must be kept in mind that most of our people are in the lower income bracket levels.

F. A revolving loan fund should be established for the purpose of helping Indians begin small industries and expand the loan lease in their communities.

GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS, APRIL 26, 1961

The criticism we have to offer is that the civil service system has proven to be a very wrong solution. From our research through the years till now, it has become a very weak solution and from an Indian viewpoint disappointing and wrong, both financially, culturally and morally.

Our suggestion is that the first step is to abolish the present Indian Bureau Civil Service System and establish an Indian Board. The Indian Board would still function through the Interior Department with appointment of 5 in the General Committee, to be selected finally by the President of the United States after pre-selection by Interior Department Indian Commissioner. The Indian Commissioners' function would be as liaison between the Government and the Indian Board. It is time the Indian leaders functioned as such. Monies now being used in Civil Service setup would be allocated to Indian Board and they, in turn, would allocate the funds to Tribal projects, etc., as planned, with approval of liaison and Federal Government.



EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL 30, 1961 Problem drinking, in its entirety, is a well recognized and influential factor in the deterioration of the individual, his home life, health and moral fiber of a large portion of the Indians. Problem drinking also contributes to friction between the relevant Indian population and non-Indians resulting in a racial and economic discrimination.

A small portion of Indians in this area now receive treatments at the North Dakota State Hospital for alcoholism. However, adequate follow-up, and supportive activities are not available. Consequently, the permanent recovery rate is very low. Normal follow-up activities have not been successful where applied. This indicates that existing methods of prevention and treatment of problem drinking in the Indian population are not adequate either in kind or quantity.

Law enforcement agencies state that the excessive use of alcohol is a major factor in Indian misbehavior and crime rates. The extent of this is indicated by the records of the tribal courts where drunkenness is the major cause of court action, and by examination of the commitments to the state prisons where the rate is unbelievably high. Drinking is the major cause of automobile accidents on Indian

reservations. Similar experiences are noted at the state training school for juveniles, where a large share of the inmates are from homes where excessive drinking is the contributing factor to delinquency in the children.

We do not believe that the establishment of a Division on Alcoholism within the Bureau of Indian Affairs would entail considerable additional funds. The present Commissioner could serve as Chairman of the Commission along with his Branch Heads. A position of Coordinator could be established at the Central Office level. At the Area Level, the Area Director could serve as Chairman, with his Branch Heads, and an Area Coordinator could be set up. This could be the media of informing our people about Alcohol and Alcoholism.

LODGE GRASS, MONTANA, MAY 2, 1961

1. Indian Affairs is under the complete control of the Party in power and of the Congress.
2. Indian Affairs administration usually is subject to the political thinking and actions of the party in power along with the commercial advantages to be gained on the many Indian Reservations of the country.
3. Indian Affairs administration is often decided politically in their final analysis by the party in power at Washington.
4. Indian Affairs administration is left in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior and often is administered by whim instead of being administered in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the principles declared in the Declaration, the Atlantic Charter, Dumbarton Oaks, the Four Freedoms and the declarations emblazoned across the fronts of the Justice and Supreme Court buildings which declare:

"Equal protection under law for all."

Instead, Indian Affairs has been managed and administered since the foundation of government, under the power, might and force of Government and without any regard to the wishes of the Indian tribes whatsoever.

The Constitution guarantees the People a Republican form of Government in which the People rule through duly elected representatives in both Houses of the Congress, but not so with the Indians; their lot is to submit meekly to the whims of the Interior secretary, who determines largely the Indian Policy to be followed by his Party in power: the Indians are never consulted in these matters nor are their views sought in the promulgation of the more than 4,000 rules and regulations to govern them on their reservations, which have the force and effect of law. This is autocracy in any man's language, and the principal cause of the American Revolution yet, foisted upon the helpless American tribes who now are helpless from a military view to prevent it.

The United States Congress has been passing laws for the conduct of Indian Affairs and the Supreme Court decisions for and against them, and it is this body of decisions of the Courts and laws of the Congress that constitute the laws which govern the Indians. These decisions and acts of the Congress make mockery of the "equal rights under law," emblazoned across the Justice and Supreme Court buildings, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Indians have many problems but chief among them may be mentioned the following:

1. Lack of an adequate education to meet on equal terms all non-Indians in their contests to hammer out a livelihood in the business world of today and under the highly complex and competitive economic order of our country.

2. The need for the economic rehabilitation of the individual, the family and the tribe.
3. Equal opportunities for employment without discrimination.
4. Equal protection of law on and off reservations.
5. Respect for treaty commitments by the Government, the States and their employees.

These should be the objectives in the administration of Indian Affairs.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, MAY 7, 1961 (Meeting on AICC)

EDUCATION: Considered the most urgent need.

It was recognized that Indian education for young people has greatly improved in recent years. Now the most serious lack is a program in adult education. Indians can not get jobs or compete in non-Indian society unless they have vocational and technical training. BIA should set up night classes for adults on the reservations. Southern California Indians still protest the loss of Sherman Institute for their tribes. They want an educational supervisor-counselor to advise them about schools and scholarship opportunities.

TERMINATION & LAND PROBLEMS:

Total agreement that termination should not come until tribal problems are nearer solution. States must have time to pass proper legislation and accept responsibility for services now rendered to tribes and individuals by the Federal government.

RELOCATION:

While many of the Indians in the Los Angeles area have come thru the Relocation Program, there was much dissatisfaction with many phases of this program.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON RESERVATIONS:

Government should provide financial and technical assistance but tribal enterprises should be managed by trained tribal leaders.

CALIFORNIA INDIANS:

Two important bills introduced in current session of California Legislature: Creation of a California Advisory Commission on Indian Affairs..SB 1007. Three Indians representing tribes in north, south and central California to serve on nine member commission. Indians of Southern California are especially concerned about land and water rights and sanitation..SB 33.

INDIAN NEWSLETTER:

Revive or create newsletter such as "Indians at Work" which would provide information on current Indian legislation, work projects, and what other tribes are doing.

LAW AND ORDER:

More information is needed re local and state jurisdiction regarding Indians.

RESERVATION HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:

Many young people leave the reservation because they can not get GI loans to build houses and improve lands. The Indian Bureau and Congress could solve this problem with proper legislation and appropriations.

ALCOHOLISM:

This problem common to all reservations but much worse in towns and cities where Indians work, or have relocated. (No solutions ventured).

RELIGION:

Indians feel strongly that there are real values in their old religion. They want recognition and sympathetic understanding from ministers and missionaries regarding these values. They do not want to lose Indian culture and traditions. There is confusion on the part of younger Indians that are caught between the appeals of Christian and Indian religious beliefs.

FUTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

Federal assistance is urgently needed to help Indians plan for development of land and other resources.

INDIAN NECK, VIRGINIA, MAY 8, 1961

The Voice of the Rappahannock Indian People, or Tribe

We have no schools to educate our children, and we want schools that will educate our children, and train them to the highest education, such as lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc., and equal rights as any other citizens of America.

We have always been tax-paying citizens, and have never reaped any benefit. We are crowded out. The white neighbors hold the lands, and won't sell, and we need more area to take care of that situation.

Our people can get no jobs in our communities. They hire the white, and seldom can an Indian get anything to do. They have to go north or some other place in order to land a job. Therefore, we need some adjustment in order that we can live.

I would like a provision made for the old aged who are unable to work, that they can be cared for.

This is the voice of my people.

Chief
Rappahannock Indian Tribe

Present Conditions

Present educational facilities and equipment are excellent. The seven day schools that are located adjacent to Indian reservations provide courses in elementary, junior high, and two years of high school, music, drama, physical education, vocational training, and adult education. Library services are offered.

Most of those who complete the 10th grade are enrolled in federal boarding schools in Oklahoma and Kansas. Four or five of the graduating students are enrolled in the Meridian Municipal Junior College at Meridian each year. They should be commended for coming out of a total segregated situation and going into an integrated situation and adjusting themselves and doing outstanding work.

Indian students are accepted in most of the leading junior colleges, senior colleges and universities of the state. Schools located in an area where there is a concentration of Indian population will not accept Indian students.

HOUSING

Most reservation housing is inadequate and unsuited for rearing families. Overcrowded conditions exist. Unsanitary slum conditions prevail.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Present health facilities and services include clinical service, medical, and hospital care. Those needing surgery are cared for at the University Hospital located eighty miles away. A staff of four doctors, twelve nurses, and eight nurses' aides are employed to take care of the sick.

There is a field nurse and a doctor on duty. A full-time dentist and a technician are employed to take care of the Indians' dental needs. Those needing visual corrections are cared for. A laboratory technician is employed. Pharmaceutical services are provided.

Needs

The present educational program need to be enlarged to include kindergarten school, last two years of high school, and standardized curriculum. More facilities are needed for an enlarged educational program. Competent and qualified instructors are needed who are not prejudiced race fanatics and segregationists.

A well-equipped physical education department with a full-time instructor are needed. A well-equipped vocational training department and more trades training opportunities are needed.

An enlarged adult educational program to include courses on family life, home management, citizenship training and cultivation, thrift and economy, savings and investments, farm management, farm accounting, farm marketing, stockraising, poultry, propagation of fruits for family use, landscaping and beautification of the home, preservation and conservation of wildlife, plant life, and natural resources.

Literacy program should be accelerated.

Better and adequate housing is needed. Every possible assistance should be extended to the Indians for housing purposes. Long-term loans from some source should be considered.

Better sanitary conditions are needed. Present sanitation program should be stepped up. Elimination of health hazards and eradication of and protection from insect pests and other germ-carrying insects and animals. Proper disposal of garbage and body waste materials is needed. Sanitary water supply and drinking facilities are needed. Standard drinking facilities meeting state health standards should be observed at all public places.

The present 35 bed hospital should be increased to 50 bed capacity. Permanent and resident physician is preferred.

Present Problems

Family life on the reservations is in a deplorable state. Excessive drinking and drunkenness, common-law marriages, illegitimacy, and gross sex immoralities prevail.

General state of unrest and discontent prevail. Jealousies, distrust, bitterness and resentments are common. Delinquencies of every kind are prevalent. Most Choctaws are critical of the present policies of the administration of their affairs at the local level. The leasing program is the source of much of the misunderstanding and indifference.

Many of the aged Indian citizens are not properly cared for. Many of them are forgotten and left to spend the remainder of their days on earth in hovels of filth and squalid conditions. Physically and mentally handicapped children are neglected.

Children with visual difficulties and minor physical deformities are grossly neglected and mistreated by normal-bodied children.

School authorities and some teachers are neglectful of their duties of seeing that children are properly cared for.

There is definitely an unsatisfactory land leasing program. Many of the Indians are delinquent in their payment on their leases. This is due primarily to ineffective native leadership, misunderstanding, etc.

More than half, possibly two-thirds of the total Choctaw population live off and away from the seven reservations. Inadequate acreage of tillable and productive lands on the reservations accounts for majority of them engaging in share-cropping.

Suggestions Of Solutions

Family studies and programs should be conducted. Parents of children should be invited to participate in the community program designed for the families. Alcohol studies and an effective rehabilitation program should be conducted for all alcoholics.

Such state of unrest and discontent and tension are attributed to a general lack of formal education, moral training and spiritual enlightenment. Mental and emotional immaturities may be attributed mostly to lack of education and moral principles. The lack of enlightened and effective native leadership and possibly maladministration of the agency administrative personnel may share the blame for this situation in human relations.

Some united and concerted effort must be made to bring all the factions to mutual understanding and goodwill and all rally together in a common bond of peace and unity and cooperation for the welfare and happiness of every Choctaw. The care of the aged, homeless orphans, and helpless persons should have priority considerations.

Every federal employee and Choctaw citizen should be made aware of these physically handicapped persons and see that they are treated kindly and loved.

LAND PROGRAM

If present land program has been proven unsatisfactory, then a more satisfactory one should be instituted. Every Indian lessor should be helped to understand that he has very little to lose and much to gain and that they are expected to help conduct an orderly land program.

Greater use and care of the land should be emphasized.

More land is needed. Those who need financial aid for farming purposes or stock-raising should be extended this help. They should be given every available information on farm management.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Present Conditions

The Choctaws probably occupy the lowest rung of the economic ladder than all other racial groups in the area. They live on low subsistence basis due to lack of equal opportunities for employment other groups enjoy. The income of an average family is approximately \$600.00 yearly while only a few enjoy a yearly income of approximately \$2,000.00.

The Choctaws' inability in understanding and following work instructions are probably the main reasons.

Only a few Choctaws are skilled workers. A few are heavy road equipment operators.

INDUSTRIES

Farming, stockraising, poultry, and pulpwood and lumber industries are the only sources of income. Choctaws are not considered for employment.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrative policies are strongly opposed by Indian leaders. The most commonly known objections are as follows:

(1) Solicitation, employment, and termination. Only local Whites are considered for employment at the agency and in the schools. Practically all Whites are race fanatics and segregationists, i.e., all local Whites. Those who are employed are not fully qualified for the positions they have been appointed. The services of those who are sympathetic to the Indians' general welfare are not desired and are terminated.

(2) Partiality and favoritism are shown to Indians. Some Indians are puppets of certain agency personnel.

(3) Racial segregation policies are practiced in the federal government-operated and supported institutions.

Possible Solutions

Most Choctaws are farm laborers. The average wage for a farm-laborer is approximately \$2.50 per day which is ordinarily from sun-up to sun-down or twelve hours. There are two farmwork seasons: namely, cotton-chopping and cotton-picking. If a farm-laborer can get eighty working days from each season, he can earn \$400.00 in wages for the entire summer's work. Unless he engages in some other type of farmwork, he is confronted with hunger and want of the necessities of life during the worst seasons of the year.

Steady employment, better economic opportunities, and opportunities for promotions are needed to improve economic situation of the Choctaw family.

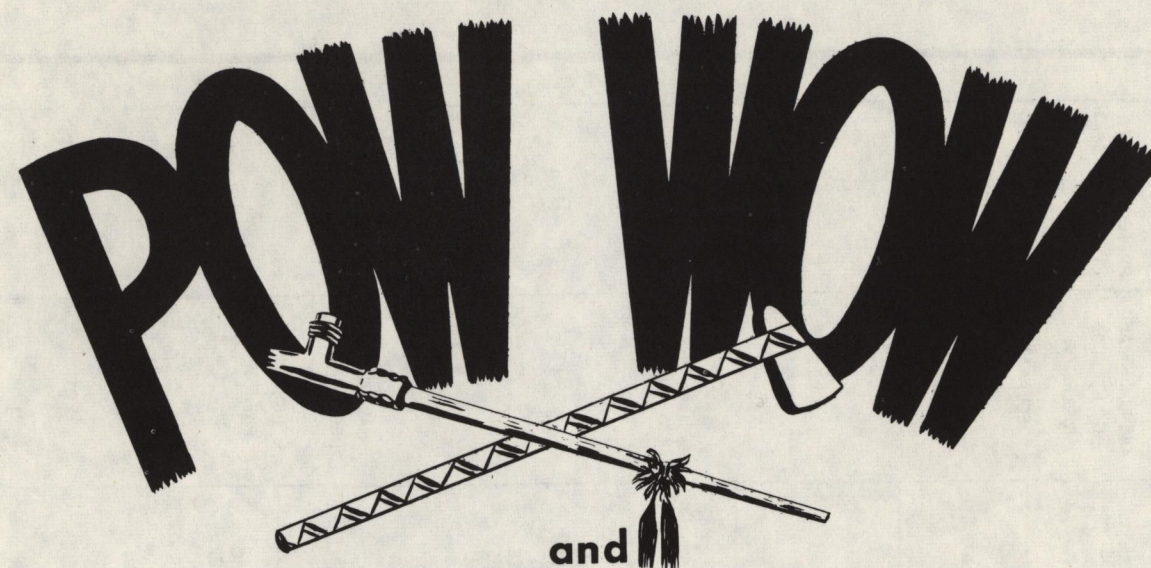
It is the consensus that there is a need for an industrial development in areas convenient for the employment of Choctaws. More Choctaws should be considered for jobs in the local industries.

Before any appointment is completed, each should be made subject to study and approval of the Choctaw Tribal Council, especially, in the appointment of the superintendent.

When a superintendent, any agency personnel, or any Indian Service employee is charged with maladministration, habitual neglect or indifference toward the general welfare of the Indians, or any violation of the Constitution of the United States with respect to civil rights this should be reported formally by the Choctaw Tribal Council and recommendation made that an investigation be made of the person or persons so accused. Upon being found guilty as charged, he/she to be given the option of transferring to another location or resign upon request.

Racial segregation should not be permitted in federal institutions.

NATION-WIDE AMERICAN INDIAN



INDIAN DANCE CONTEST

\$500

in prizes

PROCEEDS FOR THE
DISTANCE SUBSIDY
FOR AICC

Held at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

INDIVIDUAL DANCING CONTEST

1st Prize.....	\$100
2nd Prize.....	50
3rd Prize.....	25
Honorable Mention.....	10
Honorable Mention.....	10
Honorable Mention.....	10

DANCE GROUPS CONTEST

1st Prize.....	\$100
2nd Prize.....	50
3rd Prize.....	25

JUNE

18

1961

2 p.m.

BEST AUTHENTIC COSTUME

Men

1st Prize.....	\$25
2nd Prize.....	15
3rd Prize.....	10

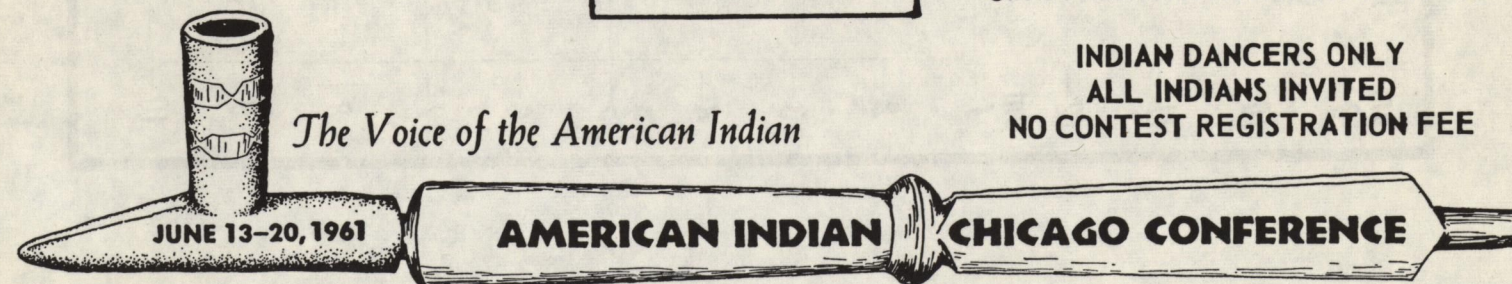
Women

1st Prize.....	\$25
2nd Prize.....	15
3rd Prize.....	10

Boy's Prize..... 10

Girl's Prize..... 10

INDIAN DANCERS ONLY
ALL INDIANS INVITED
NO CONTEST REGISTRATION FEE



For further details write Ways & Means Committee of A.I.C.C., 411 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago 10, Illinois

REVISED PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

	TUESDAY JUNE 13	WEDNESDAY JUNE 14	THURSDAY JUNE 15	FRIDAY JUNE 16	SATURDAY JUNE 17	SUNDAY JUNE 18	MONDAY JUNE 19	TUESDAY JUNE 20
am								
9—		GENERAL SESSION 1 REVIEW OF HISTORY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	GENERAL SESSION 3 PROGRAMS FOR THE FUTURE	GENERAL SESSION 5 THE AMERICAN INDIAN CREED	GENERAL SESSION 7 READING OF PROPOSED "DECLARATION OF INDIAN PURPOSE"	INDIAN PRIESTS WILL CONDUCT MASS: <i>St. Thomas - Roman Catholic</i> <i>St. Paul's - Episcopal</i>	GENERAL SESSION 8 AMENDMENT AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT OF "DECLARATION OF INDIAN PURPOSE"	GENERAL SESSION 9 PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF "DECLARATION OF INDIAN PURPOSE"
10—						SERVICES		
11—						UNIVERSITY CHAPEL		
12—								
pm								
1—	(Conference begins after lunch)							(Conference ends with lunch)
2—								
3—	ASSIGNMENT OF ROOMS AND CHOOSING COMMITTEES	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE	BASEBALL GAME CHICAGO WHITE SOX vs MINNESOTA TWINS 1:30 P.M. FREE TO A.I.C.C. REGISTRANTS			
4—		(INSTITUTE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M. NON-INDIANS AND THOSE NOT BUSY IN COMMITTEE WORK)				INDIAN POW - WOW AND DANCE CONTEST 2 P.M.		
5—								
6—	OPENING "CALUMET" CEREMONY							
7—		GENERAL SESSION 2	GENERAL SESSION 4	GENERAL SESSION 6	OPEN TIME ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM?		FINAL VOTE ON "DECLARATION OF INDIAN PURPOSE"?	
8—	WELCOME FEAST	COMMITTEE REPORTS	COMMITTEE REPORTS	COMMITTEE REPORTS	RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES?	PICNIC SUPPER		
9—	KEYNOTE SESSION				INDIAN SINGING?			
10—								