

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

AKC

1126 EAST 59TH STREET
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
SOL TAX, Coordinator
NANCY O. LURIE
Assistant Coordinator
ROBERT RIETZ
Associate Coordinator
ALBERT WAHRHAFTIG
Assistant to the Coordinators

To All American Indians:

The "termination policy" is dead; Secretary Udall and Assistant Secretary Carver have said so very clearly. Nothing more should happen in Indian affairs without full Indian understanding and consent!

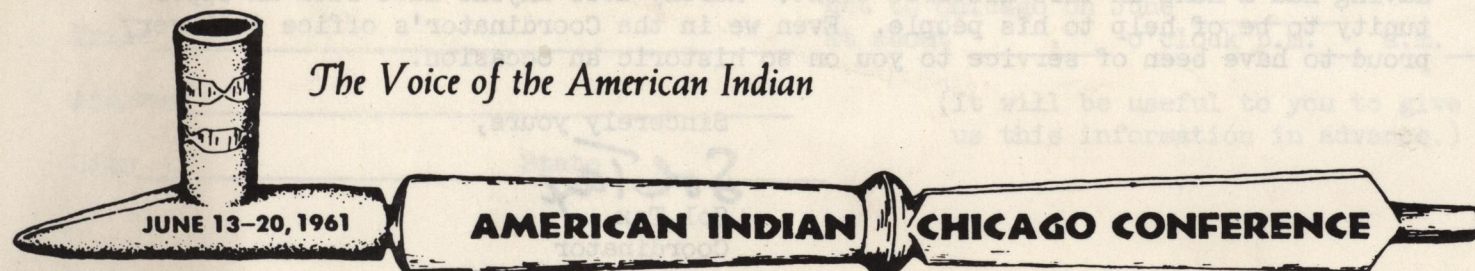
The new administration in Washington -- and the Congress and the whole American people -- have to work out a new Indian Affairs policy. There is no Indian Affairs policy now.

Therefore, right now is a rare opportunity for Indians to speak for themselves, instead of having somebody else speak for them. This is why I have tried hard to make this national conference possible at this time, and to see that it is open to all Indians, and that the Indian people have every opportunity to express themselves.

Two weeks from now, June 13-20, we hope that you will be here to meet with other Indians from all over the country who, for the last three months, have been talking over with one another the problems and hopes of the Indian people in preparation for the AICC. For the first time, at this Chicago conference, it will be Indians expressing themselves, and making their own plans, and the rest of us listening. If the Voice of the American Indian is united it will be listened to and heard.

To help Indians to unite their voices, we have sent out to all of you the opinions and the reports of meetings that many of you have sent to us. Altogether there have been 5 "Progress Reports" to do this job. We started off by sending out a sample opinion which was prepared by a small group of Indians just to get the ball rolling. Then some nationwide temporary Indian Committees were formed, and after two meetings in Chicago where they studied all of the many things that you have sent in, they put together a new "preliminary statement" for your use at the Conference. This preliminary statement has now been sent to all of you to see what you think of it.

At the Conference in Chicago, all of the Indians present will work on problems of the Indian people and try to agree on what might be done about them. The Conference might be able to turn that "Preliminary Statement" into a "Declaration of Indian Purpose" that will help unite the Indian people and reach the whole country to get things started on a new and better path. Right now is a good time to do this because the country is at a cross-roads in Indian affairs, so that what Indians say now is especially important.



In the letter I wrote to you on March 31, I told why I believe that the Indian people will be able to reach agreement at the AICC. After reading all of the things that you have sent to me, I am sure you really do agree on the most important things -- first, that being an Indian is important; second, that Indians have rights as Indians that must not be lost; and third, that with the right kind of help Indians and Indian communities can get along much better than they are getting along now.

At the Conference in Chicago you will find out how much you really are in agreement. Then you will also be able to show the ways in which improvements can actually be made to come true.

I am sure that everybody is now willing to listen to the Voice of the American Indian. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall told me that what is being done through the AICC to discover what Indians think and want is very important. The "Task Force" which he has appointed tells me they are very much interested and they will have one or more members in Chicago to observe the whole conference to learn more about what Indian people think. The Governors of many states, the Public Health and Welfare people, educators, and church organizations of all kinds are showing great interest in your work. Many of them will be in Chicago to learn from your discussions in the Conference. Many of them are also willing to help you if you ask them to. There will even be important observers from foreign lands.

It is too bad that we do not have enough money to help all Indians to come to Chicago. Some Indians have to travel a long way, and this is very expensive. A number of tribes have funds to send delegates, but others do not. Church organizations are trying to organize car-pools, and will help with gasoline money. Some B.I.A. employees may be able to come to the Conference as part of their regular duties.

I wish also that we could put you all up here in Chicago, but living expenses are high in the city and we don't have enough money. We have made arrangements for room and board in University dormitories, which will be better and cheaper than eating at any other place while you are here. We have also been collecting for a "distance subsidy" to help all Indians a little bit. Those who have to come farthest will be helped the most, by cutting down the cost of their dormitory room and board. We hope that all these things will make it possible for even far-away Indians to be fully represented at the Conference.

My job as Coordinator is almost finished. We have tried to see to it that the opinions of all of you have been sent around to the others so that you all understand how your agreement is developing. Also we shall see to it that you are well enough taken care of at the Conference so that you are free to carry on your important work. And we are working very hard to see that your voice reaches all of the American people.

It is now plain to see that this nationwide Conference of American Indians is a major event in the history of our country. As I look over what you have accomplished so far I know that those of you who are able to take an active part in helping to make this Conference a success will be proud in years to come for having had a hand in this historic event. Rarely does anyone have such an opportunity to be of help to his people. Even we in the Coordinator's office feel very proud to have been of service to you on so historic an occasion.

Sincerely yours,
Sol Tax
Sol Tax
Coordinator

SPECIAL NOTICE!

GOOD NEWS! We have been able to reduce still further the cost of living in University Dormitories, and also to arrange for meals in the Dormitory Dining Halls for those who will be living elsewhere.

	Cost of Room and Board Complete	All Meals Only Complete	All Meals Except Breakfast	Opening Feast Only	Sunday Picnic Supper Only
NON-INDIANS	\$60.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$3.00	\$2.50
INDIANS (According to Distance)					
Less than 150 miles	45.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
150 to 300 miles	40.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
300 to 600 miles	35.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
600 to 1000 miles	30.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
1000 to 1400 miles	25.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
1400 to 1800 miles	20.00	20.00	15.00	2.50	2.00
More than 1800 miles	15.00	15.00	15.00	2.50	2.00

Draw a circle around the Accommodations you want to reserve, and send payment with coupon below.

Note: Those of you who have already sent in your money at the old rate will receive a refund when you get here if you have paid too much according to the new rate.

If you decide to buy your meals one at a time after you get here, the prices are as follows:

	Breakfast	Lunch	Supper	Opening Feast	Sunday Picnic Supper
Indians:	.75	1.25	1.75	2.50	2.00
Non-Indians:	1.00	1.50	2.00	3.00	2.50

Dear Coordinators:

Please reserve the accommodations I have circled on the form above. I enclose \$_____ Registration (Indians \$5; Non-Indians \$10), and \$_____ for the Accommodations as I have circled on the form, making a total enclosed of \$_____.

Name_____ I plan to travel by _____ and will
get to Chicago on June _____
Tribe_____ at about _____ o'clock p.m. _____ a.m. _____
Address_____
City_____ State_____

(It will be useful to you to give us this information in advance.)

IF YOU PLAN TO ARRIVE IN CHICAGO BEFORE JUNE 13

The Dormitories will not be open until noon on Tuesday, June 13. If you arrive in Chicago before noon Tuesday, you will be able to get a room at the International House, 1414 East 59th Street, at the special AICC rate of \$2.50 per day. Good meals are also available at International House at very reasonable prices.

When you arrive in Chicago, you will want to come directly to AICC general headquarters in Ida Noyes Hall at 1212 East 59th Street. You can call the AICC Registration and Information desk at this general headquarters at any hour of the day or night. The telephone number is Midway 3-0800, Extension 3577.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

NATION-WIDE NBC-TV BROADCAST OF "THE VOICE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN"

We have just received word that the National Broadcasting Company will present a nation-wide TV broadcast of AICC to be called "The Voice of The American Indian". Top NBC news commentators will be here for the entire week of AICC to prepare this historic documentary on the hopes and the aspirations of the American Indian people today. Now we know just how swiftly your work and your words will be brought before the people of America! In millions of American homes, people will actually see the progress of the AICC and hear your final accomplishment. Who knows, - maybe you'll be on TV yourself!

I know that many of you who have wanted very much to take part in the AICC here in Chicago and do your share to help your people will not be able to make it. Even though you cannot take a direct part, this NBC-TV program of AICC will bring it to you for you to see. For those of you who will be here, I know how willingly you have made personal sacrifices of time and money, in this work for the good of all Indians. You have been able to overcome petty differences of opinion and personal rivalries in your determination to see to it that your own people are heard at Chicago in the AICC. For these reasons, as well as because it is so important for the American Indian, I am especially glad that this TV documentary broadcast is going to be made.

This program will be broadcast at 10:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20th, 1961 over most of the country. There may be some difference in the time, for example, in the Central time zone. Be sure to check with your local NBC-TV Station to find out when this program will be broadcast in your area.

Sincerely yours,

Sol Tax
Sol Tax
Coordinator

TRANSPORTATION

The Chesapeake & Ohio R.R. has now offered a special party rate, making a total now of seven railroads that have agreed to give special reduced "party rates" to groups coming to the AICC.

From any point east of Chicago, the Baltimore and Ohio, the Erie-Lackawanna, the Chesapeake & Ohio, the New York Central, and the Pennsylvania Railroads will give about 25% discount if 3 or more people buy their tickets to travel together.

The Milwaukee Road will give a discount from the states of Washington and Idaho to groups of 30 or more, and a very large discount from South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan (upper Peninsula).

The Northern Pacific Railroad will give a discount to groups of 30 or more from the state of Oregon, Washington, or Idaho.