

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C.

C O N V E N T I O N C A L L
August 29 - September 2, 1955
Spokane, Washington
Davenport Hotel

TO THE CHIEFS, GOVERNORS, HEADMEN, OFFICERS, COUNCILMEN, AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE
INDIAN TRIBES OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALASKA:

By virtue of the authority of the Executive Council of the National Congress of American Indians, I do hereby call the Twelfth Annual Convention to convene at Spokane, Washington, August 29 - September 2, 1955. Registration of delegates will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 28, and the Convention will open at 10:00 a.m. on August 29.

It is urgent that every tribe wishing to retain and protect its resources send representatives to this Convention to guide the future course of the National Congress of American Indians in its efforts to serve the Indian tribes effectively. There is immediate danger in the May 16 memorandum from the Bureau of Indian Affairs announcing a change in "Fee Patent Policy" which directs area offices to disregard the break-up of Indian timber or grazing units or access to other Indian lands. Also, your views and position on "Relocation" are essential in view of the pressures to move Indian people off their traditional homelands into large cities without the United States Government--the trustee--first or concurrently making real effort to extend the benefits of a technical assistance and rehabilitation program to the Indian Tribes of this country.

In 1954, the Indian Tribes effectively slowed down "termination" legislation (this year it is "readjustment" legislation). In 1955, with a friendlier Congress, it appears that your efforts will result in extending the Indian Claims Commission, and in passing a long-term leasing bill. The Papagos have gained their mineral rights and a few other bills helpful to individual tribes have passed. As of this writing, there appears to be no chance of harmful legislation passing during this session. But the break-up of tribal holdings, the destruction of effective tribal government, and the dispersal of the Indian people is certain under present administrative rulings.

ALL TRIBES: Send your official delegates prepared to express your views and take an official position on the recent change in land policy, and also on the Relocation Program. Bring your supporting figures and statements to file with NCAI for use throughout the coming year.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane. PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS WITH THE DAVENPORT HOTEL. We urge you to do this at once so you will not be disappointed in your hotel accommodations. A postcard is attached for your convenience.

A CORDIAL AND URGENT INVITATION IS HEREBY EXTENDED TO OUR TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION. WE SHALL BE JOINING THE TRIBES OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST IN CALLING THE NATION'S ATTENTION TO THE 100-YEAR OLD TREATY OBLIGATIONS YET UNFULFILLED.

JOSEPH R. GARRY, President
National Congress of American Indians