

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “Alaskan Indians - Claims” of the
Norman Ross Files, 1974-75
at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Will you take a minute and send us your ideas and suggestions on three things:

- (1) What should NIEA be doing for the education of Indian people.
- (2) How should NIEA be doing this?
- (3) Name three items that we could organize to be of most help to you in your community.

Drop these ideas in the mail to our office address right away. The address is: National Indian Education Association, 3036 University Avenue, S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

ROBERT R. NATHAN ASSOCIATES CHOSEN TO CONDUCT ALASKA 2 (c) STUDIES

Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., has been awarded a contract by the Department of the Interior to head up a team of independent consulting groups which will prepare a study and report on various characteristics of the Alaska Native community and on selected Federal programs, it was announced June 28, 1974.

The studies were mandated by Section 2 (c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act signed into law by President Nixon December 18, 1971. It requires the Secretary of the Interior to study Federal programs primarily designed to benefit Alaska Native people and to report back to the Congress with his recommendations by December 18, 1974.

Eight firms submitted proposals to lead the studies for the Interior Department. The Nathan firm will serve as prime contractor in conjunction with James R. Leonard Associates, Inc., the Alaska Native Foundation, the University of Alaska, and Sidney Hollander Associates, Inc., at an overall cost of \$531,547.

Award of the contract was based on four criteria, Department officials said: Understanding of the problem and logic of the proposed approach, experience, resources and ability to deliver, and price. Interior's evaluation of the eight proposals it received, placed the Nathan proposal substantially ahead of all others, they said.

The work to be done falls into three major categories:

1. A statistical analysis of demographic and socio-economic characteristics (population, size of households, vital statistics, migration, income, business development, employment and unemployment, educational levels and opportunities, health, housing, and such social indices as parental desertion, crime rates, and delinquency.)
2. A descriptive summary of major Federal programs designed to serve Alaska Natives--their objectives, histories, administration, financing, operations, performance, and program evaluations, and how these relate to data in the statistical analyses.
3. A survey and presentation of Native views regarding the services they need and how they are being delivered by these programs.

Sampling of Native views will cover various kinds of communities, from the urban areas of Alaska to small and remote villages--covering 50 or 60 in all.

Robert R. Nathan Associates is one of the oldest and largest economic consulting firm in the United States, with years of experience in Alaska. During the 1960's it conducted an in-depth social and economic study of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the Department of the Interior.

The Alaska Native Foundation was organized in 1968 to provide technical assistance to the Alaska Federation of Natives; it provides services to the 12 Native regional corporations. Its directors represent a cross-section of Native leadership across Alaska.

James R. Leonard Associates is a firm of economic, management and social services consultants with many private and U. S. and foreign government contracts. Sidney Hollander Associates is one of the Nation's oldest marketing and opinion research firms.

NEW INDIAN SCHOOL EMPHASIZES BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

HAMMON - The newest Indian school in the country is striving to teach the best aspects of each culture as well as traditional Indian ways, the school's director says.

The Institute of the Southern Plains, a small 42-student school with students ranging from pre-school through the 12th grade, recently held commencement exercises for its first graduating class.

"These are the first Indian students in the state of Oklahoma to be graduated from a school where Indian people decide for themselves what is important to learn of Indian ways and white ways," said Mrs. Peggy Dycus, director of the school.

The three graduates-Larry Howling Buffalo, Denny Ray Standing Water and Eugene Hart-were given white Pendleton blankets upon receiving their diplomas.

The blankets are "highly valued among Indians," the director said, "because that was one gift which will have meaning and usefulness for the rest of their lives."

The commencement was a blend of both white and Indian cultures-coupling the traditional senior caps and gowns with a supper and Indian dance.

The school, located in this small western Oklahoma community, is not accredited, but the director said under state laws, private schools do not require accreditation.

"The Institute of the Southern Plains is able to provide programs geared for our students," she said, "instead of following an arbitrary plan for hypothetical students."

The teachers at the school, most of whom are Cheyenne, speak the Cheyenne language. All the students are Cheyenne.

"This represents another first in Oklahoma, an opportunity for Indian students to learn in school the language that their parents and grandparents speak at home," Mrs. Dycus said.

The school is currently in the process of acquiring 20 acres for a permanent site from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal council-with hopes for more programs and a larger enrollment this fall.

The curriculum includes the standard subjects such as math, science and reading.

But Indian culture is emphasized too. "We hope to encourage Indian college students to train for jobs in Indian controlled schools," the director said, "so that Indians can continue to learn in schools that are comfortable for the way of thinking they prefer."

VIEWPOINTS IN INDIAN HISTORY

The History Department of Colorado State University is pleased to present a conference entitled "Viewpoints in Indian History." Generous financial assistance from the Colorado Humanities Program, an adult education program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Cultural Programs at Colorado State University has made possible the organization and funding of an outstanding conference.

The program is aimed at the Indian and non-Indian adult community. Its emphasis is on the broad range of cultural perceptions of Indians and the conflicts generated by the myopic stereotyping of their ideas on art, film and contemporary events. Speakers and panelists have been selected to assure a balanced cross section of tribal, professional and regional views. We do not claim to have included every viewpoint. With audience participation, however, we are confident that valuable dialogue will occur and we are hopeful that the conference experience will enrich and vitalize the lives of those who attend. Indian art, literature and history will be on display. This exhibit will feature the paintings of Oscar Howe, courtesy of the University of South Dakota; contemporary art from the Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota; and works from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Sante Fe, New Mexico. Recent publications relating to the conference theme will also be on display. Because we have had many requests for registration information, we urge you to preregister as soon as possible. Conference size will be limited.

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September 20, 1974

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The President has asked me to thank you for your telegram of September 17. He appreciates your congratulations and support.

The President is planning to have a meeting with Indian leaders soon and will begin this process with the Presidents of the National Tribal Chairman's Association and of the National Congress of American Indians. My advice would be that if you have specific problems with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act you start by bringing them to the attention of Commissioner Thompson, himself of course from Alaska, and the officer in the best position to make an initial review with you of just what problems are and what are the options for action.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley Hl Patterson, Jr.

**Mr. Ralph A. Johnson
President
Cook Inlet Region
Anchorage Alaska**

bcc: Morris Thompson, BIA (with incoming telegram for file)

Central Files



The White House
Washington

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITEHOUSE DC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT, WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU

AS THE PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY AND EXPRESS OUR APPROVAL

OF YOUR HANDLING OUR NATIONS AFFAIRS TO DATE. YOU HAVE BEEN

VERY CONSIDERATE IN YOUR ALLOWING UNION AND ALL MINORITY

GROUPS TO HAVE AUDIENCES WITH YOU TO EXPRESS THEIR SPECIAL

PROBLEMS. WE BEG OF YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU

AND PRESENT THE PROBLEMS OF COOK INLET REGION INC. RELATIVE TO

THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT.

RALPH A JOHNSON PRES COOK INLET REGION

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