

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “Black Hills Indians” of the
Norman Ross Files, 1974-75
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 10/15/74

TO: Norm.

FROM: WARREN K. HENDRIKS, JR.

Comments:

See our
conversation

File
10/11



10/15-

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 10-14

TO:

Ken Cole

FROM:

WILLIAM TIMMONS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION _____

FOR YOUR COMMENTS _____

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING ✓

OTHER THIS LOOKS

IMPORTANT. CAN YOU
CHECK IT & GET IN
TP'S TRIP FOLDER?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS
THRU: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *MLF*
FROM: VERN LOEN *VL*
SUBJECT: Black Hills Indian Claim

During his South Dakota visit Wednesday the President may encounter a demonstration or receive a question about the pending Indian claim for the Federal Government's taking of the gold-rich Black Hills in 1877. The facts are as follows:

- (1) The Indian Claims Commission, after a 50-year wait, has set a value of \$17 million, plus interest from 1877, which brings the total to \$100 million. There are 60,000 Indian beneficiaries, about half of them in Rep. Abdnor's district.
- (2) The Government has appealed this award to the U.S. Court of Claims, where it is pending.
- (3) In other claims of this type, the value of "rations" issued to the Indians has been offset against the claim. That would virtually wipe out the entire claim. Senator Abourezk, D-S.D., chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee, attached an amendment to the Indian Claims Commission authorization bill (S. 3007) which would prohibit this "rations offset" in the case of this claim. The amendment was retained in the conference report now pending before the House.
- (4) The Democrats plus radical American Indian Movement (AIM) are trying to make this a campaign issue in South Dakota, claiming that the President opposes the Black Hills settlement and opposes the Abourezk amendment. Abdnor and other Republicans have been working to retain the Abourezk amendment.



RECOMMENDATION: If asked, the President should say he is aware of the controversy and will give the matter full consideration when the bill reaches his desk (probably after the recess). He should sympathize with the way the Indians were treated without making a definite commitment.

The President should be aware that the Black Hills were considered sacred by the Sioux Indians of that day. This is a highly emotional - not to mention economic - issue with them. A misstatement on this issue could defeat both Abdnor and Thorsness.

Indian-nonIndian relations are at a low ebb in South Dakota in the wake of Wounded Knee, violence at the trial of AIM leaders and a federal judge's dismissal of the case against them in the Minneapolis trial. He was sharply critical of the Justice Department's prosecution tactics. The 30-day period in which the Justice Department can appeal his dismissal has nearly expired with no indication as to what Justice will do.

cc: Frank Zarb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 11/2/74

TO:

KEN COLE

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES

FYI.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 11 / 5 / 74

TO:

MIKE DUVAL

FROM:

WARREN K. HENDRIKS, JR.

For your information: xx

Comments:



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES
FROM: WARREN RUSTAND *WR*
SUBJECT: Phone Call Endorsing Black Hills
Reservation Bill now before the
President for Action

A phone call was received in our office from Kay Levenberg who identified herself as with the League of Women Voters here.

Said she strongly endorses the President signing the above bill and asked that we pass along "this one vote in favor."

Will you pass this along as appropriate.



ulc