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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 14, 1983

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN RESERVATION ECONOMIES

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America, and in order to establish, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. I), an advisory commission to promote the development of a strong private sector on Federally recognized Indian reservations, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established a Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies.

(b) The Commission shall be composed of no more than nine members, who shall be appointed by the President from among the private sector, reservation tribal governments, economic academicians, and Federal employees.

(c) The President shall designate a non-Indian representative and an Indian representative to serve as cochairmen of the Commission.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Commission shall advise the President on what actions should be taken to develop a stronger private sector on Federally recognized Indian reservations, lessen tribal dependence on Federal monies and programs and reduce the Federal presence in Indian affairs. The underlying principles of this mission are the government-to-government relationship, the established Federal policy of self-determination and the Federal trust responsibility.

(b) The Commission will focus exclusively on the following items, and not on new Federal financial assistance:

(1) Defining the existing Federal legislative, regulatory, and procedural obstacles to the creation of positive economic environments on Indian reservations.

(2) Identifying and recommending changes or other remedial actions necessary to remove these obstacles.

(3) Defining the obstacles at the State, local and tribal government levels which impede both Indian and non-Indian private sector investments on reservations.

(4) Identifying actions which these levels of government could take to rectify the identified problems.

(5) Recommending ways for the private sector, both Indian and non-Indian, to participate in the development and growth of reservation economies, including capital formation.

(c) The Commission should review studies undertaken in the last decade to obtain pertinent recommendations that are directly related to its mission.

(d) The Commission shall, unless sooner extended, submit a final report to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior within six months after appointment of the last Commissioner, or by September 30, 1983, whichever comes earlier.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of Executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Commission with such information as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

(b) Members of the Commission may receive compensation for their work on the Commission. While engaged in the work of the Commission members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) The Secretary of the Interior shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of funds, provide the Commission with such administrative services, funds, facilities, staff and other support services as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

(d) The Commission will meet approximately 15 times at the call of the chairmen. All meetings of the Commission and all agenda must have prior approval of the chairmen.

(e) In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission is authorized to:

(1) Conduct hearings, interviews, and reviews at field sites, or wherever deemed necessary to fulfill its duties.

(2) Confer with Indian tribal government officials and members, private sector business officials and managers, and other parties dealing with matters pertaining to the Commission's mission.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the responsibilities of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, which are applicable to the advisory commission established by this Order, shall be performed by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Commission shall terminate 60 days after it transmits its final report to the President, or on December 31, 1983, whichever comes earlier.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 14, 1983.

RONALD REAGAN

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 24, 1983

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

INDIAN POLICY

This Administration believes that responsibilities and resources should be restored to the governments which are closest to the people served. This philosophy applies not only to state and local governments, but also to federally recognized American Indian tribes.

When European colonial powers began to explore and colonize this land, they entered into treaties with sovereign Indian nations. Our new nation continued to make treaties and to deal with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis. Throughout our history, despite periods of conflict and shifting national policies in Indian affairs, the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes has endured. The Constitution, treaties, laws, and court decisions have consistently recognized a unique political relationship between Indian tribes and the United States which this Administration pledges to uphold.

In 1970, President Nixon announced a national policy of self-determination for Indian tribes. At the heart of the new policy was a commitment by the federal government to foster and encourage tribal self-government. That commitment was signed into law in 1975 as the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

The principle of self-government set forth in this Act was a good starting point. However, since 1975, there has been more rhetoric than action. Instead of fostering and encouraging self-government, federal policies have by and large inhibited the political and economic development of the tribes. Excessive regulation and self-perpetuating bureaucracy have stifled local decisionmaking, thwarted Indian control of Indian resources, and promoted dependency rather than self-sufficiency.

This Administration intends to reverse this trend by removing the obstacles to self-government and by creating a more favorable environment for the development of healthy reservation economies. Tribal governments, the federal government, and the private sector will all have a role. This Administration will take a flexible approach which recognizes the diversity among tribes and the right of each tribe to set its own priorities and goals. Change will not happen overnight. Development will be charted by the tribes, not the federal government.

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This Administration honors the commitment this nation made in 1970 and 1975 to strengthen tribal governments and lessen federal control over tribal governmental affairs. This Administration is determined to turn these goals into reality. Our policy is to reaffirm dealing with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis and to pursue the policy of self-government for Indian tribes without threatening termination.

In support of our policy, we shall continue to fulfill the federal trust responsibility for the physical and financial resources we hold in trust for the tribes and their members. The fulfillment of this unique responsibility will be accomplished in accordance with the highest standards.

Tribal Self-Government

Tribal governments, like state and local governments, are more aware of the needs and desires of their citizens than is the federal government and should, therefore, have the primary responsibility for meeting those needs. The only effective way for Indian reservations to develop is through tribal governments which are responsive and accountable to their members.

Early in this nation's dealings with Indian tribes, federal employees began to perform Indian tribal government functions. Despite the Indian Self-Determination Act, major tribal government functions -- enforcing tribal laws, developing and managing tribal resources, providing health and social services, educating children -- are frequently still carried on by federal employees. The federal government must move away from this surrogate role which undermines the concept of self-government.

It is important to the concept of self-government that tribes reduce their dependence on federal funds by providing a greater percentage of the cost of their self-government. Some tribes are already moving in this direction. This Administration pledges to assist tribes in strengthening their governments by removing the federal impediments to tribal self-government and tribal resource development. Necessary federal funds will continue to be available. This Administration affirms the right of tribes to determine the best way to meet the needs of their members and to establish and run programs which best meet those needs.

For those small tribes which have the greatest need to develop core governmental capacities, this Administration has developed, through the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, the Small Tribes Initiative. This program will provide financial support necessary to allow these tribes to develop basic tribal administrative and management capabilities.

In keeping with the government-to-government relationship, Indian tribes are defined by law as eligible entities and receive direct funding, if they wish, in five block grant programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. These and other blocks to the states consolidated

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dozens of categorical federal domestic assistance programs to reduce fragmentation and overlap, eliminate excessive federal regulation, and provide for more local control. This Administration now proposes that Indian tribes be eligible for direct funding in the Title XX social services block, the block with the largest appropriation and the greatest flexibility in service delivery.

In addition, we are moving the White House liaison for federally-recognized tribes from the Office of Public Liaison to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, which maintains liaison with state and local governments. In the past several administrations, tribes have been placed along with vital interest groups, such as veterans, businessmen and religious leaders. In moving the tribal government contact within the White House Intergovernmental Affairs staff, this Administration is underscoring its commitment to recognizing tribal governments on a government-to-government basis.

Further, we are recommending that the Congress expand the authorized membership of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (42 U.S.C. 4273) to include a representative of Indian tribal governments. In the interim before Congressional action, we are requesting that the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs join the Commission as an observer. We also supported and signed into law the Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act which provides tribal governments with essentially the same treatment under federal tax laws as applies to other governments with regard to revenue raising and saving mechanisms.

In addition, this Administration calls upon Congress to replace House Concurrent Resolution 108 of the 83rd Congress, the resolution which established the now discredited policy of terminating the federal-tribal relationship. Congress has implicitly rejected the termination policy by enacting the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975. However, because the termination policy declared in H. Con. Res. 108 has not been expressly and formally repudiated by a concurrent resolution of Congress, it continues to create among the Indian people an apprehension that the United States may not in the future honor the unique relationship between the Indian people and the federal government. A lingering threat of termination has no place in this Administration's policy of self-government for Indian tribes, and I ask Congress to again express its support of self-government.

These actions are but the first steps in restoring control to tribal governments. Much more needs to be done. Without sound reservation economies, the concept of self-government has little meaning. In the past, despite good intentions, the federal government has been one of the major obstacles to economic progress. This Administration intends to remove the impediments to economic development and to encourage cooperative efforts among the tribes, the federal government and the private sector in developing reservation economies.

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Development of Reservation Economies

The economies of American Indian reservations are extremely depressed with unemployment rates among the highest in the country. Indian leaders have told this Administration that the development of reservation economies is their number one priority. Growing economies provide jobs, promote self-sufficiency, and provide revenue for essential services. Past attempts to stimulate growth have been fragmented and largely ineffective. As a result, involvement of private industry has been limited, with only infrequent success. Developing reservation economies offers a special challenge: devising investment procedures consistent with the trust status; removing legal barriers which restrict the type of contracts tribes can enter into and reducing the numerous and complex regulations which hinder economic growth.

Tribes have had limited opportunities to invest in their own economies because often there has been no established resource base for community investment and development. Many reservations lack a developed physical infrastructure including utilities, transportation and other public services. They also often lack the regulatory, adjudicatory and enforcement mechanisms necessary to interact with the private sector for reservation economic development. Development on the reservation offers potential for tribes and individual entrepreneurs in manufacturing, agribusiness and modern technology, as well as fishing, livestock, arts and crafts and other traditional livelihoods.

Natural resources such as timber, fishing and energy provide an avenue of development for many tribes. Tribal governments have the responsibility to determine the extent and the methods of developing the tribe's natural resources. The federal government's responsibility should not be used to hinder tribes from taking advantage of economic development opportunities.

With regard to energy resources, both the Indian tribes and the nation stand to gain from the prudent development and management of the vast coal, oil, gas, uranium and other resources found on Indian lands. As already demonstrated by a number of tribes, these resources can become the foundation for economic development on many reservations while lessening our nation's dependence on imported oil. The federal role is to encourage the production of energy resources in ways consistent with Indian values and priorities. To that end, we have strongly supported the use of creative agreements such as joint ventures and other non-lease agreements for the development of Indian mineral resources.

It is the free market which will supply the bulk of the capital investments required to develop tribal energy and other resources. A fundamental prerequisite to economic development is capital formation. The establishment of a financial structure that is a part of the Indian reservation community is essential to the development of Indian capital formation.

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Federal support will be made available to tribes to assist them in developing the necessary management capability and in attracting private capital. As a first step in that direction, we provided funds in the FY 1983 budget to provide seed money to tribes to attract private funding for economic development ventures on reservations. As more tribes develop their capital resource base and increase their managerial expertise, they will have an opportunity to realize the maximum return on their investments and will be able to share an increasing portion of the business risk.

It is the policy of this Administration to encourage private involvement, both Indian and non-Indian, in tribal economic development. In some cases, tribes and the private sector have already taken innovative approaches which have overcome the legislative and regulatory impediments to economic progress.

Since tribal governments have the primary responsibility for meeting the basic needs of Indian communities, they must be allowed the chance to succeed. This Administration, therefore, is establishing a Presidential Advisory Commission on Indian Reservation Economies. The Commission, composed of tribal and private sector leaders, is to identify obstacles to economic growth in the public and private sector at all levels; examine and recommend changes in federal law, regulations and procedures to remove such obstacles; identify actions state, local and tribal governments could take to rectify identified problems; and recommend ways for the private sector, both Indian and non-Indian, to participate in the development and growth of reservation economies. It is also to be charged with the responsibility for advising the President on recommended actions required to create a positive environment for the development and growth of reservation economies.

Numerous federal agencies can offer specialized assistance and expertise to the tribes not only in economic development, but also in housing, health, education, job training, and other areas which are an integral part of reservation economies. It is to the advantage of the tribes, and in the interest of the taxpayers, that the federal role be fully reviewed and coordinated. Therefore, this Administration directs the Cabinet Council on Human Resources to act as a mechanism to ensure that federal activities are non-duplicative, cost effective, and consistent with the goal of encouraging self-government with a minimum of federal interference.

Summary

This Administration intends to restore tribal governments to their rightful place among the governments of this nation and to enable tribal governments, along with state and local governments, to resume control over their own affairs.

This Administration has sought suggestions from Indian leaders in forming the policies which we have announced. We intend to continue this dialogue with the tribes as these policies are implemented.

The governmental and economic reforms proposed for the benefit of Indian tribes and their members cannot be achieved in a vacuum.

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This nation's economic health -- and that of the tribes -- depends on adopting this Administration's full Economic Recovery Program. This program calls for eliminating excessive federal spending and taxes, removing burdensome regulations, and establishing a sound monetary policy. A full economic recovery will unleash the potential strength of the private sector and ensure a vigorous economic climate for development which will benefit not only Indian people, but all other Americans as well.

Attachment

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REAGAN ADMINISTRATION INDIAN POLICY INITIATIVES

- Request that Congress repudiate House Concurrent Resolution 108 of the 83rd Congress which called for termination of the federal-tribal relationship. The Administration wants this lingering threat of termination replaced by a resolution expressing its support of a government-to-government relationship.
- Ask Congress to expand the authorized membership of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to include a representative of Indian tribal governments. In the interim, request that the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs join the ACIR as an observer.
- Move the White House liaison for federally-recognized tribes from the Office of Public Liaison to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.
- Establish a Presidential Advisory Commission on Indian Reservation Economies to identify obstacles to economic growth and recommend changes at all levels; recommend ways to encourage private sector involvement, and advise the President what actions are needed to create a positive environment for the development and growth of reservation economies.
- Support direct funding to Indian tribes under the Title XX social services block grant to states.
- Sought and obtained funds for FY 1983 to implement the Small Tribes Initiative to provide financial support needed to allow small tribes to develop basic tribal administrative and management capabilities.
- Sought and obtained funds for FY 1983 to provide seed money for tribes for economic development ventures on reservations.
- Supported and signed into law the Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act which will provide tribal governments with the same revenue raising and saving mechanisms available to other governments.
- Support the use of creative agreements such as joint ventures and other non-lease agreements for the development of Indian mineral resources.
- Direct the Cabinet Council on Human Resources to act as a review and coordination mechanism to ensure that federal activities are non-duplicative, cost effective and consistent with the goal of encouraging tribal self-government with a minimum of federal interference.

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DRAFT

CHARTER COMMISSION
ON DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATION ECONOMIES

1. The official designation of the Commission is the Presidential Advisory Commission on Development of American Indian Reservation Economies.

2. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the President on what actions should be taken to develop a stronger private sector on federally recognized Indian reservations, lessen tribal dependence on federal monies and programs and reduce the stifling federal presence in Indian Affairs. The underlying principles of this mission are the government-to-government relationship, the established federal policy of self-determination and the federal trust responsibility. Other related issues, regardless of their importance, should not be allowed to dilute the Commission's efforts. The Commission will focus exclusively on the following items:
 - (a) Defining the existing federal legislative, regulatory, and procedural obstacles to the creation of positive economic environments on Indian reservations.

 - (b) Identifying and recommending changes or other remedial actions necessary to remove these obstacles.

 - (c) Defining the obstacles at the State, local and tribal government levels which impede both Indian and non-Indian private sector investments on reservations.

 - (d) Identifying actions which these levels of government could take to rectify the identified problems.

- (e) Recommending ways for the private sector, both Indian and non-Indian, to participate in the development and growth of reservation economies, including capital formation.

The Commission should review studies undertaken in the last decade to glean pertinent recommendations that are directly related to its mission.

3. The Commission shall be composed of 7-9 members, divided among the private sector, tribal governments and academia and with one high-level federal government ex-officio member, who shall be appointed by the President. The White House Working Group on Indian Policy will submit recommendations for the President's consideration. Representative segments of the private sector might include financial establishments, economic academicians, manufacturing, agribusiness, energy and timber industries or others. A non-Indian corporate representative and an Indian representative shall serve as co-chairmen of the Commission.
4. The Commission will be in existence not to exceed six months from the appointment of the last Commissioner.
5. The Commission will function independent of, but in cooperation with, the various federal agencies.
6. Staff support of the Commission is to be provided by the federal agency or agencies selected by the White House Working Group on Indian Policy.
7. The duties of the Commission are advisory in nature in accordance with this document.

8. The estimated operating cost of the Commission is approximately \$100,000 to the government, excluding approximately 1.5 staff-years of support. Donations from the private sector will be encouraged.
9. The Commission will meet approximately 15 times at the call of the chairmen. All meetings of the Commission and all agenda must have prior approval of the chairmen.
10. The Commission shall submit a final report exclusively to the President within six months after appointment of the last Commissioner, or no later than June 1, 1983, whichever comes earlier, and shall terminate 60 days after the final report is submitted.
11. Creation of this Commission is by Executive Order of the President.
12. Members of the Commission may receive compensation, travel and per diem expenses for each day such member is engaged in the work of the Commission. Travel and per diem reimbursement shall be up to a daily rate in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations.
13. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission is authorized to:
 - a. use the support services within the federal agency or agencies selected by the White House Working Group on Indian Policy, as appropriate, in carrying out its function.
 - b. select an Executive Director and other required personnel in accordance with an established budget.

- c. conduct hearings (swearing in witnesses as appropriate), interviews, and reviews at field sites, or wherever deemed necessary to fulfill its duties.
 - d. review federal information with full access to all unclassified pertinent federal files.
 - e. confer with Indian tribal government officials and members, private sector business officials and managers, and other parties dealing with matters pertaining to the Commission's mission.
14. The co-chairmen or a Commissioner specifically designated by the co-chairmen shall be the official spokespersons for the Commission for contact with the Congress, public, media, and others.
15. All Commission meetings and activities will operate in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix I § 10).

President

Date Signed

Date Filed

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: STEVE SHIPLEY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

FROM: *Barbara*
BARBARA MCQUOWN
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON
INDIAN RESERVATION ECONOMIES

Currently, we have placed seven (7) final candidates into clearance for appointment to the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies.

There are still two (2) non-Indian, CEO level vacancies that need to be filled. Attached is a list of some suggested candidates. These are all CEO level executives who have just finished serving on the Private Sector Survey on Cost Control. They have not been approached, as yet, to know of their background/interest with Indian affairs.

Your input on these or other candidates would be appreciated.

cc: Bill Barr ✓

Mr. James L. Ferguson
Chairman and CEO
General Foods Corp.
White Plains, New York

Mr. Harry E. Figgie, Jr.
Chairman and CEO
Figgie International, Inc.
Willoughby, Ohio

Mr. Rawles Fulgham
Retired Vice Chairman
Inter First Corp.
Dallas, Texas

Mr. James H. Evans
Chairman and CEO
Union Pacific Corp.
New York, New York

Mr. John Eckerd
Retired Chairman of the Board
Eckerd Corporation
Clearwater, Florida

Mr. Carl D. Covitz
President
Landmark Communities, Inc.
Beverly Hills, California

Dr. William F. Ballhaus
President
Beckman Instruments, Inc.
Fullerton, California

Karl Armstrong
Executive Vice President
Koniag, Inc.
P. O. Box 631
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

KARL ARMSTRONG is Executive Vice President of Koniag, Inc., Kodiak, Alaska, a regional Native Alaskan corporation. Since incorporation of Koniag in 1972, he has served in various capacities including Chairman of the Board; Corporation Secretary; Director of Natural Resources, and Director of Public Relations and Communications. He has served for the past eight years as a member, Board of Directors, Alaska Federation of Natives; Director, Kodiak Area Native Association for six years; and as President of Leisnoi, Inc. prior to its merger with Koniag in 1980. Mr. Armstrong was a Special Assistant to the Governor of Alaska and Director of Information for the State. He was involved in developing concepts for land exchanges between the federal government and Native Alaskans. He owns and publishes the KODIAK TIMES, and was managing editor of the KODIAK MIRROR for twelve years. Mr. Armstrong is a former vice chairman of the Republican Party of Kodiak and active in State Republican politics.

Republican

Robert Robertson, Vice President
Occidental International Corporation
Washington, D. C.

ROBERT ROBERTSON, currently Vice President of Occidental International Corporation, Washington, D. C., was Executive Director, National Council On Indian Opportunity, Office of the Vice President, 1969-74. NCIO, composed of the Vice President and eight Cabinet officers coordinated matters affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives, with special emphasis on economic development, under Presidents Nixon and Ford. Mr. Robertson played a key role in development of President Nixon's popular Indian Policy Statement. He also served as Assistant to the Secretary of Interior on Congressional and Legislative Affairs, 1974-76. Mr. Robertson served as Executive Vice President, Pet Industry Advisory Council, Washington, D. C., 1978-79, and as Executive Vice President to the National Association of Independent Lumbermen, Washington, D. C., 1976-78.

Prior to joining the Nixon Administration, Mr. Robertson was Executive Administrator for then Governor Paul Laxalt, 1966-69. He was Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Northern Nevada, 1958-65; Executive Director, Nevada Citizen's Committee for the Right to Work (while on leave from Home Builders Association), and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to 1965. Mr. Robertson is a graduate of the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., and John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Republican

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON

FROM: Helene von Damm *HVD*

SUBJECT: Mr. Bob Robertson
Presidential Commission on Indian
Reservation Economies

Thank you for bringing Mr. Robertson to my attention for Presidential Personnel will be focusing on this Commission very shortly.

Please be assured that Senator Laxalt's strong recommendation has been noted and that Mr. Robertson will be given careful consideration.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR HELENE VON DAMM
FROM: RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON *RSW*
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN
RESERVATION ECONOMIES

Attached is a letter from Senator Paul Laxalt recommending
Mr. Bob Robertson for an appointment to the Presidential
Commission on Indian Reservation Economies. As you can
see, Senator Laxalt feels strongly about this and asked
that I bring it to your attention.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 24, 1983

(202) 224-3542
CITY OFFICE:
700 M PLAZA STREET
(202) 883-1930
NEVADA OFFICE:
300 NEVADA BLVD., SOUTH
(702) 385-6547
MINN OFFICE:
100 SOUTH STREET
(612) 784-5568

Dear Helene:

I'm most pleased to strongly recommend Bob Robertson for consideration as an appointee to the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies. Bob is a long-time personal friend, former Executive Administrator to me as Governor, strong supporter of President Reagan, and very experienced in Indian Affairs.

Indeed, for the period 1969-1974 Bob was the first and only, as it turned out, Executive Director of the National Council on Indian Opportunity (NCIO) in the offices of Vice Presidents Agnew and Jerry Ford.

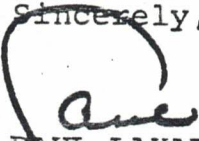
Bob was White House negotiator during the takeover of Alcatraz Island and was involved in all of the other militant Indian takeovers up to but not including Wounded Knee. All of this constituted a great and sobering education.

He played a key role in the formulation of President Nixon's Indian Policy Statement of July 1970 (self-determination without threat of termination). This statement was hailed by Indians as one of the most important presidential messages to Congress in the history of Federal-Indian relations.

During his five years as head of the National Council on Indian Opportunity, he was involved in trying to meet problems attendant to energizing Indian reservation economies.

Bob has the respect of a good number of Indian leaders who still head up their tribal councils, which makes a non-Indian's participation all that much easier (particularly since the Commission's life will be so short). We feel that Bob can add much to the efforts called for by President Reagan. Needless to say, Bob would be fully protective of the President in whatever Commission activities he would be involved in.

Sincerely,


PAUL LAXALT
U.S. Senator

PL:akp
Enclosure

Helene von Damm
Assistant to the President
for Presidential Personnel
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

The President

Executive Order 12401 of January 14, 1983.

Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America, and in order to establish, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. I), an advisory commission to promote the development of a strong private sector on Federally recognized Indian reservations, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established a Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies.

(b) The Commission shall be composed of no more than nine members, who shall be appointed by the President from among the private sector, reservation tribal governments, economic academicians, and Federal employees.

(c) The President shall designate a non-Indian representative and an Indian representative to serve as cochairmen of the Commission.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Commission shall advise the President on what actions should be taken to develop a stronger private sector on Federally recognized Indian reservations, lessen tribal dependence on Federal monies and programs and reduce the Federal presence in Indian affairs. The underlying principles of this mission are the government-to-government relationship, the established Federal policy of self-determination and the Federal trust responsibility.

(b) The Commission will focus exclusively on the following items, and not on new Federal financial assistance:

(1) Defining the existing Federal legislative, regulatory, and procedural obstacles to the creation of positive economic environments on Indian reservations.

(2) Identifying and recommending changes or other remedial actions necessary to remove these obstacles.

(3) Defining the obstacles at the State, local and tribal government levels which impede both Indian and non-Indian private sector investments on reservations.

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(5) Recommending ways for the private sector, both Indian and non-Indian, to participate in the development and growth of reservation economies, including capital formation.

(c) The Commission should review studies undertaken in the last decade to obtain pertinent recommendations that are directly related to its mission.

(d) The Commission shall, unless sooner extended, submit a final report to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior within six months after appointment of the last Commissioner, or by September 30, 1983, whichever comes earlier.

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(b) Members of the Commission may receive compensation for their work on the Commission. While engaged in the work of the Commission members may

be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) The Secretary of the Interior shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of funds, provide the Commission with such administrative services, funds, facilities, staff and other support services as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

(d) The Commission will meet approximately 15 times at the call of the chairmen. All meetings of the Commission and all agenda must have prior approval of the chairmen.

(e) In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission is authorized to:

(1) Conduct hearings, interviews, and reviews at field sites, or wherever deemed necessary to fulfill its duties.

(2) Confer with Indian tribal government officials and members, private sector business officials and managers, and other parties dealing with matters pertaining to the Commission's mission.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the responsibilities of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, which are applicable to the advisory commission established by this Order, shall be performed by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Commission shall terminate 60 days after it transmits its final report to the President, or on December 31, 1983, whichever comes earlier.

Ronald Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 14, 1983.

Synopsis of Resume of:
ROBERT ROBERTSON

1535 Dahlia Court
McLean, Virginia 22101
202/298-6565 (office)
703/241-2310 (residence)

EMPLOYMENT

1979-Present VICE PRESIDENT
Occidental International Corporation
Washington, D.C.

1978-1979 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Pet Industry Advisory Council
Washington, D.C.

1976-1978 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
National Association of Independent Lumbermen
Washington, D.C.

1974-1976 ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

1969-1974 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Office of the Vice President of the United States
National Council on Indian Opportunity
Washington, D.C.

1966-1969 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
Office of Governor Paul Laxalt
Carson City, Nevada

1965-1966 CAMPAIGN
Paul Laxalt for Governor Committee
Reno/Las Vegas, Nevada

1965* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Nevada Citizen's Committee for the Right to Work
Reno/Las Vegas, Nevada

1958-1965 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Home Builders Association of Northern Nevada
Reno, Nevada

P R I O R Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Employee;
Radio/TV talent and management in Canton, Akron, Cleve-
land, Ohio and Reno, Nevada

EDUCATION

School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio

* Done while on leave of absence from the Home Builders Association.

SERVICE

United States Marine Corps (1946-53) - Honorably discharged

PERSONAL

Born: March 5, 1929, Bayonne, New Jersey, Height: 5'11";
Weight: 190 pounds

Married: August, 1956, six children

Health: Excellent

Hobbies: Active athletically (tennis/paddle ball); potting/
art/theater; outdoor family activities

Affiliations: American Oceanic Organizations (Executive Vice
President/operations)
National Council, Boy Scouts of America
Globe and Anchor Society
Congressional Marines Club

FOR AMPLIFICATION SEE FOLLOWING:

Responsibilities of major employment classified to demonstrate ability to cope with a wide range of problems and responsibilities within government at local, state and national levels and within the private sector. Details have been omitted regarding certain job responsibilities which would be familiar to a prospective employer.

EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

1978 to Present
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Washington, D.C.

Am serving as chief executive for this association which represents the interests of all segments of the pet industry: manufacturers, wholesaler/distributors, livestock growers, importers/exporters, and retailers. In addition to being responsible for all administrative aspects of the Council, am responsible for all work with the Congress, Executive Branch and state governments.

Incumbent is the first full time executive with this association which was priorly managed by a multi-management firm. Since joining the Council incumbent has transformed it into an active, efficient, growing organization. Membership has been increased by over thirty per cent during the past year and an array of effective industry-wide programs has been instituted. Coverage of all regulatory and legislative matters at the national and state levels has been effective. The Council's communications, both within and without the industry, have been vastly improved since the incumbent joined the Council.

Reason for entertaining change:

The principal challenges which existed upon coming with the Council have now been met and based upon the work which has been done it will be able to prosper going into the future. Even though I can and will continue to create new programs and systems, I have concluded that the chance of increasing staff size during the next several years is quite limited. I am desirous of securing a position with a reputable association which will offer me adequate staff backup in my work. Being totally responsible for the handling of all aspects of this national association is frustrating and sometimes depressing in that many things which should be done are not because of time and physical limitations.

EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

1976-1978

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

National Association of Independent Lumbermen

Served as the sole Washington, D.C. professional for this federations of three small-business wood manufacturer associations. Represented the industry across the broad base with regard to all aspects of work with the Congress, the Executive Branch, industry and the general community. Contact with the highest placed officials of all of these elements occurred regularly.

The incumbent kept abreast of the broad range of specific timber industry and natural resource problems (environmental, land use, timber supply and so forth) as well as generic business problems involving legislation, regulations and their application.

The personal and professional attributes demanded of the incumbent in this position are parallel to those required in the other executive positions he has held in government and industry.

Reason for desiring change:

Concluded that the Board of Director's reluctance to focus on the establishment of meaningful goals and priorities for the Association presented a difficult, awkward work situation. Especially difficult were the extremely varying degrees of dependency on federal timber supply of the three geographically separated Associations. Seeing no immediate Board action to recognize and to tackle these difficult problems, I concluded that it would be best to resign and seek a workable, pleasant job environment.

1974-1976

ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

Department of the Interior

Served as departmental communicator with individual members of the Congress on administration and policy matters affecting the total scope of the Department's activities. Was responsible for insuring effective interchange of information between the Congress and the Department of the Interior necessary for the maintenance of close and harmonious relationships fully reflecting the Secretary's policies and viewpoints.

Represented and spoke for the Secretary and was in frequent personal contact with high officials at the White House and in the various agencies of the Executive Branch, Senators and Congressmen and members of their staffs as well as executives and officials in state and local governments and private industry. Extreme diplomacy and tact were required in accomplishing assignments and error in this regard could have been most embarrassing to the Secretary and damaging to the Department's programs and objectives.

It was requisite that the incumbent be thoroughly conversant with the programs of the Department and the Secretary's policy in administering the programs. He held a close personal and confidential relationship to the Secretary (received security clearance up to and including top secret). The effectiveness of working relationships with the Congress, its committees, and its members individually, and the Department, depended on the individual effort and effectiveness of the incumbent.

Assignments required that he deal with Senators and Congressmen and their staffs in regard to departmental matters which may have had an impact on the general economy of the Nation as a whole, or a particular geographic area or segment of the country or a particular group of people. He had to be thoroughly conversant with all programs of the Department and the policies of the Secretary relating to them as he will be required to analyze public reaction and congressional attitudes toward such programs and recommended appropriate modifications to provide for better acceptance of the programs.

Upon invitation of the Senators and Congressmen he informed himself of matters of special interest to their constituents as related to proposed or existing programs and brought the interests to the attention of the Secretariat or other departmental officials for review and such consideration as was consistent with the best interests of the Administration and the Nation.

Reason for desiring change:

Felt that it was time to return to the private sector, putting to practical use the extensive governmental experience achieved over a ten-year period.

1969-1974

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Office of the Vice President of the United States
National Council on Indian Opportunity

Served as senior officer of the Council reporting directly to the Vice President. Advised the President, his staff and the members of the Council on all policy and program matters affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives. Directed staff activities in coordinating, evaluating and innovating with regard to all activities of all departments of the Executive Branch as they impacted upon Native Americans.

Represented and spoke for the Vice President and the eight Cabinet officers who constituted the Council. A high degree of diplomacy and tact were required in carrying out the responsibilities of this office; matters affecting the constituency of this office were so delicate that any error in this regard could have adversely

affected the President, the Vice President, the entire Administration (security clearance: up to and including top secret).

The incumbent was in daily contact with the highest officials of the Executive and Legislative Branches and with the Indian and Alaska Native leadership. Was the highest placed Federal official linking the Native population with the White House and elements of the Executive Branch; as such he was thoroughly conversant with overall policy and specific policies and programs across the broad base of government.

Was the key White House contact with national, regional and local Indian governments and organizations and with state and local governments. He was White House negotiator at Alcatraz Island and was advisor to problem of urban Indian militancy, which began to evolve at that time.

During his tenure Federal-Indian relations greatly improved. Played a key role in the writing of the President's historic Indian message to the Congress of July, 1970, following which dramatic improvements in the lives of Native Americans occurred.

Reason for leaving:

Congressional authorization for the Council expired June 30, 1974, bringing about its end. The incumbent received from President Ford a personal commendation for Council accomplishments.

1966-1969

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
Office of the Governor
State of Nevada

Served as senior aide to Governor (now U.S. Senator) Paul Laxalt. Was spokesman on all administration and policy matters affecting the total scope of the State government. Responsible to the Governor on all matters attendant to the execution of his office; was agent in contact with all governmental units within the State and at the national level.

Incumbent often substituted for the Governor at meetings and made speeches for him. Was involved day-to-day in assisting the Governor in evolving political and administrative strategies and tactics; was directly responsible for evaluation of ultra-sensitive State institutions (mental, youth correction, penal, etc.); he recommended to the Governor appointments to over 250 statutory and non-statutory boards and commissions.

Reason for leaving:

Was invited by former Vice President Agnew to join his staff in Washington. Accepted with the Governor's blessing, since the most important organizational and procedural aspects of his Administration were settled and were running smoothly.

1965-1966

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Laxalt for Governor Committee
Reno/Las Vegas, Nevada

1965

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nevada Citizens Committee for the Right to Work
Reno/Las Vegas, Nevada

Directed all aspects of this State-wide group in the national effort to retain Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, wrote articles, newsletters, made speeches, appeared on radio and television throughout the far West. Was granted a leave of absence to take charge of this nine-month, successful effort.

1958-1965

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Home Builders Association of Northern Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Developed this trade association from its beginnings (15 member firms) to one of the largest in the State (over 300 member firms). Worked closely in affiliation with the National Association of Home Builders. As senior staff wrote and spoke extensively on all matters of interest to the industry. Was responsible for all industry relations with all levels of government. Was chief negotiator in all matters relating to union contracts.

REFERENCES

Available upon Request

PAUL LAXALT
NEVADA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JAN 26 1983

January 25, 1983

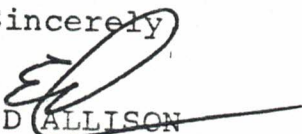
Dear Rich:

I'm sure you know Bob Robertson. As Kathy mentioned to Penny, we would really like to see this happen.

As you can see, Bob is most qualified and is perfectly suited for this commission.

Many thanks for helping us get this on.

Sincerely


ED ALLISON
Administrative Assistant
to Senator Paul Laxalt

EA/kf

Mr. Rich Williamson
Assistant to the President for
Intergovernmental Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500