December 2, 1955

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
The United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Lehman:

Mrs. William P. White has sent me a copy of your letter of October 26th to her concerning the Bureau of Indian Affairs' policy on patents in fee. I was particularly interested in your comment that the Bureau's "Statement" amplifying its policy memorandum of May 16th floats, as it were, in the air, not apparently addressed to anyone or carrying any authority. The same thing occurred to me, and on November 14th, with the approval of our Executive Committee, I wrote to the Commissioner urging that the essential parts of that statement be formally included in the Bureau's policy.

This he has done in a memorandum dated November 22nd. For your information, I enclose a copy of the memorandum and of his letter to me concerning it.

We still feel that granting fee patents for those particular tracts of trust land the disposition of which controls the use of surrounding areas should be, by stated policy, exceptional, but at least the Commissioner has now greatly improved the current policy.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver La Farge

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