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RECEIVED

APR 10 1980

April 8, 1980

Americans for Indian Opportunity
Suite 808
600 2nd St. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

We are urging your support by a resolution to congress and the Senate Appropriations Committee to keep Fort Sill Indian School and the Stewart Indian School in Nevada open. The budget with the Presidents recommendations goes before congress on April 14 and 15, 1980. Again, we are urging your support in our fight against the United States Government.

Nona Cutnose
Chairperson
Fort Sill Indian School

Attachments:

Oklahoma

SPECIAL NOTICE

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS CLOSING THE DOORS TO FORT SILL INDIAN SCHOOL TO OUR INDIAN CHILDREN FOR THE LAST TIME ON MAY 22, 1980. WE ARE SOLICITING YOUR HELP IN CONTINUING THE EDUCATION OF OUR INDIAN CHILDREN. IF YOU ALLOW THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO CLOSE FORT SILL INDIAN SCHOOL LIKE THEY CLOSED CHILOCCO AND SENECA INDIAN SCHOOLS AND ARE TRYING TO CLOSE THE STUART INDIAN SCHOOL IN NEVADA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL CLOSE MORE SCHOOLS IN THE FUTURE AND EVENTUALLY AFFECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE INDIAN HOSPITALS WHICH AFFECTS US ALL. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FOREIGN AID TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAS NOT BEEN CUT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE EDUCATION OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN. A LETTER HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE, IF YOU ARE AGREEABLE AND IN FAVOR OF OUR EFFORTS PLEASE SIGN THE ATTACHED LETTER AND RETURN TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORT SILL INDIAN SCHOOL, IT WILL THEN BE MAILED TO THE CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS ON THE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE SHOWING OUR CONCERN IN THIS ISSUE.

Alumni Association
Fort Sill Indian School
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
April 4, 1980

Senate Budget Committee
Washington, D.C.

ATTENTION:

Fort Sill Indian School, located in Lawton, Oklahoma, is one of the oldest schools established for educating our Native Americans. For generations, our people have attended school at Fort Sill. Many of us have moved to other locations in the United States, but we have not forgotten the education we received there. We remember, and we have sent our children to FSIS for the same quality education we have received.

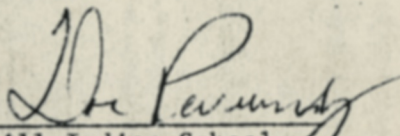
When our land was taken from us and we were sent to reservations, we were promised in treaties that our people would be given an education and health care. Now, it appears, we are going to be cheated and deprived again. Earlier this year we were told two of our boarding schools (Seneca and Chilocco, in Oklahoma would be closed. Seneca is an elementary school and Chilocco is our only boarding vocational technical school) The Fort Sill School officials were lead to believe that the school would remain in operation for the coming school year. Now, the report is that Fort Sill will close September, 1980, because of the need to cut the budget. Why are we to take the brunt of a budget cut? Why is foreign aid not cut? Are foreign countries and foreign people more important than our own American citizens? We feel we should support and educate our own people before we aid the world.

If this budget cut occurs, where and how are our children to be educated? Yes, there are other boarding schools, but our children can't all be crammed into the few remaining schools.

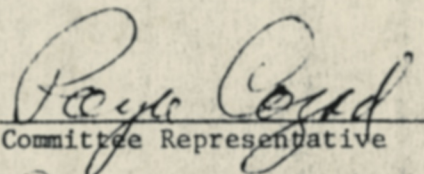
Our children need the boarding schools. Many home situations are intolerable. The homes are substandard; the incomes are inadequate; and the opportunities for improvement are minimal. Research has shown that the Native American students when placed in a learning environment alien to their cultures will not achieve and eventually will develop serious inferiority and defeatist attitudes.

If we, as a minority group, are to reach our full potential, thereby becoming assets to our native land, we must have our school at Fort Sill.

We are asking for your support in our attempts to maintain the Fort Sill Indian School.


Fort Sill Indian School
Alumni Association President

f.f.w. for Bob Hood
Vice President Alumni Assoc.
f.f.w. for Ann F. Doty
Secretary of Alumni Assoc.


Committee Representative

Jesse Spotted Horse
Member
Ledy M. Dugan
Member

Alumni Association
Fort Sill Indian School
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
April 8, 1980

Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the Native Americans of Fort Sill Indian School, are requesting support in our attempt to maintain our school. Fort Sill Indian School is one of the oldest schools established for educating our Indian people. For generations our people have attended school at Fort Sill. Many of us have since moved from the area, but we have not forgotten the education we received at Fort Sill Indian School. We remember, and we have continued to send our children there for the same quality education we received.

When our land was taken from us by the United States Government, we were sent to reservations. Treaties promising us education and health care were made with us by representatives of the government. Nearly every treaty agreement has been broken by the U.S. Government. Now it appears we are going to be cheated and deprived of the education we desperately need. To date, the following schools have been closed or are being ordered closed at the end of this school year: Shiprock Boarding School, Shiprock, NM; Seneca Indian School, Wyandotte, Ok.; Chilocco Indian School, Ponca City, Ok.; Fort Sill Indian School, Lawton, Ok.; Stewart Indian School, Stewart, Nev.; and Albuquerque Indian School, Albuquerque, NM. Once our Indian schools are closed, undoubtedly we will then begin losing our health care benefits. Eventually, we will face extinction because the United States Government wants to keep its Native American people locked in closets of deprivation.

Our children need the boarding schools if they are to survive and become contributing American citizens. Many home situations are intolerable. The housing is substandard; the incomes are inadequate; and the opportunities for improvement are minimal. Research has proven that the Native American student, when placed in an educational environment alien to his/her culture does not achieve and eventually develops serious inferiority and defeatist attitudes.

We are tired of being pushed around by the United States Government. We are a proud race facing extinction unless we can find political, moral, and financial support in our effort to maintain our schools and personal rights.

Please give us your support.

Bob Gooday
Bob Gooday
Fort Sill Indian School
Alumni Association Representative

Nona Cutnose
Nona Cutnose
Fort Sill Indian School
Chairperson