

at R. Gibson and Associates

Mr. Martin McNamara

- 2 -

September 14, 1967

parade every morning which took two to three hours, Mrs. Jean Dixon was there almost a full day, which took almost all of their time for that day, and, of course, the Fair was averaging 20,000 to 30,000 Indians per day, which created the normal problems of any activity of this sort.

As you will note from some of the newspaper articles, the Nakais did go to some trouble to fix up their home for the Vice President's visit, although they did not as was reported get a new rug. In any case, Ray Nakai took the news that the Vice President would not stay overnight very well and was most pleased with all phases of the trip.

The Vice President arrived one hour late. The airport reception went on time and the walk through the Navajo Fair was extremely successful -- he must have touched hands with ten thousand Indians.

The Vice President did not use his prepared speech but spoke in general of the Navajo problems, praising Ray Nakai very heavily and received a very enthusiastic response from the crowd. When I say enthusiastic you must remember that generally the Navajos do not clap at all, but they really showed enthusiasm for the Vice President which is most unusual. By the time we had visited the Window Rock housing project and the Navajo sawmill and returned to Ray Nakai's house, we were only a half hour behind schedule. Chairman Nakai did have a small group of Indians at his house when the Vice President returned, and this took thirty minutes of the Vice President's time to talk with them, to take pictures, etc. Then Joe Duke, former Sergeant at Arms, brought in four of the Arizona crowd, including Guy Stillman, through his friendship with David Gardner, which consumed another fifteen minutes of the Vice President's rest period. Despite this, we were able to have a full hour of rest for the Vice President in Ray Nakai's master bedroom.

The dinner which was originally scheduled for fifteen to twenty key Democrats from the Navajos, Arizona and New Mexico turned into a large, ninety-four person, dinner, including wives. This meant that there was not a political talk as such, but, probably, the dinner was

Humphrey at Window Rock

Arizona Republic Sept. 10, 1967



Republic Photo by Nyle Leatham

RODEO FAN—Vice President Humphrey, visiting 21st annual Navajo Tribal Fair at Window Rock, registers enjoyment of rough cowboy

games during rodeo. Front row, from left, Humphrey, tribal vice chairman Nelson Damon, Mrs. Damon, Sen. Joseph M. Montoya, D-N.M.

HHH to Navajos: You're Doing Great

By BERNIE WYNN

WINDOW ROCK—Vice President Hubert Humphrey yesterday urged the Navajos to continue their industrial expansion to supplement the tribe's traditional agricultural economy.

Praising the Indians for modern de-

velopments in agriculture, irrigation and soil conservation, Humphrey said education of the young men and women in modern industrial skills "is part of the future of Navajos."

HE SAID there should be no conflict between the tribe's traditionalist and jet-age education, noting that the Navajo leaders are determined to keep the best of both.

"Although you know about your problems better than I do," Humphrey declared, "your problems will not be met by you alone, but in a friendly family partnership of the government in Washington and with local and state governments."

Looking fresh and relaxed under the warm midafternoon sun, Humphrey paused frequently while a Navajo interpreter translated his message to the estimated 6,000 Indians who jammed the grandstand at the tribal fairground.

INDIAN families from across the sprawling reservation thronged this headquarters city near the New Mexico line to witness the vice president's first official visit.

Arriving from Denver an hour late, Humphrey landed at 1:30 p.m. in an Air Force jet. He was met by a score of Democratic dignitaries headed by Tribal Chairman Raymond Nakai.

Whisked to the fairground, Humphrey handshook his way through a dense crowd

(Continued on Page 8-A, Col. 3)

More About

Humphrey's Visit to Navajos

(Continued from Page 1-A)
of Indians and a sprinkling of palefaces into the livestock exhibit.

"Beautiful, just beautiful," he exclaimed as tribal leaders showed off their prize animals.

IN THE arts and crafts building, Humphrey visited a number of booths, accepting gifts of jewelry and a Kachina doll in the process.

He chucked small papooses under the chin, cheerfully greeted the braves and praised the beauty and strength of the young men. Mounting a platform in the center of the race track, the vice president assured the Indians that President Johnson's administration is concerned about their economic struggles.

"President Johnson is concerned," he declared. "He has ordered his officers to cooperate with your tribal leaders and he appreciates your efforts to make a better day for your younger generation."

HUMPHREY noted that cooperative efforts between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo tribal government have brought the new Fairchild plant to Shiprock.

"In a short while, General Dynamics will be opening a new plant at Ft. Defiance," he added. "Tuberculosis is under control and there are many new medical facilities.

"At long last there is a desk in a classroom available for every Navajo child," he con-

tinued. "You have built 200 new homes, 400 are under construction and there are many more to come.

"The Navajo has a new day without abandoning the tremendous culture so characteristic of Navajo people."

THE WAR on poverty is not confined to the cities, he declared. He said it is being fought in the rural area and on the reservations until "every boy and girl has the opportunity to make the most out of their lives."

Humphrey was full of praise for Nakai declaring that the chief is "greatly respected in the nation's capital."

Nakai presented Humphrey with a scroll making him an honorary member of the tribe. The vice president was given an elaborate woven Navajo blanket.

"A little bit of you will always remain sincerely in our hearts," Nakai told Humphrey.

THE VICE President, surrounded by Secret Service men and Indian police, climbed to the grandstand to watch several features of the wild and woolly.

He cheered enthusiastically a 62-year-old woman in the squaw horse race and laughed heartily at the spills.

Heading a fast caravan, Humphrey then made a quick inspection tour of a new housing

development, looking over a three-bedroom home which will rent for \$45 a month.

He also got a first-hand look at the \$10,000 tribal sawmill located across the New Mexico line, 23 miles from Window Rock. Humphrey was impressed by the fact that the Indian workers received their job training on the reservation.

AFTER A brief siesta in Nakai's home, Humphrey starred at a VIP dinner with tribal leaders and Democratic officials at the Navajo Police Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Nakai played host to Humphrey. They cleared their five children, who range in age from 11 to 21, out of the house so the vice president could rest.

"You know how kids are," Nakai said with a grin. "We wanted the vice president to have some quiet."

AMONG THE Democratic leaders attending the private dinner were former Gov. Sam Goddard, National Committeeman John Kruglick and national Committeewoman Mildred Larson, Scottsdale financier Guy Stillman, Roy Elson, administrative aid to Sen. Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., and State Chairman Richard Duffield.

Humphrey left Window Rock after the dinner, jetting to Huron S.D. to spend the night with his mother. His jet made one stop, at Colorado Springs, for refueling.

Ray New Key *Mr Thompson*
CHAIRMAN NAKAI'S INTRODUCTION LIST AT RODEO

Vice Chair
First I would like to introduce my wife ELLA, Vice Chairman
and Mrs. NELSON DAMON

Staff Director, Office of Senator Hayden,
ROY ELSON

1st Indian
State Representative
Arizona
Lloyd House
Chairman, Four Corners Development Project
OREN BEATY

Democratic National Committeewoman from Arizona
MILDRED LARSON

✓ Democratic National Committeeman from Arizona
Dr. JOHN *K* RUGLICK

Democratic State Chairman from Arizona
RICHARD DUFFIELD

Democratic State Chairman from New Mexico
HAROLD VOLDEN

Former Governor of Arizona
SAMUEL P. GODDARD

Former Governor of New Mexico
JOHN BURROUGHS

United States Senator from New Mexico
JOSEPH M. MONTOYA

Sen Montoya

Young People
Fair

Exhibits

crafts
Cattle
Sheep
Goats

Partnership - ~~S&W~~ ^{S&W}

- ✓ Fed - + Indian Tribal Council
- ✓ ~~Navigation~~ ^{Health} Hospitals
- ✓ Educ. (Junior College Ray Naw Kai)
- ✓ Technical Training
- ✓ Improved Agric.
- ✓ New Industry
- ✓ Housing - ^{200 houses} _{400 more}
- ✓ Sanitation - Water
- ✓ Vast improvement in Schools.

(Fairchild Plant at Ship Rock)

- ✓ Wind Dynamics
- ✓ Fort Defiance
- ✓ ^{uranium} Coal Resources

Roads

5 scholarships
500 college
roads.

Chambers
Raymond Nakai - ^{Wardens} ~~Rock~~

~~Navajo~~ ^{Navajo} - Cultivators of
the Fields - Lords of the
Soil -

Dineh (Dinah) - The People

Proud, Strong, brave -

Patient and Determined -

The Lonely Land, The
People.

Yours - The Largest Reservation
Touches 3 States -

Area - 11. M. stretch
as large as West Virginia.

The Eyes of the Young
Navajo - have a
new light - The Light of Hope
of Promise of a Strong Future

STATEMENT
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION
WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA

SEPTEMBER 9, 1967

Ray Naw Kat

↳ I am happy to have this chance to come to the
land of the Navajos ... to meet with the leaders of the
Tribe ... and to see and hear first hand what your problems
are and what we are doing together to solve them.

↳ When I say that we are working together, I am
referring to the cooperative efforts of the Navajo Tribe and
the federal government.

↳ For the problems which you face are serious and
it takes our combined efforts to overcome them.

↳ Government programs imposed from the outside,
without local involvement, are doomed to failure even
though they may be well-intentioned.

↳ At the same time we must recognize that Indian
^{after} tribes lack the resources to cope ~~on their own~~ with the
serious problems of poor health, inadequate education, and
lack of employment.

↳ A true partnership between the Tribal and federal
government can indeed provide us with what is needed:

~~Federal~~ technical and financial assistance and the understanding
of local problems which comes from active Tribal participation.

↳ This partnership ~~concept~~ is a cornerstone of the
policies of President Johnson, whether we are dealing with
states, cities, ^{business, labor} or Indian tribes. ↳ Underlying it all, ~~though~~, is
a concern for people -- for people in need and for people with
problems.

∟ A generation ago President Roosevelt spoke of one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, and ill-fed.

∟ In most of our country, life has improved a great deal since that time. But we are painfully aware of the fact that there are people who suffer from these same conditions today.

∟ It is for that reason that, under the leadership of President Johnson, we are trying to help local communities change this situation. For we cannot shrug our shoulders and look the other way when we are faced with school-age children for whom there are no schools ... with persons in need of medical care for whom there are no hospitals ... with persons in need of housing for whom there is no home.

∟ We know the problems of our Indian people, including the Navajos, and we are pledged to pursue programs and policies designed to eliminate these problems.

We recognize that our first and foremost task must be to end the scourge of chronic unemployment.

We are all aware of the fact that your land base is not adequate to support your entire population in agriculture.

Sheepherding could sustain a great many Navajo families when your population was much smaller. It is simply not adequate to sustain a population of 100 thousand.

To be sure, with the cooperation of your Congressional delegation, you have been able to obtain the assurance of desperately needed water through the Navajo ^{Irrigation} ~~Chama~~ ~~diversion~~ project.

This will provide you with a new area of arable land and will permit farming where agriculture has in the past not been feasible.

But, considering the needs of your people, this is clearly not the whole answer.

Some people have suggested that the best way of helping Indians is to get them to leave home and move to the large employment centers.

During my early years as a member of the United States Senate I did, in fact, watch the efforts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to encourage Indian people to move off the reservations and into the large cities.

I saw the results of the movement to the cities first-hand in my home state of Minnesota.

If the people from the Chippewa reservations had education or training, they were able to make a good adjustment to life in Minneapolis. But those who lacked these essential ingredients -- and there were many of them -- simply converted an Indian reservation problem into an Indian city problem.

Your tribal leadership and the leadership of other Indian tribes were correct in questioning the relocation program as a basic solution to the problem of Indian poverty.

In the crisis which our cities are now undergoing, we recognize that the migration of the rural poor to the large metropolitan areas -- unprepared and untrained for life in the cities -- serves only to make a bad problem worse.

Your own Chairman, Mr. Nakai, and other forward-looking Indian leaders, have pointed out for many years that an important answer to the problems of Indian poverty lies in the location of new industries in the Indian country.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has, for the last six years, fully supported this new effort to improve living conditions on Indian reservations.

In your own case, the cooperative effort of your Tribal Government and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has brought the new Fairchild plant to Shiprock.

In a short while, General Dynamics will be opening a new plant at Fort Defiance.

Other industries, we hope, will follow -- thus creating employment centers, offering permanent, year-round job opportunities at decent wages right here on the Navajo Reservation.

Some of these new industries have been used to employing only women in their plants in the cities. They will have to be taught about the available labor supply on the Indian reservations, so that jobs are offered on a truly non-discriminatory basis and young men and heads of families have an equal chance to find jobs.

Nor have you waited for outside industry to shoulder the entire burden of providing industrial employment.

With your own efforts, and your own resources, you have built the impressive sawmill which now employs hundreds of Navajos.

You are to be congratulated for this outstanding example of self-help.

The cooperative efforts in industrial development have been accompanied by cooperative efforts in other public services as well. Let me cite a few examples:

-- At long last there is a desk in a classroom available for every Navajo child. The massive school building program authorized during the last six years has closed the education gap which permitted thousands of Navajo children to grow up without having had an opportunity to attend school. While formal school education must be coupled with other training, training in the family, to make a whole man, there is no doubt that formal school education is essential for the younger generation which will be living and working in the America of tomorrow.

I have spoken of the new schools which have been built in recent years.

But buildings, brick and mortar, are only the foundation on which an educational program can be built. Ultimately, it is the program itself that counts.

I am, therefore, happy to know of the many existing new educational programs which have been initiated on your reservation, including the experimental school at Rough Rock.

I also want to commend your Chairman, who has spoken to me of his plans for a junior college, for his interest in post-high school education.

There is no doubt, that, in order for the Navajo Tribe to continue to move forward, it will need an ever larger number of young men who have received technical or academic training beyond the high school.

-- With the assistance of the United States Public Health Service the Tribe has made major strides in reducing the incidence of death and illness from communicable diseases.

Tuberculosis, a serious threat ten years ago, has now been almost stamped out. Infant mortality has been sharply reduced. The sanitation program, financed by the federal government and the Navajo Tribe, has for the last six years provided an increasingly larger percentage of the Tribal population with clean drinking water and sanitary sewage facilities.

-- Hospital care can cure illness; it cannot prevent it. Inadequate and unsanitary housing conditions can often breed disease. That is why the housing program initiated by your Tribe with the help of the Housing Assistance Administration provides you with another milestone on the road to progress. The 200 homes which have been built so far, the 400 homes now under construction and the additional 500 homes which have been authorized, make the Navajo Reservation program one of the largest federally-assisted housing programs in the Southwest. Yet it is only a beginning.

I certainly hope that you continue with your efforts to eliminate all sub-standard housing on your reservation.

-- As you know, President Johnson has a deep personal interest in the programs initiated under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. He will be glad to know that the Navajo Reservation has been one of the important beneficiaries of this law. The Head Start, Home Improvement, Job Training, Legal Aid and other programs are all designed to accomplish one goal: To enable the Indian people, the members of the Navajo Tribe, to have the same opportunities, to enjoy the same benefits, which our country offers to the rest of the population.

Some outsiders might raise questions about the wisdom of the programs which I have mentioned on the ground that they do not fit in with Tribal traditions.

Let me say that I am a firm believer in the principle that, under our democratic system, every group wishing to preserve its cultural heritage has the right to do so.

That is why I feel that in your case, particularly, it is so important there be active local participation in federally-assisted programs. We want to be sure that the programs which we have begun are really wanted.

With this one safeguard built in, I have no concern that you will not reach conclusions which are in your best self-interest.

I happen to believe that, beyond all cultural differences, there are desires which are common to all human beings.

A man who is hungry wants to eat, whether he lives in Minneapolis or Tohatchi.

A mother whose child is ill wants the child cured, whether in Phoenix or in Tuba City.

A father with family responsibilities wants to be able to provide for his wife and children, whether he lives in New York City or in Shiprock.

These needs and aspirations are common to most people in our country.

And most of them, I am firmly convinced, want to use their own abilities to obtain their goals.

But -- and this is the key to the problem -- circumstances of geography or family or both, circumstances beyond a person's control, prevent some people from getting to the starting line at which most others begin.

For many decades the opportunities which our nation has offered to most of its people have by-passed the Indian country. This has meant that Indians, by and large, did not start at this general American starting line but substantially behind it.

The programs and policies which your federal government has followed in recent years, in close collaboration with your Tribal government, have had the purpose of bringing the Navajo people, and all people suffering from disabilities of the same kind, up to that starting line.

My purpose in speaking to you today is to pledge to you the determination of your President to continue on the road on which we have embarked.

When President Johnson announced in his first State of the Union message that we would wage war against poverty, he made it clear that that war will be fought until it is won.

And that means that it must and will be won everywhere, including right here in the Navajo country.

#



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org