

July 26, 1974
Cornell Tahdooahnippah

NATIONAL INDIAN YOUTH COUNCIL
Oklahoma Division
P. O. Box 3028
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Charles P. Finn
c/o AFFP
P.O. Box 72X
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Va.

Greetings Charles,

The Oklahoma Division of the National Indian Youth Council has been the clearinghouse for information of the "Feather War". The non-jury trials have been completed and the appeal time has expired.

Out of the eighteen Indian defendants, sixteen were convicted of possessing or offering for sale feathers of migratory birds. Enclosed find some selected clippings related to the trials.

Although N.I.Y.C.-Oklahoma has not solicited donations, we will accept any amount, at this time, because of the large legal expenses incurred in our attempts to keep our people out of prison. If you wish, let me know if you would be willing to distribute 20-30 copies of the last issue (May) of Americans Before Columbus, (A.B.C.). I will mail them to you as soon as I receive an affirmative answer.


Your thoughts and efforts on behalf of the Native peoples here in Oklahoma is deeply appreciated. Many of those arrested were high priests in the Native American Church and we are all still shocked at their conviction by a U.S. Magistrate in U.S.

Federal Court. However, one man in one day in a non-Indian court of law cannot change our beliefs.

Unfortunately, at this time, Indian people do not know what effects the decision will have on ceremonials and religious rites. It seems that everyone is now subject to arrest and conviction.

N.I.Y.C. efforts in the near future will center around developing legislative exemption, although this type of freedom would seem to be protected by the Constitution. Apparently, Indians are only marginally included in these documents that insure democracy for the people.

N.I.Y.C.-Oklahoma again thanks you for your concern for the rights and freedom of the Native Americans.

In the spirit of Crazy Horse,

State Director, N.I.Y.C.

Enclosure
c.c. Reading file