Manuscript 4806

Register to the Records of the
American Indian Chicago Conference

R. Vivian Hebert
August 1975

National Anthropological Archives
Smithsonian Institution
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Administrative History

The American Indian Chicago Conference (originally called the American Indian Charter Convention) was organized by University of Chicago anthropologist Sol Tax. Tax's idea, announced at the 1960 National Congress of American Indians convention, was to bring representatives of American Indian groups together to prepare statements about the conditions and needs of their people. Tax took the role of coordinator to initiate developments, assure that all Indian groups were represented, serve as or find expert advisers, and publicize results to the public and to those who formulate Indian policy. The University of Chicago was the sponsor for the meeting. Nancy Oestreich Lurie, of the University of Michigan, served as assistant coordinator. Tax, assisted by the National Congress of American Indians, formulated and circulated a proposed statement that served as a point from which discussions could take place. Tax also invited to Chicago a relatively small group of Indian leaders who then served as a steering committee. This preliminary meeting arranged several regional conferences where discussions could take place in preparation for a large meeting in Chicago to be held June 13-20, 1961.

Representatives at the large conference presented a cross section of the American Indian community and included urban Indian, traditional Indians, modern Indians, and Indians from both recognized and non-recognized tribes. Several hundred people attended the meeting and 439 of these registered. These registered attendees represented 79 tribes. The outcome of the American Indian Chicago Conference was the Declaration of Indian Purpose, a lengthy document that dealt with problems and proposed approaches to solutions of the problems. In general, the declaration asked for a redirection of "the responsibility of the United States toward the Indian people in terms of a positive national obligation to modify or remove the conditions which produce the poverty and lack of social justice, as these prevail as the outstanding attributes of Indian life today." The declaration was presented to President John F. Kennedy by representatives of American Indian tribes in September 1962.
Scope and Content Note

The records of the American Indian Chicago Conference (AICC) contains Sol Tax’s diary record, conference announcements, conference minutes, correspondence, financial papers, registration materials, clippings, photographs, a sound recording and printed materials. Also included are a copy of the Declaration of Indian Purpose, a number of papers that were prepared to be presented by members of the conference, and materials from the preconference regional meetings. Among the records are materials that relate to the compilation of the map "The North American Indian: The present Day Distribution of Indians in the United States" by Tax, Bruce McLachlan, and Sam Stanley. Also included are population figures and narratives by Tax.

Extent

8 linear feet (16 document boxes and 5 card file boxes)

Provenance

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Sol Tax.
Series Description and Container List

6 inches

Folders are arranged by subject. Materials consist of the diary record of Sol Tax, the historical reports for the preparations of the conference which was hosted by the Chicago Indian group, the mailings of American Indian Chicago Conference (AICC) materials, press releases concerning the conference and the change in name of the conference. Also included are the suggestion sheets with topics for discussion at the conference.

Box 1

Diary Record – Record to be filled in – Sol Tax, April – December 1960
Announcements on AICC & photographs
Historical: Beginnings of AICC
Meeting rooms
AICC Volunteers
Chicago Indian Advisors
Chicago Indian’s Fact Finding Committee
Chicago Meeting; 1961 February
Chicago Meeting; 1961 April
Chicago Ways and Means
Complete set of AICC materials
Mailings

Box 2

Press release – AFSC [American Friends Service Committee]
Press release – Chicago (pre-conference)
Yellow suggestion sheets

4 inches

Arranged alphabetically by subject, materials consist of reports and notes of local and regional meetings held before the American Indian Chicago Conference.

Box 2 (continued)

California/Nevada regional meeting [1961 April 14-16]
East regional meeting [1961 April 8-11]
Lakes regional meeting [1961 April 14-16]
New York meeting [1961 February 18]
North Plains regional meeting [ December 29, 1960 & February 9, 1961]
Northwest regional meeting [April 5-8, 1961]
Oklahoma regional meeting [March 30 - April 1, 1961]
South Plains regional meeting [April 8-9, 1961]
Southeast regional meeting [April 12-14, 1961]
Southwest regional meeting [empty folder]

10 inches.

Arranged by subject, materials consist of a preliminary draft of Declaration with notes, etc., a copy of the Declaration of Indian Purpose; reference materials compiled for AICC conference and miscellaneous other materials used during the conference. At the end of the series are a photograph of Sol Tax and a sound recording of a report on SWRIYC, presumably the Southwest Regional Indian Youth Council

**Box 2 (continued)**

Preliminary Draft of Declaration, notes, etc. [2 folders]

**Box 3**

The Voice of the American Indian Declaration of Indian Purpose
[Reference material compiled for American Indian Chicago Conference]
Reference materials compiled for American Indian Chicago Conference. (On Cover):
Only complete file
*Termination of the Klamath Indians* by Theodore Stern. Preliminary draft – AICC
Reference Copy
*American Indians: Their Role in American Society*. Barbara W. Moffett.
San Juan History and notes on other Pueblos. Series of letters with notes by Pat Tellachy, San Juan Pueblo.
Tribal Documents Sent to AICC
1. Assiniboine - claim
2. Shoshone-Bannock - treaty, tribal government
3. Menominee- regarding termination
Bureau of Indian Affairs Annual Credit Report, 1960 and Status of Revolving Credit Fund, 1961
American Indian Center
“Let’s Stop Drifting” by Melvin W. Patterson
Letters providing historical or other special information and papers sent by Indians to AICC.
Post-conference report
Memorandum on Indian Education for AICC by Murray Wax
Kinzua Dam

**Box 4**

Miscellaneous Materials used during Conference
Summer ’62 – Mailing
AICC Questionnaire Completed 1-110
AICC Questionnaire Completed 111-221
Photograph of Sol Tax; 6” audio reel (“Report on SWRIYC, Gerald L. Brown” 3 ¾ ips)

**Series 4. Correspondence. Circa 1957-1962**
3 linear feet

Folders are arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Sol Tax would at times paper clip correspondence by different authors. These letters were kept together and filed under the first correspondent’s name. Thus, some correspondents can be found in multiple folders. The contents of this series do not always concern the AICC.

**Box 4 (continued)**

A general
J. Ablon [1 of 3]
J. Ablon [2 of 3]

**Box 5**

J. Ablon [3 of 3]
B-Boc
Bod-BZ
C General [2 folders]
Cherokee Printing Project
D – General [1 of 2]

**Box 6**

D – General [2 of 2]
Delegates to White House
E – General
Edwards Brothers
F – Fra
Fre
G – General
H – General
Box 7

Theodore Hetzel
General Holdridge Minute Men
I – General
J – General
K – General
La
Le
Li
Li-Lz
N.O. Lurie, October – December, 1960

Box 8

N.O. Lurie, January-February, 1961
N.O. Lurie, March, 1961
N.O. Lurie, April-May, 1961
N.O. Lurie, June, 1961-March, 1962
Ma
Me-Mz
Miscellaneous

Box 9

Mc – General
D’Arcy McNickle
NCAI
N – General
Philleo Nash
O – General
P – General [2 folders]
Helen Peterson
Phelps-Stokes Fund

Box 10

Q – General
William Richard
R. Reitz
R – General
Schwartzhaupt Foundation
Mary Sellers
S – General [2 folders]
Walter Taylor
T – General
U – General

**Box 11**

U.S. Government
V – General
Wa [2 folders]
We
Rachel Welch [2 folders]
Wenner-Gran Foundation
Wh
XYZ – General

3 inches

Arranged by source, the materials in this series pertain to AICC.

**Box 12**

Clippings [2 folders]
Periodicals Containing Articles on AICC [2 folders]
Clippings, Articles, General Indian [2 folders]

2 linear feet

Arranged by subject, this series is made up of railroad plans for AICC, registration, housing, ledger pages, contributor lists, financial records, travel vouchers, records of book orders, mailing addresses, and information request postcards

**Box 12 (continued)**

Railroad Plans for AICC
Registration
Housing

**Box 13**

Appropriations Ledger – AICC
Ledger Sheet 1-2500-00-40-20; AICC 7 Special Exp. Fund
Deposits, Contributor Lists – AICC
Financial Records – Correspondence, Notes, Non-UC Transactions
Financial Records – U.C. Transactions, Records & Deposits
Travel Vouchers
Orders - Paid: Present Period to September, 1966 [1 of 2 folders]

Box 14
Orders - Paid: Present Period to September, 1966 [2 of 2 folders]
#2 Orders – Paid 1965-1966
Orders – Paid [2 folders]
Book Orders – Records
Past Book Orders

Box 15 – 16 [See Series 7. Miscellany]

Box 17
[Unidentified punch-cards; AICC housing registration]

Box 18
[Postcard correspondence, mixed subject; change of address, information requests, response cards regarding NCAI draft “Charter” and mailing receipt confirmation.]

Box 19
[Postcard correspondence: mailing list confirmation response cards and miscellaneous change of address]

Box 20
[Conference registration/payment receipt cards, almost alphabetical; list: Students Accepted for 1961 Workshop]

Box 21
[Names & addresses in various formats]

Series 7. Miscellany
10 inches.

Arranged by subject, this series consists of pamphlets and folders on a variety of subjects, tribal council rosters, etc.

Box 15
Federal Indian Legislation and Policies
Map – Tax: “The Present Day Distribution of Indians in the U.S.”
Map – General (notes, facts, etc.)
Map – Canada and Alaska
Map – Indian Population
W.B. Baker – Application of Community Development to Northern Saskatchewan
Brewton Berry Studies
A.I. Hollowell – The Backwash of the Frontier: The Impact of the Indian on American Culture
S. Frederiksen – Canadian Eskimo Lexicographic Work
Cherokee Reading Grammar (second). Richard Shive
Carnegie – Newsletter, Peace Corps, AICC
Advertisements and Announcements
Reference: Directories, Lists, etc.

Box 16

Tribal Council Rosters
U.S. Gov’t – Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
U.S. Gov’t – Department of Interior [2 folders]
U.S. Gov’t – General
Miscellany

Last updated:
June 28, 2010