

# ***Rob't. Bennett Asked—*** **Pollock Calls Top Level** **Talk on BIA Phase-out**

**My dear Commissioner:**

It has been apparent for some time that a top level meeting is needed in Alaska, requiring your own presence, and the presence of Governor Hickel, the State Commissioner of Education, the congressional delegation, representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Sitka Native Education Committee, and perhaps other interested groups, to (a) consider the immediate and long-range objectives of the phase-out of BIA education for the natives of Alaska, and the concomitant phase-in of integrated state-operated schools to accomodate the education of the natives of Alaska, and (b) to conduct an on-site comprehensive review of the facilities

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# BIA Phase-out . . .

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and the curriculum at Mt. Edgecumbe, and to discuss the need for continued operation and upgrading of the Mt. Edgecumbe facility.

Accordingly, I suggest that a meeting be held as soon as possible, in the City of Sitka, a three-day symposium for the purpose of hearing testimony of interested witnesses and for receiving position papers of those officials of the federal and state governments directly involved. We would particularly appreciate such a report from you personally, Mr. Commissioner.

It is important that this symposium be held prior to the time the federal and state budgets are put in final form for approval and submission to the respective legislative branches.

Specifically, I suggest the meeting be scheduled for 18-20 November in the community center building in Sitka. I will ask that the Governor's office coordinate arrangements for the meeting place. If this date is acceptable, kindly respond as soon as possible in order that we might find a mutually agreeable time for all interested parties.

Your suggestions for agenda items would be appreciated. Among them, it would seem to me, should be the following:

(A) Long-range plans for phase-out of BIA schools; phase-in of state schools.

(B) BIA reimbursement to state on contract basis for education of native students;

(C) State regional high schools and BIA regional dormitories or other living facilities for native students;

(D) Long-range plans for Mt. Edgecumbe:

(1) Utilization of Mt. Edgecumbe instead of sending native students to schools in other states;

(2) Use of Mt. Edgecumbe facilities in future for vocational education.

(E) Comprehensive review of curriculum and procedures at Mt. Edgecumbe (permanent record should be made of testimony of witnesses).

(F) Transitional objectives to up-grade native students.

A permanent record should be made of all the proceedings, and I wonder if your office could coordinate with the office of the Governor to insure that a shorthand reporter is present to prepare the permanent record of proceedings.

Mr. Commissioner, I deem this meeting one long overdue, and now most timely. It is most important that all of us engage in the meaningful discourse which this symposium will bring about, in order that we might all pursue uniform long-range objectives which will enhance the education and well-being of the Alaskan natives.

I urge you to respond to my Anchorage office, 326 H Street - Suite 5 (272-8532) as soon as possible. I hope the suggested dates will be acceptable for you and all others concerned. I view this meeting as an extremely important, top-level meeting, and strongly urge your most enthusiastic participation.

Warm personal regards.

Cordially yours,  
Howard W. Pollock  
The Congressman for Alaska

Youth is a blunder; manhood  
a struggle; old age a regret.  
—BENJAMIN DISRAELI

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets;