CONCERNING INDIAN HEALTH CONDITIONS

Gentlemen:

Some weeks ago I heard an Indian speaker assert that no Indian ever became bald, insane or lost his teeth.

As the statement did not impress me I would appreciate your word on it....

The following reply was sent to this inquiry:

My dear Sir:

In reply to your query of September 15 concerning certain health conditions among Indians, you are advised that there appears to be no basis for the assertion that Indians do not lose their teeth. Dental caries, while varying in degree among the various tribes, is a major problem among many, if not the large majority of Indians, and, as you no doubt know, is a condition which is highly conducive to dental loss.

Insanity, while not nearly so frequent as in the white race, does occur often. The low incidence of syphilis, generally, with a concomitantly relative low incidence of cerebro-spinal syphilis, among individuals in more or less isolated areas, may partially account for this fact.

As for baldness, questioning of employees in this Office, who have had years of experience with Indians reveals the fact that none remembers having seen a completely bald full-blood Indian. Such observation is attested by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institute, author of many books and papers on anthropology, who states that except where syphilis or a disease of the scalp exists, full-blood Indians do not become completely bald, although there is, often, a recession of the hair from the forehead.

Lack of baldness among full-blood Indians has never been explained, for, paradoxically, they, like other Asiatic races of ancient lineage, tend toward absence or scantiness of hair on other parts of the body such as the face and chest, in contrast to the Caucasian race, which, of course, is of more recent origin.

It is hoped that this gives you the desired information.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. McGibony, M. D.
Hospital Administrator.

NEW YORK MOHAWKS REQUEST INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY

Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Friends and Brothers:

We, the Mohawks, are members of the long house, and are upholding the

oldest democracy in the world which is known to be the foundation of the Six Nation Confederate League. We are a nation and wish to be recognized as a nation, for we are one part of the Six Nations who have given up their Confirmation and their Baptism of the Catholic religion and all other denominations belonging to the white man which we know does not belong to Indians. And furthermore, we Six Nations do not believe in the International line, which divides the United States and Canada.

Whereby we know that such line belongs to you whites, for you are doing commercial trade with England. And we have joined hands with the Mohawks on the Caughnawaga Reservation, who are members of the long house that are surrounded by the Dominion of Canada who are not Canadian Indians, for they are American Indians and they still belong to the Union of the Confederacy. Therefore, we guarantee that there is no white man living under the heavens and under the sun that can find and prove that there is a Canadian Indian on the Western continent. For you and I know, just as true as there is a heaven above, that the Indian is the only true native of this land, who have never surrendered their rights to any nation in the world, and have never been conquered by any nation.

We are still a sovereign nation under the sovereignty and independency of the Confederacy. We wish the White government to know that we have a treaty which is known to be the original treaty of 1784. which we know is the only treaty that stands today and will stand forever; for that is the only treaty that has been ratified by eleven kings of foreign nations whereby all other treaties have never been ratified by any nation. The United States has a Constitution which tells us that there is a certain article which forbids any state to make treaties with any individual. Therefore, the Six Nations would kindly like to know if every article in the U. S. Constitution is legal. If not, due to the fact that if one article is no good, the Constitution might as well be thrown into the wastebasket...

Your true Friend and red Brother,
Of the Mohawk Nation,

Mr. David E. Terrance.

Dear Sir:

The Department of Justice has sent this Office a copy of your letter of June 24. asking that the Iroquois League of the Six Nations Confederacy be recognized as an independent sovereignty.

The practice of dealing with the Indian tribes of this country as domestic semi-independent nations, with which the United States negotiated by treaty as with a foreign power, was discontinued many years ago by Act of Congress. That body has provided, by law, for the handling of the affairs of the New York Indians as they are at present conducted; and we have no intention at this time of suggesting the enactment of such legislation as that which you request.

Sincerely yours,

William Zimmerman Jr.
Assistant Commissioner.
