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October 11
1966

Mrs. Stewart L. Udall,
Center for Arts of Indian America,
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Udall:

It was nice indeed to catch a glimpse of you and Mr. Udall while you were here. I know what a schedule you were on and I hope sometime when you are here you will have a little more leisure. I wanted to go out to San Ildefonso for I have many friends there, but my present inability to walk very much made that impossible. I did see the news reel, and was amazed and much moved by seeing Maria Martinez dancing for all she was worth. What a person she is! I wonder if anyone knows just how old she is.

You are quite right, 1967 is going to be an important year for me; the culmination of more than thirty years' work among the Navaho. The book will be out sometime next fall. In addition to that I have three big exhibitions to prepare for. I have been giving yours much thought, and have reached the conclusion that February of 1968 will be the best time for two reasons. First, I do not think the Navaho prints should go on exhibit so long before the publication of the book. Second I wonder if you would not rather have an all Indian show than the retrospective show Jim McGrath is talking about. I was surprised that Jim wanted this, and I will go over it all with him when he returns. I can send you a big selection of Navaho material, and what would you think and including with this a good sized group of Pueblo studies as well? A retrospective show would have to include work I did during the war at Boeing, Wichita; prints from Central City, Colorado; the Maya ruins and other studies from Yucatan, and a good many miscellaneous subjects. I am most amused over the thought of Lillian Gish as Gamtie in the midst of the Navaho!

Once a date is determined, I shall work to this end perhaps you will be coming this way sometime during the year when we could talk this all over. But it does seem to me that an all Indian show would be best suited to your organization.

With kindest regards,