



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center*

## **Grace F. Thorpe collection - Scrapbook: Return Surplus Lands to Indian People, 1971**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 12:15:04

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## "RETURN SURPLUS LANDS TO INDIAN PEOPLE" NATIONAL COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 409  
Davis, California 95616

916-758-0470

### NATIVE AMERICANS: TAKE NOTE!!

President Nixon stated on March 31, 1971 that he plans to transfer federal surplus lands valued at \$6.8 billion dollars to state and county governments and to commercial and industrial firms.

Top priority categories for these surplus lands are airport sites, fish and wildlife reserves, parks, health, education, and welfare projects. INDIAN TRIBES and INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS should be placed in this TOP PRIORITY category as soon as possible before the choice lands are gone.

Years ago the federal government took these lands from the Indians because they said they needed them for forts, military installations, roads, railroads, home-steading, and other purposes.

Today, the federal government is saying they no longer need these lands — that they are surplus. Who is more entitled to these properties than their original owners ... the American Indian?

Indians are America's most deprived and exploited minority

Indians have:  
the lowest level of education — 5th grade  
the lowest life expectancy — 44 years  
the lowest income — 50% under \$1,500  
the highest infant mortality rate  
the highest suicide rate  
the highest rate of alcoholism

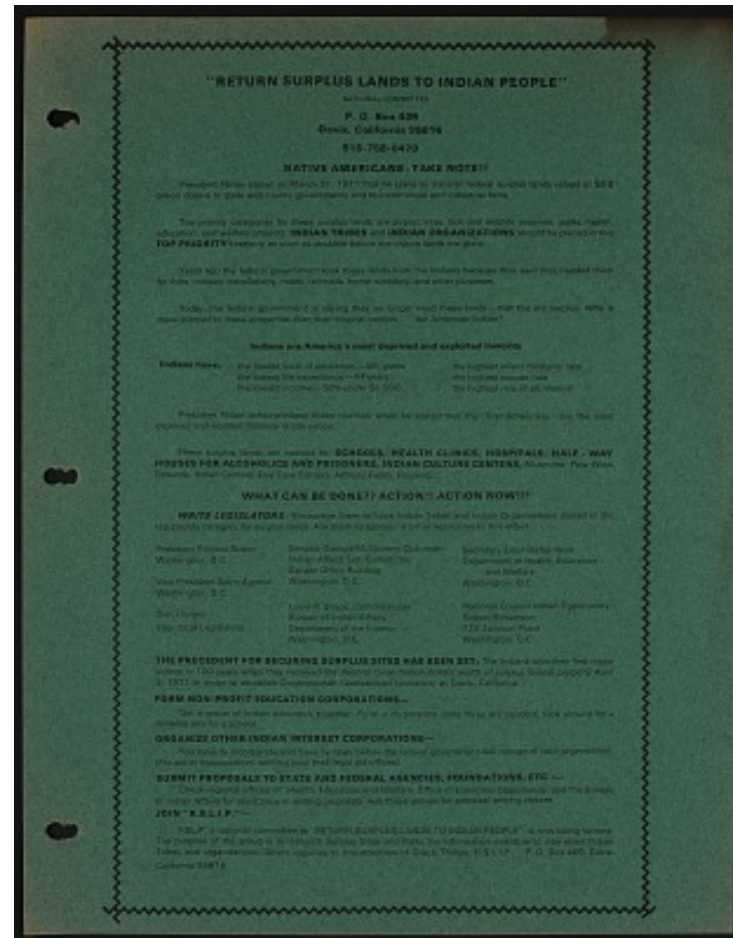
President Nixon acknowledged these realities when he stated that the "first Americans—are the most deprived and isolated minority in the nation."

These surplus lands are needed for SCHOOLS, HEALTH CLINICS, HOSPITALS, HALF-WAY HOUSES FOR ALCOHOLICS AND PRISONERS, INDIAN CULTURE CENTERS, Museums, Pow-Wow Grounds, Indian Centers, Day Care Centers, Athletic Fields, Housing.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?? ACTION!! ACTION NOW!!!

WRITE LEGISLATORS: Encourage them to have Indian Tribes and Indian Organizations placed in the top priority category for surplus lands. Ask them to sponsor a bill or resolution to this effect.

President Richard Nixon



Washington, D.C.

Vice President Spiro Agnew  
Washington, D.C.

Don't forget  
Your local Legislators

Senator George McGovern, Chairman  
Indian Affairs Sub-Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Secretary Elliot Richardson  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D.C.

National Council Indian Opportunity  
Robert Robertson  
726 Jackson Place  
Washington, D.C.

THE PRECEDENT FOR SECURING SURPLUS SITES HAS BEEN  
SET: The Indians won their first major victory in 100 years when they  
received the deed to three million dollars worth of surplus federal  
property April 3, 1971 in order to establish Deganawidah-Quetzalcoatl  
University at Davis, California.

FORM NON-PROFIT EDUCATION CORPORATIONS—  
Get a group of Indian educators together. Form a corporation (only three  
are needed), look around for a suitable site for a school.

ORGANIZE OTHER INDIAN INTEREST CORPORATIONS—  
You have to incorporate and have by-laws before the federal  
government will recognize your organization. (For aid in incorporation,  
contact your area legal aid offices).

SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES,  
FOUNDATIONS, ETC.:—  
Check regional offices of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of  
Economic Opportunity, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for assistance in  
writing proposals. Ask these groups for proposal writing classes.

JOIN "R.S.L.I.P."—  
RSLIP, a national committee to "RETURN SURPLUS LANDS TO  
INDIAN PEOPLE", is now being formed. The purpose of the group is to  
research Surplus Sites and make the information available to interested  
Indian Tribes and organizations. Direct inquiries to the attention of  
Grace Thorpe, R.S.L.I.P., P.O. Box 409, Davis, California 95616.

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People, 1971  
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