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ORANNA B. FELTER
P.O. BOX 465
FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH
84026
SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

" I M P O R T A N T "

MR. FORREST CUCH, DIRECTOR
STATE OF UTAH, FOR UTAH INDIANS
324 SOUTH STATE, SUITE # 500
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114

F I R S T R E Q U E S T

DEAR FORREST,

MIKE!!! HOW ARE YOU?? HOW IS YOUR SISTER LAFERN? (FERN HA! HA!)
TELL HER I SAID HI, SHE SAID SHE WOULD WRITE OR CALL WHEN WE WERE ALL
OVER TO TOMMYS FUNERAL, TELL HER I'AM STILL WAITING.

I SEEN YOU ON T.V. THE OTHER NIGHT WHEN THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE
OLYMPICS IN AUSTRALIA AND INTERVIEWING ABORIGINEE RUNNER.
THEN THEY WERE ASKING YOU ABOUT THE NATIVE AMERICANS HERE IN THIS COUNTRY
OR IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE STATE OF UTAH.
IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE "FIVE" RECOGNIZED TRIBES OF UTAH WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN THE 2002 OLYMPICS.

MY QUESTION TO YOU IS:

"WILL THE MIXED-BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE (AFFILIATED UTE
CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF UTAH) BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2002
OLYMPICS?" AND ALSO WILL THE OTHER "TERMINATED" TRIBES IN THE "UNITED
STATES BE INVITED TO PARTICAPTE IN THE 2002 OLYMPICS???"

ALTHOUGH WE WERE TERMINATED(WHICH 162 WERE MINORS WHICH I WAS ONE OF THEM)
I FEEL WE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE "RECOGNITATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN
INDIANS IN THE STATE OF UTAH, AND "ALL" OTHER TERMINATED TRIBES SHOULD BE
RECOGNIZED ALSO."

AS I STATED BEFORE I WAS A MINOR AT THE TIME OF TERMINATION AND DID NOT
HAVE A VOICE IN THE TERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE, AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD
HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE ANYWAY.

THE TERMINATION OF THE "MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE HAS
PROBABLY BEEN ONE OF THE MOST "DEVESTATING TERMINATIONS OF THEM ALL" BECAUSE
THE MIXED BLOOD UTES ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE TERMINATED BECAUSE OF THEIR
"BLOOD DEGREE" AND WE ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THE WHOLE UNITED STATES WHO ONLY
ONE FOURTH OF THE WHOLE TRIBE WAS TERMINATED."

SO WE ARE VICTIMS OF THE TERMINATION POLICY, A POLICY WHICH WAS "NEVER"
COMPLETED, BECAUSE THE TERMINATION POLICY PUBLIC LAW 671 83rd CONGRESS
WAS SET UP FOR A "WHOLE" TRIBE, WITH THE MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS FIRST THEN
THE REST OF MY TRIBE TO FOLLOW IN "TEN YEARS", THIS DID NOT HAPPEN, NOW
THE MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE HAS TO LIVE BY A LAW THAT
WAS CREATED FOR A WHOLE TRIBE. (I'AM GLAD THE REST OF THE TRIBE WAS NOT
TERMINATED AND HAD TO LIVE LIKE THE REST OF THE TERMINATED INDIANS IN THE
UNITED STATES) AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW THERE IS MANY VERSIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED
BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE ARE "NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS" AND SHOULD
BE ALLOWED TO PARTECIPATE IN THE 2002 OLYMPICS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE COMING FROM OUT HERE AND BEING UTE, THE TERMINATION SPLIT JP FAMILYS AND CAUSED TOTAL KAOS, YOU YOURSELF IS LISTED AS A "FULL BLOOD UTE", YET YOUR TWO SISTERS AND ONE BROTHER IS ON THE "MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBES TERMINATED ROLL,"EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE WELL OVER ONE HALF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN.

IT IS TOO BAD ALL OUR PEOPLE CANNOT GET ALONG, AS THE TERMINATED UTES HAS BEEN PUT THROUGH HELL. THERE IS ONLY A VERY FEW OF THE TERMINATED UTES WHO TERMINATION DID NOT EFFECT. I WOULD HAVE TO SAY TERMINATION HELPED TO DESTROY MY WHOLE FAMILY AND I DO HAVE TO SAY FIGHTING TO BE "RECOGNIZED AS A NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN" IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE HARDEST FIGHTS I HAVE EVER FOUGHT, BUT I'AM NATIVE AMERICAN, I WAS BORN NATIVE AMERICAN AND I WILL DIE NATIVE AMERICAN, NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME OR BREAK MY SPIRIT TO BE WHO I'AM.

AS JUDGE BRUCE JENKINS STATED IN MY CASE: "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. ORANNA BUMGARNER FELTER"

ON MAY 20-1982 IN HIS MEMORANDUM OPINION CONCERNING HUNTING & FISHING RIGHTS OF THE MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE, "QUOTE:"

"PAGE 3 "IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT "TERMINATION" "DOES NOT MEAN THAT SOMEONES "IDENTITY" AS AN "INDIAN IS ENDED.""

"IT IS A QUESTION OF "NON-RECOGNITION" OR "RECOGNITION" AT LAW OF A STATUS, "NOT A "DENIAL" OF ONES "PERSONAL" "HISTORY" OR "HERITAGE."

"THE TERMINATION POLICY HAS BEEN DISCREDITED IN THE EYES OF BOTH CONGRESS AND THE INDIANS." UN-QUOTE

SO NOW I ASK YOU, ARE YOU GOING TO ABANDON US THE MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE (YOUR TRIBE) WHO ARE A PART OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE, BY NOT RECOGNIZING US AT THE 2002 OLYMPICS AND BY NOT LETTING US PARTICIPATE IN THE OLYMPICS, BECAUSE WE ARE TERMINATED??

DON'T YOU THINK IT IS TIME THAT WE ARE "RECOGNIZING THE TERMINATED TRIBES OF THE UNITED STATES?"

TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE NATIVE AMERICANS, AS WAS DONE WITH THE ABORIGINEES IN AUSTRALIA?

I'AM SURE THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU WILL BE HIT WITH THIS QUESTION ABOUT TERMINATED NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2002 OLYMPICS, I JUST HOPE YOUR DECISION COMES FROM YOUR HEART, SPIRIT, AND THE CAREING OF OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS.

I'AM SURE ALL NATIVE AMERICANS WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO OFFER FOR THE OLYMPICS, JUST AS I'AM SURE OUR TERMINATED PEOPLE WILL HAVE ALOT TO OFFER AS REALLY WE "ARE ALL ONE".

PLEASE LET ME KNOW AT YOUR VERY EARLIEST CONVINCENCE ON THIS LETTER AS IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALOT OF PEOPLE, AND IF YOU DECIDE TO INCLUDE TERMINATED NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS, I WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU.

BEST REGARDS, TAKE CARE.

Oranna Bumgarner Felter # 32
ORANNA BUMGARNER FELTER, MEMBER OF THE MIXED BLOOD MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE, AFFILIATED UTE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF UTAH
ROLL # 32

FAXED TO: FORREST CUCH, DIRECTOR, SEPTEMBER 26, 2000 AT 801-538-8803
FAX RECIEPT, ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER, NOW ON FILE



State of Utah

DIVISION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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October 11, 2000

Oranna B. Felter
P.O. Box 465
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Oranna:

Thank you for your letter requesting information pertaining to my comments made on a recent Channel 5 KSL television interview regarding American Indian participation in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

I agree that the Ute Termination Act was devastating and split families apart creating great emotional problems for many that have yet to heal to this day. I resent the problems that it caused my family. I feel it was unfair for my brother and two sisters to be terminated when their combined Ute and Choctaw blood made them almost full blood American Indian. Since this time, however, they have been enrolled in the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma and have become eligible for federal services. Hence, they will be represented through the Native American 2002 Foundation, especially if the Choctaw Tribe becomes active in this organization.

You have posed some highly sensitive questions: "Will the Mixed-Blood members of the Ute Indian Tribe (Affiliated Ute citizens of the state of Utah) be invited to participate in the 2002 Olympics and will the other terminated tribes in the United States be invited to participate in the 2002 Olympics?" My response is that I cannot speak for SLOC or the Native American 2002 Foundation. However, some history may be of help here.

Several years ago, before I was appointed as a trustee to the Salt Lake Organizational Committee (SLOC), SLOC executives informed me that they would like to work with one organization that would represent the some 540 American Indian Tribes throughout the United States. Shortly thereafter, the Native American 2002 Foundation was established with headquarters here in Salt Lake City. Mr. Larry Blackhair, Ute, has served as the executive director of this organization. Since this time, SLOC has consulted that organization regarding questions concerning American Indians. You would need to contact the SLOC and the Native American 2002 Foundation, as they are the ones who will make decisions regarding who they will work with.

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My reference to the five recognized tribes during the television interview pertains to the following native tribes of Utah: Goshute, Navajo (Dine'), Paiute, Shoshoni, and Ute. In the 1950s, the Paiute Tribe of Utah were also terminated but were restored Federal recognition in 1980. It is the traditional culture of these groups that people are interested in learning about.

If I am asked for a recommendation regarding who should be recognized as an Indian tribe, I will recommend that SLOC consider working with the Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes. I will make this recommendation to minimize the confusion being created by various "wannabe groups" such as the New Age groups, mountain men societies, spiritual (peyote) groups, and others, that want to be viewed as Indian Tribes even though they have little or no valid connection to American Indian heritage and culture. I do not wish to offend you or any of the other members of the mixed blood members as I have relatives and close friends among this group. I simply think working with the Federally Recognize Indian Tribes is the best course of action to take at this time because it is the traditional culture of these groups that the international community is interested in.

I also agree with you that no one can take away your Indian heritage. If you feel Indian in your heart, then that is who you are. Further, since your heritage is Ute, I do not see why you cannot express your recommendations through the Ute representative to the Native American 2002 Foundation. I would be open to your suggestions as a SLOC trustee as well.

Well, I hope this information has been helpful. I realize that my position may not be to your satisfaction but, again, I do not wish to offend you. I only think this is the best course of action in view of all the circumstances.

Sincerely,



Forrest S. Cuch
Director
Utah State Division of Indian Affairs

cc: FSC/amc
John Harja
Bob Linnell
Dave Winder
Rick Mayfield
Mitt Romney
Ed Eynon
File