

- (28) In answer to an inquiry regarding the content of the Act of the U. S. Government forbidding torture at the Sun Dance, John Collier, Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs wrote under date of February 24, 1941: "Under the Indian regulations of 1904 of the Department of Interior, practice of the sun dance was considered an Indian offense. The exact regulation read as follows:

The 'sun-dance', and other similar dances and so-called religious ceremonies, shall be considered 'Indian Offenses', and any Indian found guilty of being a participant in any one or more of these 'offenses' shall, for the first offense committed, be punished by withholding from him his rations for a period not exceeding ten days; and if found guilty of a subsequent offense under this rule, shall be punished by withholding his rations not less than fifteen days or more than 30 days, or by incarceration in the agency prison for a period not exceeding 30 days.

It is probably due to this regulation, plus the loss of the buffalo and the function of the dance in Sioux life, that it has been abandoned rather than any single prohibition of the torture features. Since 1935 this regulation and any other prohibition on Indian religion have been removed....The 1904 regulation is of course no longer in effect."