

To: Dick Trudell, American Indian Resources  
From: Wilma Mankiller *Wm*  
Re: Meeting with President Clinton  
Date: April 26, 1993

Last Friday I spoke briefly with Alan Parker about my desire to help in any way I can to see that the meeting with President Clinton serves as both a symbol of the continuation of diplomatic relations between Indian Nations and the United States and touches on the most significant issues we deal with today.

The President is immensely bright, loves charts, graphs, statistics and specific recommendations. However, he also responds emotionally to truthful explanations of the challenges we face each day in trying to survive as Native people.

I would very much like for two people to be sure to receive an invitation to the meeting with President Clinton. One is Oren Lyons, who has been trying to set up a meeting between the Six Nations representatives and the President. If he can be allowed to speak briefly to the President, even for just a couple of minutes, it would be wonderful. The second person whose attendance I feel is critical is Raymond Yowell, Chief, Western Shoshone National Council, Waysack, Lee, Nevada 89829 (702) 744-4381. The Western Shoshone, as well as the Dann sisters, have a number of treaty issues which need to be addressed as well as an ongoing battle with BLM. Access to the kind of movers and shakers that will attend the meeting with the President could help bring resolution to some of their issues. When a young member of the Dann Family feels he has to set himself on fire to draw attention to the Western Shoshone situation, it is time to do something. In either Raymond Yowell or Oren's case, I don't think that they should necessarily have an opportunity to discuss their specific issues at the roundtable unless they want to do so in universal terms but the access to cabinet members and the opportunity to hand someone a two or three page briefing paper on their specific issues would be a tremendous help.

If there is any problem with space or making enough room for everyone who has substantive issues to bring before the President, I would be more than happy to give up my seat for the above two tribal chiefs. In the total scheme of things, it is more important that the meeting be successful than individual people like myself be present.