

University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.
Feb. 10, 1923.

Community Counselor,
Extension Division,
University of Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:-

Having read your letter and text for proposed folder, I wish to say that I think it is excellently adapted to its purpose. I have a few suggestions to offer, however, and these follow:

1. I think that, in seeking contributions from Indians for this purpose, it would be well to remember that the Indians have usually very little if any feeling of racial solidarity. They think of themselves not as Indians, but as members of certain tribes. If funds are requested from tribes, therefore, I think it should be specified that the funds received shall be spent in the work of recording and preserving the customs, curios, etc. of the tribe providing the funds. Otherwise, a coolness and indifference will arise, which will be intensified into bitterness and will introduce a political situation that will be disastrous. I am well aware that the committee which handles the funds will prefer to have free disposition of the funds, but I am absolutely sure that unless funds solicited from tribes as tribes are not spent for that tribe alone, the contributions will be small, and the enthusiasm smaller. It must be remembered that many of the tribes are hereditary enemies, and that even allied tribes will be jealous. If, however, every tribe is made to feel that other tribes are contributing to have their own customs and records preserved, you introduce at once a healthy spirit of competition which will bring money and interest in the project flowing in at once. In other words, competition-not co-operation must ~~be~~ be the key to operations in soliciting tribal funds. Anyone familiar with Indian feeling will agree to this.

2. However, as tribal funds are handled through Uncle Sam, it seems likely that individual contributions will prove most useful. Therefore, in addition to emphasis on the tribal phase, it is essential that there be some individual recognition accorded those members of the tribes which are most active and energetic in the matter. I would suggest that the University employ the services of some well-known painter of Indians (the man Kihn, whose exhibit is now in the Uni. Library, would be the very man- because he has had experience in dealing with Indians, is quite competent, and is besides so young that his services would be less expensive). The painter, then, would be commissioned to record the portraits of the men who give most or are most active in the matter in their respective tribes, and these portraits will be hung in the Indian building when completed. Anyone familiar with Indian character knows that the love of personal glory is one of the deepest springs of action in the Indian. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this.