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Alcatraz: Indians of All Tribes [Volume 1, No. 2, February 1970] (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09792.01)

91ST CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  
**H. J. RES. 1042**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 23, 1969

Mr. Brown of California (himself, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Bingham, Mr. Lowenstein, Mr. Mikva, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Roybal, and Mr. Reid of New York) introduced the following joint resolution: which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the Congress that title to Alcatraz Island should be transferred to representatives of the American Indian community.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America assembled, That the President of the United States is directed to initiate immediate negotiations with delegated representatives of the Alcatraz Relief Fund and any other appropriate representatives of the American Indian community with the objective of transferring unencumbered title in fee of Alcatraz Island to the Alcatraz Relief Fund or any other designated organization of the American Indian community.



The above bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on December 23, 1969. Unfortunately, there is something known as the "democratic process" and "legislative procedures" which are impeding the progress of the bill (we know it isn't because of anyone opposing it; after all, the government is there to help us and all the officials are in support of us).

The passage of this bill is extremely important to Alcatraz and to all other Indians in that it shows a change in government policy towards the Indian. It is being held in committee for now. We must move now to get this bill passed. Support us by notifying your Congressmen and Senators of your support and your desire to see this bill passed.

MARILYN MIRACLE

Page 4

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-ORDINATOR**

From its original concept to the present occupation, Alcatraz has been a success. The problems encountered presented a tremendous challenge. To this date, we are not sitting back waiting for things to happen. We have a number of on-going programs and are working on proposals for both short and long range planning.

Alcatraz has already served a number of purposes. It has served as an awakening to the general public and the world of the many injustices, both past and present, done to the Native Americans. It has shown that we are proud of our culture and heritage and wish to retain it. Another accomplishment is the nightly program broadcast from Alcatraz across the nation and into Canada, without any outside censorship.

The occupation has shown that we can organize and develop unity. Under our unique situation, we have gone so far as to become incorporated within less than two months. A number of committees have been set up to handle the different jobs required. Among the accomplishments are a national volunteer Ad Hoc Emergency Committee whose function is to mobilize national non-Indian support. Also within less than two months our educational committee has begun negotiations to have the elementary school accredited by the State of California.

Our plans are for the development of an educational and cultural complex, as well as a travelling college to gather information on different tribal cultures and heritages (much of which is in danger of being lost). One immediate plan will be to hold a planning conference on Alcatraz. This would involve Indian peoples who specialize in education, ecology, environmental and structural planning, and the various tribal cultures and heritages. We need Indian people who are familiar with the Indian cultures, both the traditional and contemporary. When necessary, consultants will be called in and utilized.



At this point, both financial and political support is necessary. Politically, we need support on both a nation-wide and a national basis. This is necessary to gain acquisition of Alcatraz and to see our plans realized. Financial support is needed to maintain present on-going programs, along with funding for future programs such as the proposed conference and then implementation of programs deriving from the conference.

We will continue to keep you informed as programs develop.

Page 5

EARL R. LIVERMORE  
CO-ORDINATOR

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