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Oklahoma, Fort Sill School, 1927

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS-10
OKLAHOMA
FORT SILL SCHOOL
1927

Pawton, Okla., April 5, 1927 ^{40-V}

The Right Rev. Wm. Hughes
Washington, D.C.

Rec'd APR 8 1927	Amt.....	Ch.
Ans.....	Ent.....	Cu.
Foll'd.....	Masses.....	Dr.
Order filled.....	Work Slip O.K.....	P.O.
Ship't.....	List.....	E.O.
Copy to.....	Check sent.....	Sp.
		St.

About two miles

north of Pawton there is a Government school for Indians. About 25 of the pupils are catholic, and occasionally they come to masses on Sunday. It is however impossible for them to come all at one time as they have no transportation and the superintendent Mr. Shields, who as well as his wife is catholic, cannot bring all their children in his car or small truck. - The children or some of them also come to communion once in a while. Last year Father Stedphorse O.S.B., of the Anadarko mission came to Fort Hill (5 miles north of town) to help the catholic chaplain there for Easter Sunday. The day before Easter he went to the Indian school to see the ^{other} children most of whom were at one time in the Anadarko catholic school and heard their confessions of a number of them and had them at the Fort Hill chapel on Easter Sunday. Later, I understand, complaint was made by some preacher because the superintendent had allowed this.

Mr. Shields at present brings a few children who have not yet made their first Communion to my house on Saturday for instructions. - I have known only a short time that there are so many catholic children at that school and I think that

instructions in religion should be given them regularly at
the school itself and that transportation should be furnished
them if possible, to bring them to church on Sundays.

What is necessary that these instructions might be given
there regularly (for instance by two of the Sisters at our
parish school) without danger that the Sisters might
be embarrassed through complaints sent in to Washington
by some bigot?

And could you or the Indian Bureau do anything
to procure transportation for the children to church?

Another subject: Between you and me, I am
afraid that the little mission of Potwell is somewhat
neglected, in other words that the present incumbent
at Antlers takes care very little about it.

Yours sincerely in Christ
Chas. Van Hook



Rec'd APR 28 1927 Amt. Ch.
 Ans. *5/22/27* Ent. Cu.
 P. O. Dr.
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 Work Slip O. E. P. O.
 War Activities
 Copy to I. S. D. G. or Rel. Sp.
 Check sent St.



450

191

The Right Reverend Wm. Hughes,
 Director of the Bureau of Ethnology and Indian Missions,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Father Hughes,

I wrote you some
 two or three weeks ago about certain matters
 pertaining to pathetic pupils at the Government Indian
 school about two miles north of Lawton. Until now
 I have received no reply to my letter and I have been
 thinking that perhaps it has not reached you at all.
 If such is the case, please let me know and I
 will write you another letter.

Yours sincerely in Christ
 Chas. W. Hartley

40.7

May 20, 1927.

Rev. Charles Van Hulse,
Lawton,
Okla.

Dear Father Van Hulse:

Paragraph eight of General Regulations for Religious Worship and Instruction of Pupils in Government Indian Schools provides that religious instruction may be given to pupils in Government schools two hours on week days. Because of this provision Superintendent Shields is at entire liberty, indeed it is his duty, to allow the Sisters to give the Catholic pupils in his school religious instruction regularly. In case he permits this to be done and thereby brings criticism of his action in the form of complaints to the Indian Office by some bigots, he may rest assured that this will not result in any embarrassment to him so far as the Indian Office is concerned. The Indian Office will regard his action as simply a compliance with the Regulations, and necessarily will not meet with its disapproval.

I am inclosing a copy of the Regulations, which you might hand to Mr. Shields and tell him that they are his guide in the matter of religious instruction to his pupils. I hope you will carry out your idea of having the Sisters give religious instruction to the Catholic pupils in question, and wish there could be some means provided for the transportation of these children to your church. Very much to my regret, the Bureau, owing to its limited funds, can not furnish the means needed. Mr. Lusk asked Mr. Peairs, Administrative Chief of the Indian Service, if the Indian Office could provide a truck large enough to accommodate all the Catholic children who wish to go to church. Mr. Peairs said that there were no funds available to purchase such a truck, but that sometimes it happens that a large truck at some reservation or school might not be needed, and if he learned of such a case he would be glad to arrange, if possible, to have the truck turned over to Superintendent Shields. Mr. Peairs gave no strong hope that this could be brought about. Mr. Lusk will keep the matter in mind and as opportunity offers will bring it again to Mr. Peairs' attention.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

CSL:JR

46-V
June 8, 1927.

Rev. Charles Van Hulse,
Lawton,
Okla.

Dear Father Van Hulse:

Since writing my letter of May 20, I have learned that the Indian Office took up with Superintendent Shields the matter of furnishing transportation to the Catholic children of his school to your church, that Mr. Shields had reported that he had two trucks available, and that as a consequence there will be no difficulty whatever in transporting these children from the school to Lawton.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles S. Lusk,
Secretary.

CSL:JR

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WESTERN UNION

Form 1220-B

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NTE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
ICD	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

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Received at 1927 NOV 11 PM 9 48

KA218 99 NL.LAWTON OKLA 11
 RIGHT REV WM HUGHES.
 2021 H ST NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DC.

OVER A MONTH AGO INDIAN OFFICE WASHINGTON WIRED SUPERINTENDENT SHIELDS OF INDIAN SCHOOL HERE ASKING WHETHER HE COULD USE THIRTY PASSENGER BUS AVAILABLE AT LEGION TEXAS MR SHIELDS IMMEDIATELY WIRED ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER SINCE THEN HE HAS HEARD NOTHING ABOUT BUS IT WOULD BE VERY ACCEPTABLE HERE FOR VARIOUS REASONS ONE OF WHICH I MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR IN LETTER TO YOU LAST YEAR MORE IMPERATIVE THAN EVER SINCE ELECTRIC CAR SERVICE HAS BEEN STOPPED RECENTLY BETWEEN FTSILL INDIAN SCHOOL AND LAWTON COULD YOU REMIND INDIAN OFFICE OF THEIR OFFER AND HAVE EXPEDITE DELIVERANCE OF BUS AT INDIAN SCHOOL HERE.

FATHER CHAS VAN HULSE.

Rec'd NOV 12 1927 Amt. Ch.
 Ans. Bnt. Cu.
 Foll'd Messes Dr.
 Order filled Work Slip O.K. P.O.
 Ship't List H.O.
 Copy to I. S. D. G. or Ref. Sp.
 Copy to Check sent St.

Passenger Box for
St. Ill School

Mrs. V

November 15, 1927.

Rev. Charles Van Hulse,
Lawton,
Okla.

Dear Father Van Hulse:

In reply to your night letter of November 11, I beg to say that the Indian Office informs me that on November 2 instructions were issued for the shipment of the thirty passenger box to Superintendent Shields.

Yours very sincerely,

Charles S. Lusk,
Secretary.

CSL:JR