

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

5-3244

11122-

1918.

CARLISLE

File No.

154

Ed-Schools.
11122-18.
19667-18.
G A C



MAR 27 1918

Mr. Jerome Sultuska,

Through Supt., Carlisle School

FILED BY G. P. F.

My Friend:

I have looked into the complaint contained in your letter of February 6, concerning the method of punishment employed by Mr. Denny, Disciplinarian, when he found you had been using tobacco in violation of the rules. You say he cursed you and called you a negro and that you reported the matter to the Superintendent who took no action.

Inquiry has developed that you not only used tobacco yourself contrary to rules, but gave it to small boys. When Mr. Denny found out that you had supplied the tobacco he waited for you, took you into the office and searched you, saying that there was "a nigger in the bush and he was going to find him." This is a common expression meaning that there is more to the matter than appears on the surface, and it was evidently not intended by Mr. Denny as an epithet. It seems after supper you went into Mr. Denny's office and apologized, but were required next day to take the punishment provided for use of tobacco. You told the Superintendent that Mr. Denny did not hurt you.

After carefully considering the matter it appears that your whole trouble has grown out of your disobedience of the rules of the school, and that you not only used the tobacco yourself, but that you supplied it to small boys who were not in the habit of using it. Not only your own welfare but the interests of the school as a whole demanded prompt action on the part of the Disciplinarian, and I am of opinion that the measures employed by him were none too vigorous. I hope you will see that the trouble has resulted from your own disobedience and that no

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

one else is to blame and that after this lesson
you will have no further trouble of the kind.

I am sending this letter through the Super-
intendent in order that he may be informed of its
contents.

Your friend,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

3-SP-23

Copy to Supt. Carlisle.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

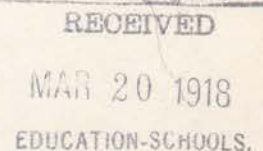
March
Fourth,
1918

FILED BY G. P. F.



Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:



The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 15, 1918 regarding a letter from Jerome Sultuska in which it is said that Mr. Denny, the Disciplinarian, when Sultuska was caught using tobacco, instead of punishing him in the right way, cursed him and called him a negro, that this is not the first time this has happened, that he has hit boys with his fists and that this has been reported to me without any effect.

The further statement is made that Sultuska says that he is willing to take his punishment but not as it was administered to him in this instance by Mr. Denny.

Each
I have investigated this matter as well as I could. As I understand it, there are only two witnesses to the altercation in question; Mr. Denny and Jerome. Mr. Denny is a Disciplinarian and has charge of the small boys' quarters. He is an excellent employee. In all the time that I have been at the school I have never heard him use profane language and I doubt very much whether he does. The case resolves itself into believing the story of Mr. Denny or the boy.

Jerome Sultuska will be 18 years old in July. He is a 3/8 blood Shawnee Indian and has some Mexican blood. In February Mr. Denny noticed some tobacco stains in the snow back of his building. He promptly investigated and discovered that some of the small

boys were chewing tobacco. These boys had never before used tobacco, to his knowledge, and he was quite sure that they had not purchased it. He, therefore, proceeded with his investigation and traced it to Jerome Sultuska. That evening Jerome was rather late in coming back to quarters but Mr. Denny was watching for him and when he came in called for him to come into his office. Jerome started to run upstairs when Mr. Denny grabbed him, struck him and took him into his office and searched him, at the same time announcing that there was a nigger in the bush about this tobacco business and he was going to find him. Jerome was chewing tobacco and had a large plug on him which Mr. Denny confiscated and burned in the furnace. He then took Jerome to the wash room and made him wash his mouth out and turned him loose after telling him that he would have to take the punishment provided for the use of tobacco the next day. After supper Jerome came in to see Mr. Denny and apologized, his scheme apparently being to get out of walking punishment. The next day, however, during his play time, Mr. Sultuska was required to walk punishment for two hours in his overcoat with a gun for the use of the tobacco.

I talked to Jerome about the matter and at first he was very strongly of the opinion that he had been greatly abused. He was so filled with emotion that he could not give me any definite facts as to the language used by Mr. Denny; he told me that he could not repeat it as it was profane language. He maintained that Denny called him a negro. He said Mr. Denny hit him but that he wasn't hurt. He later returned to the office and suggested that if I would not tell Mr. Denny, he would like to let the matter drop.

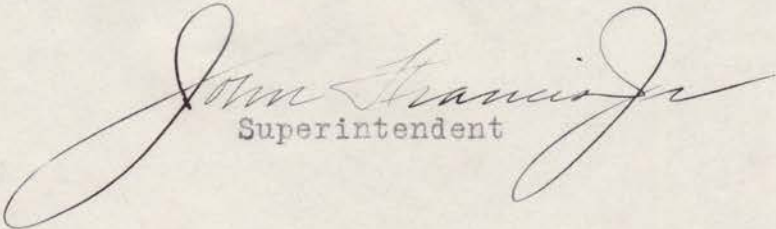
Jerome is not a bad boy but simply one who got into trouble. He was using tobacco and giving it to other Indian boys and Mr. Denny rightly took the tobacco away from him. He is a small lad so that Mr. Denny easily handled him and it is my opinion that no unusual force was used or necessary. If the boy had been abused, he would have come to me quick enough. An inspection of Mr. Denny's dormitory would show no signs of ill treatment or unkindness to his boys and Jerome admitted to me that he wasn't hurt in his mixup with Mr. Denny.

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The matter should be treated as settled the day Jerome finished walking his time. I would particularly appreciate it if the Office would advise the boy in response to his communication that the quicker he gives up tobacco and obeys the rules of the school the sooner he will keep out of trouble. It seems to me that it would be particularly bad for discipline if the impression once got about among these boys that they could appeal to the Commissioner whenever they were punished for violation of the rules.

I assume full responsibility in this case for the action of Mr. Denny which, I feel, was in the interest of good discipline and in no sense was he guilty of inflicting unusual punishment.

Sincerely yours,

JF-E


Superintendent

Inspection
11122-18
J H D

FEB 15 1918

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Francis:

A letter has been received from Jerome Sultuska, who says that on the 6th inst., a boy reported him for using tobacco, that instead of punishing him in the right way Mr. Denny cursed him and called him a negro; that this is not the first time this has happened, that he has hit boys with his fists and that this has been reported to you without any effect.

The boy says he is willing to take his punishment but not as was administered him in this instance by Mr. Denny.

Please investigate this complaint and make such report as may be necessary.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

Mr. John Francis,

Supt. Carlisle School.



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U.S. Ind School,
Carlisle, Pa.,

Feb. 6/1888.

Mr Cato Sells,

Comr. of Ind. Affairs

Dear friend Mr Sells,

Just I am writing you
a letter which I
think it is about
time for some one
to say something
about.

Mr Sells. I am
complaining and I

know I have a good ~~Dr~~ negro?
reason.

To-day a boy re-
ported me for using
tobacco and instead
of punishing me in
the right way ~~the~~
Mr Denny our ^{disciplinarian}
simply cursed me,
taking ~~the~~ Lord's
name in vain
and at the same
time called me a
negro. Mr Sells has
he the right to
curse an Indian
boy and called him

Now Mr Sells this
is not the first
time this has hap-
pened, he has hit
boys with his fist.

This has been re-
ported to our Superin-
tendent but that
is all the further
it has gotten

I am willing to
take my punishment
but not in that
way.

I hope you will
see to this Mr Sells.

I am your Indian
friend

Jerome Sultuska