Lindsey also promptly placed a telephone call to Avent to discuss the O'Connor issue, as he told O'Connor he would. Lindsey told Avent that O'Connor had complained to the President that she was not returning O'Connor's calls. Avent told Lindsey that it was Administration policy not to talk to lobbyists on matters concerning Native Americans without prior consent from the leader of the tribe that the lobbyist was representing. Lindsey told Avent that he understood her position, but that she should nonetheless return O'Connor's telephone calls and tell him just that; *i.e.*, absent tribal consent, she dealt only with Indian leaders directly.

After her telephone conversation with Lindsey, Avent wrote a memorandum to Ickes about O'Connor and the Hudson situation. Avent informed Ickes that she had just received a call from Lindsey about the O'Connor situation, and recounted for Ickes what she told Lindsey: that she dealt only with tribal leaders absent consent from the tribe. "Following the legal advice we have received concerning these kinds of issues, I have not and would not speak with him, or any lobbyist or lawyer."[294] Avent set forth for Ickes her view that White House involvement in the Hudson matter would entail adverse consequences for the President and the White House. Avent was cognizant of the "politics and the press surrounding this particular situation," and stated that it was in the White House's "best interest to keep [the Hudson matter] totally away from the [W]hite [H]ouse in general, and the [President] in particular." Avent told Ickes that the Hudson matter was a "hot potato" that was "too hot to touch," and that the "legal and political implication of our involvement would be disastrous." As Avent's memo explained, her concerns were based in part on her desire not to put the Administration in the position of violating the "government-

[294]Memorandum from Loretta Avent to Harold Ickes, Apr. 24, 1995.