

the comment about wealthier tribes generating the opposition must have been essentially an oversimplification of a greater explication she provided. Meyers has no present recollection of the conversation, but maintains that he would not have included any information in his report to O'Connor except what Sibbison provided him.

Sibbison did not disclose her May and early June contact with O'Connor or Meyers when she wrote the August 1996 memo that was attached to Secretary Babbitt's letter to Sen. McCain regarding White House contacts. *See* Section II.K.1.d., *infra*. Sibbison explained that she did not recall the contacts at that time, and that her recollection was subsequently refreshed by reviewing documents. She has only a vague recollection of either conversation.

3) Department of the Interior Assistance in Responding to the June 12, 1995, Congressional Letter to Ickes

In June, Ickes received a letter dated June 12 from several Democratic members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation.³³⁰ The letter indicated that it was also copied to Secretary Babbitt and Chief of Staff Panetta. The letter expressed the signatories' opposition to the Hudson casino application, and referred to the delegation members' "understanding that the Department of Interior is leaning toward approving the application." The members then wrote, "because of your understanding of the problems surrounding this proposal, we ask you to explain our concerns to Secretary Babbitt." In a recent interview, Ickes recalled generally that he received this letter and provided it to Jennifer O'Connor to handle. Jennifer O'Connor also recalled receiving the letter from Ickes and seeking Interior's assistance in dealing with it.

³³⁰The letter was signed by Sen. Wellstone, as well as Congressmen Sabo, Oberstar, Vento, Peterson, Minge and Luther.