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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
"THE ROAD TO HEALING" TOUR
ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

TRANSCRIPT OF
TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Held at:
Sinte Gleska University
Student Multipurpose Building
101 Antelope Lake Circle
Mission, South Dakota
October 15, 2022

STENOGRAPHIC COURT REPORTER: ELIZABETH H. LUNDQUIST

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1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings
2 commenced at 10:31 a.m.: 10:31AM
3 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: I want to say good 10:31AM
4 morning. Welcome, everybody. At this time, I'm 10:31AM
5 going to call all our singers for the Flight 10:31AM
6 Song. (Speaks Native language.) 10:31AM
7 (Whereupon, singing commenced.) 10:31AM
8 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Veterans' Song. 10:31AM
9 (Whereupon, singing commenced.) 10:31AM
10 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: At this time, ladies 10:36AM
11 and gentlemen, we call upon one of our spiritual 10:36AM
12 leaders, Richard Moves Camp, for a morning 10:36AM
13 prayer. 10:36AM
14 RICHARD MOVES CAMP: (Speaks Native 10:36AM
15 language.) 10:36AM
16 (Whereupon, singing commenced.) 10:39AM
17 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: I'll turn it over to 10:39AM
18 the veterans. Post your colors. 10:39AM
19 (Whereupon, the flags were placed.) 10:41AM
20 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Thank you, all. 10:41AM
21 Please be seated. At this time, we're going to 10:41AM
22 turn it over to our president of the Rosebud 10:41AM
23 Sioux Tribe, Scott Herman. 10:41AM
24 PRESIDENT SCOTT HERMAN: Good morning,
25 everyone. I'm Scott Herman. I'm the president

1 of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

2 Great to see everybody here today. It's
3 a very beautiful morning to have a historical
4 event like we're having today.

5 First of all, I want to give a big 10:41AM
6 shout-out and thank-you to all of the people that 10:41AM
7 put this together. It took a lot of work to 10:41AM
8 organize. 10:41AM

9 Joaquin Gallegos, Secretary of the 10:41AM
10 Interior's Office, my office staff, Kristin Thin 10:41AM
11 Elk, Dolores Barron, Leonna Black Bear, Ellie 10:41AM
12 Larvie Kills In Sight, Roger Crow Eagle.

13 They all played a big part in getting
14 everything together. They were bustling around
15 at the last minute to do all the details.

16 I'd like to thank Marcina Woka Nazo
17 Venture Program (phonetic) for their part in all 10:42AM
18 of this and, of course, the singers from the 10:42AM
19 elementary, Rosebud Elementary Singers. 10:42AM

20 Brian, you did a really good -- you do a 10:42AM
21 good job with your singers, and thank you very 10:42AM
22 much. We really appreciate it. 10:42AM

23 Today is a historical event for everybody 10:42AM
24 here, and I want to start out by reading the -- 10:42AM
25 how this came about and, basically, reading the 10:42AM

1 letter that I received, a Dear Tribal Leaders 10:42AM
2 Letter, from the Secretary of Interior's Office 10:42AM
3 requesting that we have this event here today as 10:42AM
4 part of her -- her boarding school initiative. 10:42AM
5 I'll read that, and so everybody has a 10:42AM
6 clear understanding of what we're here to do 10:42AM
7 today and how things are going to proceed from 10:42AM
8 here. 10:43AM
9 After that, I'll have my colleague, 10:43AM
10 Russell Eagle Bear, give a brief history of how 10:43AM
11 this all got started; and then, we'll give the 10:43AM
12 introduction to the Secretary of Interior. 10:43AM
13 And I'd like to read her bio, as far 10:43AM
14 as -- so everybody knows who she is and what 10:43AM
15 she's all about. 10:43AM
16 I'll start out with the letter that I got 10:43AM
17 from -- the Dear Tribal Leaders Letter I got from 10:43AM
18 the Secretary of Interior's office and -- on -- 10:43AM
19 it was on September 26th. 10:43AM
20 In June of 2021, she says she launched the 10:43AM
21 Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative at the 10:43AM
22 U.S. Department of Interior to highlight the 10:43AM
23 troubled history of federal Indian boarding 10:43AM
24 school policies and their legacy for Indigenous 10:43AM
25 people. 10:43AM

1 However, to address the generational 10:43AM
2 impact of the federal Indian boarding schools to 10:43AM
3 promote spiritual and emotional healing in our 10:43AM
4 communities, we must acknowledge and shed light 10:43AM
5 on the unspoken traumas of the past. 10:43AM
6 In May of this year, Assistant Secretary 10:44AM
7 of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland released 10:44AM
8 volume one of the investigative report, as called 10:44AM
9 for -- as part of the Initiative. 10:44AM
10 Volume one of the report lays the 10:44AM
11 groundwork for the Department's continued 10:44AM
12 advancement of the Initiative in coordination 10:44AM
13 with sister agencies. 10:44AM
14 To build on this work, she launched The 10:44AM
15 Red Road to Healing -- "The Road to Healing," 10:44AM
16 which will serve as a year-long tour across the 10:44AM
17 country to provide survivors of the federal 10:44AM
18 Indian boarding school system and their 10:44AM
19 descendants an opportunity to share experiences. 10:44AM
20 This is the third stop on this historic 10:44AM
21 tour: In South Dakota, "where Assistant 10:44AM
22 Secretary Newland and I will visit. 10:44AM
23 "I would invite your survivors from your 10:44AM
24 community and the survivor families to join on 10:44AM
25 the following date and time," and that's why 10:44AM

1 we're here today. 10:44AM

2 The opportunity to attend and participate 10:44AM

3 in this day will help inform the federal 10:44AM

4 government about subsequent work for the 10:44AM

5 Initiative, and it will also provide the platform 10:44AM

6 for stories to be heard. 10:45AM

7 A court reporter will be on-site to 10:45AM

8 transcribe the event. We expect to limit press 10:45AM

9 access to the first hour of the event so that 10:45AM

10 those who need privacy are afforded the 10:45AM

11 opportunity to participate without the media 10:45AM

12 being present. 10:45AM

13 This burden of reliving this painful past 10:45AM

14 will be immensely difficult for Indigenous 10:45AM

15 families, including my own, who carry this 10:45AM

16 trauma. 10:45AM

17 Trauma-informed support will be 10:45AM

18 available on-site. We will also connect 10:45AM

19 survivors and their families with follow-up 10:45AM

20 support, as requested. This is from the 10:45AM

21 Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland. 10:45AM

22 Again, it's a great honor to be here to 10:45AM

23 host this, to be asked to host this kind of 10:45AM

24 event. Hopefully, we all continue to be able to 10:45AM

25 heal from these kind of traumas. 10:45AM

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1 I'm going to ask my colleague, Russell 10:45AM
2 Eagle Bear, to come up and give a little history 10:45AM
3 on how this began. 10:45AM
4 RUSSELL EAGLE BEAR: (Speaks Native 10:46AM
5 language.) All my relatives, I know it. When 10:46AM
6 you have a federal agency that comes, you know, 10:46AM
7 they, kind of, have their own agenda. They want 10:46AM
8 to do things their own way. 10:47AM
9 But they are in Lakota Country, and so I 10:47AM
10 really want to thank our young people that sang 10:47AM
11 these songs. 10:47AM
12 And they're learning the songs of our 10:47AM
13 ancestors and following the ways of our people, 10:47AM
14 which is very important to us. 10:47AM
15 And we recognize the akichita, the 10:47AM
16 warrior, and the warriors of the past. They are 10:47AM
17 the reasons why we are here today: Because they 10:47AM
18 protected our ancestors and relatives. 10:47AM
19 And we are so thankful that our warriors 10:47AM
20 decided to come and posted their flags to help us 10:47AM
21 and to protect us continuously. 10:47AM
22 These are things that we do here as a 10:47AM
23 tribal nation and, sometimes, you know, we forget 10:47AM
24 to do these things. 10:47AM
25 But we're honored that all of you come 10:48AM

1 and are here today, if just for the hearing on 10:48AM
2 boarding schools. 10:48AM
3 But, years ago, we started a movement 10:48AM
4 here. Our kids did; our youth did. They went to 10:48AM
5 President Barack Obama's Invitation for Youth and 10:48AM
6 to create youth leadership. 10:48AM
7 And our people went. Our young people, 10:48AM
8 kids, went there. And, on their way back, they 10:48AM
9 stopped at a place called Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 10:48AM
10 one of the very first boarding schools in this 10:48AM
11 nation, and they found our relatives buried 10:48AM
12 there. 10:48AM
13 And we asked the Department of the 10:48AM
14 Interior to help us to do history, to be able to 10:48AM
15 find those relatives or descendants of those ones 10:48AM
16 buried. 10:48AM
17 They came to Tribal Council and asked, 10:49AM
18 "We want to bring our youth home from Carlisle," 10:49AM
19 because, at that time, where Carlisle is, it's 10:49AM
20 not a very good place to have a burial site. 10:49AM
21 And so, they came with a Resolution to 10:49AM
22 Tribal Council, and Tribal Council approved their 10:49AM
23 request. So we started a movement in securing 10:49AM
24 data; information. 10:49AM
25 And we worked very hard. With little 10:49AM

1 help from the Bureau, mind you, because they say, 10:49AM
2 "We can't help you because all of our records are 10:49AM
3 stored in Kansas City someplace, in a 10:49AM
4 depository." 10:49AM
5 And so, we had to do our own research, and 10:49AM
6 we had to go to Carlisle a few times. And then, 10:49AM
7 not knowing that it was an active military post 10:49AM
8 and the United States government, especially the 10:49AM
9 Army, are exempt: Exempt from national laws; 10:50AM
10 exempt from different -- they can do just about 10:50AM
11 anything they want. We found that out the hard 10:50AM
12 way. 10:50AM
13 So we came back, and we asked the 10:50AM
14 Department of Army for a government-to-government 10:50AM
15 consultation, and we brought them here at our 10:50AM
16 casino, and we started that movement. 10:50AM
17 And it was -- it's really been hard to 10:50AM
18 accomplish something that our youth wanted to do. 10:50AM
19 And we even went four years with no kind of 10:50AM
20 assistance from anyone, even the Department of 10:50AM
21 Interior, because of the president that -- that 10:50AM
22 was elected. 10:50AM
23 But it was a good time. It was a good 10:50AM
24 learning experience on how government works, and 10:50AM
25 it was experience for our youth. 10:51AM

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1 But in the meanwhile, they were doing 10:51AM
2 all their research. During their finding-out, we 10:51AM
3 had many people helping them with that research. 10:51AM
4 And a year ago, in July, we went to 10:51AM
5 Carlisle and recovered nine of our youth that are 10:51AM
6 buried there, and it was a -- it was quite the 10:51AM
7 experience to do that. 10:51AM
8 And when we came home, the amount of 10:51AM
9 people that showed up: This whole gym, this 10:51AM
10 whole gym was standing-room only, because our 10:51AM
11 people care. They care for those relatives that 10:51AM
12 were gone for 142 years. 10:51AM
13 They were thankful that we were able to 10:51AM
14 start that healing process for those ancestors 10:51AM
15 and even for us today, as they put us on 10:52AM
16 reservations in these little square sections; and 10:52AM
17 still being dictated to because of the funding; 10:52AM
18 because they can only do this, they can only do 10:52AM
19 that. 10:52AM
20 But we survived all of that. Many of us 10:52AM
21 went to boarding schools. We went to parochial 10:52AM
22 schools, you know. 10:52AM
23 And so, we were going to ask the 10:52AM
24 Department of the Interior to really, seriously, 10:52AM
25 on our behalf, as a tribal nation, to look at the 10:52AM

1 Discovery -- oh, what do you call it -- Doctrine 10:52AM
2 of Discovery. That's, kind of, been a hot topic 10:52AM
3 in Canada, and it should be here, too, today. 10:52AM
4 And so, we want them to look into that. 10:52AM
5 Let them do the research, because they have the 10:52AM
6 resources and the funding and the personnel. 10:53AM
7 There are many things that our tribal 10:53AM
8 nation want us to do. We -- we are -- each 10:53AM
9 reservation is experiencing different things. 10:53AM
10 But, today, we want that start of that 10:53AM
11 process, of that healing, and that we need to 10:53AM
12 move forward in a good way; in a positive way. 10:53AM
13 And that's what we want to do as tribal 10:53AM
14 nations: To be able to talk to the Department of 10:53AM
15 the Interior. 10:53AM
16 And we're really, really fortunate that 10:53AM
17 we finally have a Native, someone of our blood, 10:53AM
18 to be able to be head of that. 10:53AM
19 And I know she's got tremendous amount 10:53AM
20 of work ahead of her, especially with all these 10:53AM
21 tribes throughout the nation wanting audience 10:54AM
22 with her. 10:54AM
23 So we're really fortunate that she comes 10:54AM
24 here today to start that healing process among 10:54AM
25 our nation and remember the past, but in a good 10:54AM

1 way, and remember those leaders that asked, 10:54AM
2 especially in Carlisle. 10:54AM
3 We have Chief Swift Bear, Chief White 10:54AM
4 Hunter, Chief Spotted Tail. Back in 1882, they 10:54AM
5 asked the return of our kids from Carlisle. 10:54AM
6 They say they sent a letter to the 10:54AM
7 Commissioner of Indian Affairs, saying, "Please 10:54AM
8 send our kids back, even if they're gone. Bring 10:54AM
9 them home so that we can grieve for them and that 10:54AM
10 we can do appropriate ceremonies for them, and 10:54AM
11 that we can bury them in our country." 10:54AM
12 Well, Commissioner of Indian Affairs never 10:54AM
13 honored that request. And a year and a half ago, 10:55AM
14 in July, we accomplished that for those people, 10:55AM
15 those families that wanted their relatives to 10:55AM
16 come home. So, we did that. 10:55AM
17 And a lot of our youth that are passing 10:55AM
18 out water and coffee and -- they're all here 10:55AM
19 today to help us continue this healing process 10:55AM
20 that we all need as a tribal nation. 10:55AM
21 So I can go on all day, but I see the 10:55AM
22 Department of the Interior is looking at me. And 10:55AM
23 so, I'm going to give them the mic. 10:55AM
24 But this is their meeting, this is how 10:55AM
25 they want to do things, and we're going to turn 10:55AM

1 it over to them. 10:55AM

2 And they will -- they will explain to 10:55AM

3 you how the process is going to happen for you to 10:55AM

4 give testimony. 10:55AM

5 And I believe we set some rooms aside if 10:55AM

6 you want to do it privately. And if you do not 10:55AM

7 want the press here when you're speaking, let 10:55AM

8 them know that because there is protocol, there 10:55AM

9 is respect that we, as Lakota people, follow. 10:56AM

10 And I hope that they do, also. 10:56AM

11 And I'm hoping that they have somebody 10:56AM

12 to interpret, especially for one of our elders 10:56AM

13 that may wish to speak in Lakota, and to be able 10:56AM

14 to translate it. 10:56AM

15 These are things that we just, kind of, 10:56AM

16 put out. That's our protocol here. But today, 10:56AM

17 we're going to follow their protocol. 10:56AM

18 And so, we're going to turn it over to 10:56AM

19 them. So, thank you. Pilamaya (speaks Native 10:56AM

20 language). 10:56AM

21 PRESIDENT SCOTT HERMAN: Now, I'd like to 10:56AM

22 read Secretary Deb Haaland's bio. Like I said 10:56AM

23 before, we really want to know where she -- who 10:56AM

24 she is and where she comes from. 10:56AM

25 Secretary Haaland grew up in a military 10:56AM

1 family. Her father was a 30-year combat Marine 10:56AM
2 who was awarded the Silver Star Medal for saving 10:57AM
3 six lives in Vietnam. 10:57AM
4 And her mother is a Navy veteran who 10:57AM
5 served as a federal employee for 25 years at the 10:57AM
6 Bureau of Indian Affairs. 10:57AM
7 As a military child, she attended 10:57AM
8 13 public schools before graduating from Highland 10:57AM
9 High School in Albuquerque. 10:57AM
10 As a single mother, Secretary Haaland 10:57AM
11 volunteered at her child's preschool to afford 10:57AM
12 early childhood education. 10:57AM
13 Like many parents, she had to rely on 10:57AM
14 food stamps at times as a single parent; lived 10:57AM
15 paycheck to paycheck; and struggled to put 10:57AM
16 herself through college. 10:57AM
17 At the age of 28, Haaland enrolled at 10:57AM
18 the University of New Mexico, where she earned 10:57AM
19 her bachelor's degree in English and later earned 10:57AM
20 her juris doctorate from UNM Law School. 10:57AM
21 Secretary Haaland and her child, who 10:57AM
22 also graduated from the University of New Mexico, 10:57AM
23 are still paying off student loans. 10:57AM
24 Secretary Haaland ran her own small 10:57AM
25 business, producing and canning Pueblo Salsa; 10:57AM

1 served as a tribal administrator at San Felipe 10:58AM
2 Pueblo; and became the first woman elected to the 10:58AM
3 Laguna Development Corporation Board of 10:58AM
4 Directors, overseeing business operations of the 10:58AM
5 second largest tribal gaming enterprise in New 10:58AM
6 Mexico. 10:58AM
7 She successfully advocated for the 10:58AM
8 Laguna Development Corporation to create policies 10:58AM
9 and commitments to environmentally friendly 10:58AM
10 business practices. 10:58AM
11 Throughout her career in public service, 10:58AM
12 Secretary Haaland has broken barriers and opened 10:58AM
13 up the doors of opportunity for future 10:58AM
14 generations. 10:58AM
15 After running for the New Mexico 10:58AM
16 Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Secretary Haaland 10:58AM
17 became the first Native American woman to be 10:58AM
18 elected to lead a state party. 10:58AM
19 She is one of the first Native American 10:58AM
20 women to serve in Congress. In Congress, she 10:58AM
21 focused on environmental justice; climate change; 10:58AM
22 missing and murdered Indigenous women; and 10:58AM
23 family-friendly policies. 10:58AM
24 Secretary Deb Haaland made history when 10:58AM
25 she became the first Native American to serve as 10:59AM

1 a cabinet secretary. She's a member of the 10:59AM
2 Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th-generation New 10:59AM
3 Mexican. 10:59AM
4 With that, I would like to introduce and 10:59AM
5 welcome Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland. 10:59AM
6 SECRETARY DEB HAALAND: Thank you, 10:59AM
7 everyone. Thank you. Thank you, thank you so 10:59AM
8 much. It's an honor. It's a true honor for me 10:59AM
9 to be here. Thank you. 10:59AM
10 Before I speak or give my remarks, I 10:59AM
11 would -- I've asked Wizi to come up and give some 10:59AM
12 remarks first. So, thank you. 10:59AM
13 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY 10:59AM
14 WIZIPAN GARRIOTT LITTLE ELK: (Speaks Native 10:59AM
15 language.) Good morning to each and every one of 11:01AM
16 you, with a good heart. It's good to see 11:01AM
17 everyone. 11:01AM
18 It's good to be here in our homeland and 11:01AM
19 to be here in my own community, and that makes my 11:01AM
20 heart happy. 11:01AM
21 But I'm also -- my heart is also very 11:01AM
22 sad because of the things that we're going to 11:01AM
23 hear today and the things that we're going to 11:01AM
24 talk about. 11:01AM
25 And that, as part of this journey, it's 11:01AM

1 important to remember that we: As Lakota and as 11:01AM
2 other Indigenous people, we're still here. 11:01AM
3 And we can go through anything. Nothing 11:01AM
4 can harm us. We can survive anything. Our 11:01AM
5 ancestors survived it, and they passed it onto 11:01AM
6 us. 11:01AM
7 I don't have to discuss our history, but 11:01AM
8 it's worth noting that, you know, first, they 11:01AM
9 came and took our buffalo; and then, our land was 11:01AM
10 taken; and then, our children; and then, our 11:02AM
11 traditional form of government; and then, our 11:02AM
12 religion and spiritual practices were outlawed. 11:02AM
13 And we survived all of that. And the 11:02AM
14 road, the journey to healing, is a long one, and 11:02AM
15 every journey begins with one step. And many 11:02AM
16 have been on that journey and have been carrying 11:02AM
17 the torch for a long time. 11:02AM
18 And, as the federal government, this 11:02AM
19 report, under the leadership of Secretary Haaland 11:02AM
20 and Assistant Secretary Newland, are formally 11:02AM
21 guarding that journey. 11:02AM
22 And, you know, it's going to take a 11:02AM
23 while. You know, nothing is going to -- it's 11:02AM
24 going to take many years. But, you know, this is 11:02AM
25 the process to go on-record with their report. 11:02AM

1 I have the honor and privilege to work 11:02AM
2 with them. They're -- you know, as everyone 11:03AM
3 knows, my family lives here in Rosebud, and I go 11:03AM
4 back and forth. I work mostly in D.C. 11:03AM
5 And I wouldn't do that, I wouldn't make 11:03AM
6 that -- the sacrifices of the things which are 11:03AM
7 important to me, which is time with my family and 11:03AM
8 my children and all of you, if I didn't believe 11:03AM
9 in these two. So, thank you. 11:03AM
10 Bryan: Bryan's like a brother, and we've 11:03AM
11 known each other for a long time. And Secretary 11:03AM
12 Haaland is one of the most inspiring people in 11:03AM
13 the country. 11:03AM
14 And so, it's an honor and privilege to 11:03AM
15 serve with them, and it's an honor and privilege 11:03AM
16 to just be here today and to bare witness to 11:03AM
17 everyone's stories. 11:03AM
18 One thing that was mentioned: In 11:03AM
19 addition to, you know, the trauma-informed 11:03AM
20 healing spaces, we also have our traditional 11:03AM
21 leaders and traditional medicine men and cultural 11:03AM
22 experts over here. 11:04AM
23 And so, if anyone would like to -- needs 11:04AM
24 help, and they want to do it and talk to somebody 11:04AM
25 in the traditional way, they're over here (speaks 11:04AM

1 Native language), and others here to talk and to 11:04AM
2 be there. 11:04AM

3 And just remember to drink water, 11:04AM
4 smudge, say a prayer, and to make sure that 11:04AM
5 you're taking care of yourselves as we go through 11:04AM
6 the day. 11:04AM

7 So, with that, it's an honor and 11:04AM
8 privilege to turn it over to Secretary Haaland, 11:04AM
9 who is one of the most inspiring leaders in the 11:04AM
10 nation. Thank you. 11:04AM

11 SECRETARY DEB HAALAND: Thank you so much. 11:04AM
12 I should have introduced him as the Principal 11:04AM
13 Deputy Assistant Secretary, because that's what 11:04AM
14 he -- that's his title. 11:04AM

15 And I have such an enormous amount of 11:04AM
16 respect for Wizi, and I know that we wouldn't be 11:05AM
17 doing all of the things we're doing without his 11:05AM
18 leadership, guidance, assistance, and just his 11:05AM
19 wonderful heart. So, thank you, Wizi. I'm 11:05AM
20 really honored to serve alongside you. 11:05AM

21 Thank you, President Herman. Thank you 11:05AM
22 to the tribal leaders who are here, also, with us 11:05AM
23 this morning. 11:05AM

24 And to some of my dear friends who I see 11:05AM
25 in the crowd here, thank you for being here. I'm 11:05AM

1 so happy. 11:05AM

2 Thank you to the singers and their 11:05AM

3 teacher, who -- it just -- it's such a joy to see 11:05AM

4 that dedication. 11:05AM

5 And I know that I, myself, and my family 11:05AM

6 and our people at Laguna and other Pueblos in New 11:05AM

7 Mexico were also products of the assimilation 11:05AM

8 era. 11:05AM

9 And I feel like I'm here because my 11:05AM

10 grandparents and their parents protected our 11:06AM

11 traditions and ceremonies for me, so I'm very 11:06AM

12 happy to be here. 11:06AM

13 Thank you, Director Dearman, for also 11:06AM

14 making the trip and being here with us. (Speaks 11:06AM

15 Native language.) 11:06AM

16 Greetings and good morning, everyone. 11:06AM

17 Thank you for the beautiful blessing, for all of 11:06AM

18 the words that have been spoken so far this 11:06AM

19 morning, as we embark on this journey together. 11:06AM

20 It's a tremendous honor to join all of you 11:06AM

21 on the ancestral homelands of the Lakota people. 11:06AM

22 I am not going to take up a lot of time, but -- 11:06AM

23 because I'm really here to listen to all of you. 11:06AM

24 Your voices are important to me, and I thank you 11:06AM

25 for your willingness to speak. 11:06AM

1 Federal Indian boarding policies -- 11:06AM
2 school policies have touched every Indigenous 11:06AM
3 person I know. 11:07AM
4 Some are survivors, some are 11:07AM
5 descendants, but we all carry the trauma from 11:07AM
6 that era in our hearts. 11:07AM
7 My ancestors endured the horrors of the 11:07AM
8 Indian boarding school assimilation policies 11:07AM
9 carried out by the same Department that I now 11:07AM
10 lead. 11:07AM
11 This is the first time in history that a 11:07AM
12 United States Cabinet Secretary comes to the 11:07AM
13 table with this shared trauma, and that's not 11:07AM
14 lost on me. 11:07AM
15 I'm determined to use my position for 11:07AM
16 the good of our people. I've launched -- thank 11:07AM
17 you, thank you. 11:07AM
18 I've launched the Federal Indian 11:07AM
19 Boarding School Initiative last year to undertake 11:07AM
20 a comprehensive effort to recognize the legacy of 11:07AM
21 boarding school policies with the goal of 11:07AM
22 addressing their intergenerational impacts and to 11:07AM
23 shed light on the traumas of the past. 11:07AM
24 To do that, we need to tell our stories. 11:07AM
25 Today is part of that journey. Through "The Road 11:07AM

1 to Healing," our goal is to create opportunities 11:07AM
2 for people to share their stories, but also to 11:08AM
3 help connect communities with trauma-informed 11:08AM
4 support and, overall, to facilitate the 11:08AM
5 collection of a permanent oral history. 11:08AM
6 South Dakota is the third stop on "The 11:08AM
7 Road to Healing," which is a year-long tour 11:08AM
8 across the country to provide Indigenous 11:08AM
9 survivors of the federal Indian boarding school 11:08AM
10 system and their descendants an opportunity to 11:08AM
11 make known their own experiences. 11:08AM
12 I want you all to know that I am with you 11:08AM
13 on this journey. I will listen, I will grieve 11:08AM
14 with you, I will weep, and I will absolutely feel 11:08AM
15 your pain. 11:08AM
16 As we mourn what we have lost, please 11:08AM
17 know that we still have so much to gain. The 11:08AM
18 healing that can help our communities will not be 11:08AM
19 done overnight, but it will be done. 11:08AM
20 This is one step among many that we will 11:08AM
21 take to strengthen and rebuild the bonds within 11:08AM
22 Native communities that the federal Indian 11:08AM
23 boarding school policies set out to break. Those 11:09AM
24 steps have the potential to alter the course of 11:09AM
25 our future. 11:09AM

1 I am grateful to each one of you for 11:09AM
2 being here this morning, for stepping forward to 11:09AM
3 share your stories. I know it's not easy. 11:09AM
4 I will now turn the floor over to 11:09AM
5 Assistant Secretary Newland, who will outline 11:09AM
6 today's agenda. And, again, thank you all so 11:09AM
7 much for being here. 11:09AM
8 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Aaniin 11:09AM
9 boozhoo. Good morning. (Speaks Native 11:09AM
10 language.) 11:09AM
11 My name is Bryan Newland. I serve as 11:09AM
12 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs here at 11:09AM
13 the Department of the Interior. I'm honored to 11:09AM
14 be here at Rosebud today. 11:09AM
15 It's been a long time since I've had a 11:09AM
16 chance to visit my brother Wizi's homelands here, 11:09AM
17 but I've always enjoyed coming out here and it's 11:10AM
18 an absolutely beautiful day to be here with all 11:10AM
19 of you. And, of course, thank you, 11:10AM
20 Madame Secretary, just -- for everything. 11:10AM
21 I want to thank everybody who took time 11:10AM
22 out of your Saturday to come join us today. I 11:10AM
23 know that, as we get later in the year, these 11:10AM
24 beautiful days get fewer and further between, so 11:10AM
25 it's an honor to us that you took your time to be 11:10AM

1 with us today. 11:10AM

2 Yesterday, the Secretary and our team had 11:10AM

3 an opportunity to visit the memorial at Wounded 11:10AM

4 Knee with President Herman and others, where we 11:10AM

5 know that the United States Army killed many 11:10AM

6 unarmed Lakota people. 11:10AM

7 You know, it was a very moving event 11:10AM

8 and, of course, that is just part of a legacy in 11:10AM

9 this country of the federal government doing 11:10AM

10 things to Indian people. 11:10AM

11 And, of course, we know that one of 11:11AM

12 those was the federal Indian boarding school 11:11AM

13 policy, which began in the earliest days of this 11:11AM

14 country with the express purpose of forced 11:11AM

15 assimilation of the Indian people through our 11:11AM

16 kids as a way to, also, take lands from Indian 11:11AM

17 people. 11:11AM

18 And we know that, here, in South Dakota, 11:11AM

19 there were 31 federal Indian boarding schools, 11:11AM

20 including the Bishop Hare Industrial School, 11:11AM

21 which is just -- I can see it through the window 11:11AM

22 here across the field. 11:11AM

23 As we keep investigating the federal 11:11AM

24 Indian boarding school system and bringing about 11:11AM

25 your experience at specific schools and the 11:11AM

1 overall system, it paints a history that records 11:11AM
2 can't fully provide. 11:11AM

3 In addition to hearing from you, our 11:11AM
4 next steps include identifying marked and 11:11AM
5 unmarked burial sites across the federal Indian 11:11AM
6 boarding school system, and also identifying the 11:12AM
7 total amount of spending and federal support for 11:12AM
8 these boarding schools. 11:12AM

9 We encourage people to raise other 11:12AM
10 considerations that you think we need to make, 11:12AM
11 based on your experiences. 11:12AM

12 I want to acknowledge a number of people 11:12AM
13 here. First, I want to thank the Department of 11:12AM
14 Health and Human Services and Indian Health 11:12AM
15 Service colleagues who are here today, supporting 11:12AM
16 this event. 11:12AM

17 I know the new IHS director, Roselyn 11:12AM
18 Tso, was intending to be here, but I think travel 11:12AM
19 delays have prevented that. 11:12AM

20 We also have the BIE Director Tony Dearman 11:12AM
21 with us. Give us a wave, Tony. Thank you. He 11:12AM
22 has played an important role in this effort in 11:12AM
23 ensuring that our communities have an education 11:12AM
24 that integrates our cultures and have been 11:12AM
25 leading -- he's been leading efforts on language 11:12AM

1 revitalization. 11:12AM

2 We want to make sure that federal Indian 11:13AM

3 education programs don't ever resemble anything 11:13AM

4 close to what they did in our history. 11:13AM

5 I also want to thank President Herman 11:13AM

6 and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe for hosting us today 11:13AM

7 and this conversation that is long overdue. 11:13AM

8 We wish that we could visit every single 11:13AM

9 tribal community and hear from every single 11:13AM

10 person. 11:13AM

11 We know that -- please know we're trying 11:13AM

12 our best to get to as many places as we can and 11:13AM

13 hear directly from you on this, and I appreciate 11:13AM

14 the Rosebud Sioux Tribe making this space and 11:13AM

15 this day available. 11:13AM

16 I also appreciate our youth singers who 11:13AM

17 are here, and many of your community youth who 11:13AM

18 are leading the way in repatriating remains of 11:13AM

19 children in faraway places, like Carlisle, so 11:13AM

20 they can finally come home. 11:13AM

21 Along with the -- I also want to 11:13AM

22 acknowledge the research of Dr. Running Bear, who 11:13AM

23 is reinforcing the work that we're doing through 11:13AM

24 this Initiative; and also acknowledge Sinte 11:13AM

25 Gleska University, for helping us host this 11:14AM

1 event. 11:14AM

2 We also appreciate all the tribal 11:14AM

3 leaders who have come here from all across Indian 11:14AM

4 Country today to express support for the 11:14AM

5 survivors in your communities. 11:14AM

6 I see Harold Frazier, President 11:14AM

7 Killer -- any others here today? I don't want to 11:14AM

8 go through the list because I'll leave a lot of 11:14AM

9 folks out, but I appreciate you making the trip. 11:14AM

10 So, for today, I just want to share a few 11:14AM

11 points to guide our conversation. First, this is 11:14AM

12 an opportunity for survivors of federal Indian 11:14AM

13 boarding schools to tell their story. 11:14AM

14 And so, I will kindly and respectfully 11:14AM

15 ask that we give space first to people who 11:14AM

16 attended boarding schools to share their stories 11:14AM

17 with us. 11:14AM

18 Other folks who wish to provide us with 11:14AM

19 a statement, including tribal leaders, can do so 11:14AM

20 by sending email to the addresses that -- email 11:14AM

21 address that's on the information sheet we've 11:15AM

22 passed out. 11:15AM

23 We appreciate everybody who makes space 11:15AM

24 for survivors and their relatives to share their 11:15AM

25 stories of experience at federal Indian boarding 11:15AM

1 schools. 11:15AM

2 If you want to make a comment today, 11:15AM

3 please raise your hand. We've got some mic 11:15AM

4 runners here who are going to take the mic 11:15AM

5 around. 11:15AM

6 I see one here; there's a few in the 11:15AM

7 back row. We'll get to this. Just let me finish 11:15AM

8 the housekeeping. We'll get to it. 11:15AM

9 When you make a comment, we just ask that 11:15AM

10 you state your name; your tribal affiliation; and 11:15AM

11 the name or names of the Indian boarding schools 11:15AM

12 you want to speak about today. We're going to 11:15AM

13 try to make sure we hear from as many people as 11:15AM

14 we can. 11:15AM

15 Please note that, because one of our 11:15AM

16 objectives in this boarding school initiative is 11:15AM

17 to tell the story to the American people and the 11:15AM

18 world, that we have invited the press to join us 11:15AM

19 on this tour. 11:16AM

20 We also know that many survivors and 11:16AM

21 people don't want to speak in front of the media, 11:16AM

22 so the first hour of our listening session today, 11:16AM

23 we will have members of the press here. 11:16AM

24 We'll take a break; we'll excuse them 11:16AM

25 from the room; and then, we'll continue for folks 11:16AM

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1 who want to share without the news media covering 11:16AM
2 your remarks. 11:16AM

3 Also note that we are recording all of 11:16AM
4 these sessions with a court reporter who's making 11:16AM
5 a transcript and, if asked under federal law, we 11:16AM
6 may have to make that publicly available. 11:16AM

7 We want to hear from as many people as 11:16AM
8 possible. Our time is limited. We plan to stay 11:16AM
9 here throughout most of the day into the late 11:16AM
10 afternoon. 11:16AM

11 And, at some point, in the late 11:16AM
12 afternoon, we'll have to leave, and I'll give 11:16AM
13 plenty of warning when that's going to happen. 11:17AM

14 We just ask that, if you're going to 11:17AM
15 speak -- we don't have a time limit on your 11:17AM
16 speaking, but just ask that you be respectful of 11:17AM
17 the time that we have and others who want to 11:17AM
18 speak today. 11:17AM

19 I'm going to encourage people to take 11:17AM
20 seven to ten minutes with their comments. Again, 11:17AM
21 I know some folks will take longer to share what 11:17AM
22 they came to share. 11:17AM

23 But, at a certain point, I may interject 11:17AM
24 and ask people to make additional comments in 11:17AM
25 writing so we can hear from other speakers. 11:17AM

1 And I will do that with respect, without 11:17AM
2 intending to silence people, but it's to make 11:17AM
3 sure we can hear from as many people who've come 11:17AM
4 today as possible. 11:17AM
5 We know this conversation involves 11:17AM
6 difficult experiences and traumatic experiences. 11:17AM
7 That's why we've partnered with IHS and the tribe 11:17AM
8 to have trauma-informed support available onsite. 11:17AM
9 If you feel that you need that, please 11:18AM
10 see an attendant outside the classrooms next to 11:18AM
11 the gymnasium if you'd like to talk with a 11:18AM
12 licensed therapist. 11:18AM
13 Or, as Wizi said, we have traditional 11:18AM
14 healers and practitioners with us, as well, who 11:18AM
15 can assist you, if you'd like. And we will also 11:18AM
16 work to connect you with follow-up care, as 11:18AM
17 needed. 11:18AM
18 So I ask that everybody here please take 11:18AM
19 care of yourselves and those around you. There 11:18AM
20 is water available if you need it. We're here to 11:18AM
21 have a healing space and to begin this journey. 11:18AM
22 And for those of you who came to speak 11:18AM
23 today, I want to extend my gratitude to you, not 11:18AM
24 as Assistant Secretary, not as any formal 11:18AM
25 official, but as just a guy from my rez, the Bay 11:18AM

1 Mills Indian Community, who is also a descendent 11:18AM
2 of boarding school survivors. 11:18AM
3 None of you are alone. None of you are 11:18AM
4 alone. This system has affected all of us. And 11:19AM
5 we're here alongside you, with you, so that we 11:19AM
6 can start to heal together. So, I want to say, 11:19AM
7 "Miigwech." 11:19AM
8 Thank you so much. We are going to stop 11:19AM
9 speaking to you and hear from you. We are going 11:19AM
10 to, then, try to prioritize elders and survivors 11:19AM
11 first, and we'll stay as long as we can today. 11:19AM
12 Thank you. 11:19AM
13 RUBY LEFT HAND BULL SANCHEZ: Hello. My 11:19AM
14 name is Ruby Left Hand Bull Sanchez. (Speaks 11:19AM
15 Native language.) I was born in 1958, and I was 11:19AM
16 put into boarding school in 1963, at five years 11:20AM
17 old. 11:20AM
18 I was taken from my mom by tribal police 11:20AM
19 and a priest. And she told me that, if I 11:20AM
20 didn't -- if she didn't let me go with them or 11:20AM
21 let them take me, then all the other kids -- she 11:20AM
22 would go to jail, and all the other kids would be 11:20AM
23 gone, also. 11:20AM
24 And I found out after this, after I 11:20AM
25 talked to her. That's part of my healing. So I 11:20AM

1 went to St. Francis Mission since five years old. 11:20AM
2 And it was a mission school all the way 11:20AM
3 till it changed into an Indian school. And to 11:20AM
4 12th grade, I got a 4.5 GPA average. 11:20AM
5 At five years old, when I -- I have a 11:20AM
6 witness that seen me standing -- my witness was 11:21AM
7 standing in line with my older sister. 11:21AM
8 And, it happens. There's lines. 11:21AM
9 There's older people -- older kids and the 11:21AM
10 younger kids. 11:21AM
11 So she was standing in line to go to 11:21AM
12 lunch -- to breakfast, and the witness said -- 11:21AM
13 told my daughter that they heard someone 11:21AM
14 screaming. 11:21AM
15 They turned to that way to look, and my 11:21AM
16 sister said, "That's my little sis. That's my 11:21AM
17 little sis." 11:21AM
18 And she turned, and she seen -- they 11:21AM
19 seen a nun grabbing a sponge with lye and shoving 11:21AM
20 it down this girl's throat. 11:21AM
21 "Chin, chin Ina, Ina, Ina," and she 11:21AM
22 pushed that other girl, and that little girl 11:21AM
23 fainted, and the nuns drug her away. 11:21AM
24 And my witness said -- when my daughter 11:21AM
25 met her, she said, "I have a poem about this 11:21AM

1 girl. Her name is Little Sis." 11:21AM

2 And my sister was standing with her, and 11:21AM

3 she said, "That's my little sis." 11:22AM

4 But in boarding school, you can't go 11:22AM

5 help anybody. They couldn't -- she couldn't help 11:22AM

6 me. So when they drug me away, the witness 11:22AM

7 thought that I died. 11:22AM

8 So she wrote a poem about Little Sis, 11:22AM

9 and that was me. And my daughter told her, 11:22AM

10 "She's still alive. She's alive." 11:22AM

11 And so, until I met -- until I heard 11:22AM

12 from the witness, I thought this was all a 11:22AM

13 nightmare in a dream, and I thought I was crazy. 11:22AM

14 So I asked my older sister, "The things 11:22AM

15 that happened in boarding school, did they happen 11:22AM

16 to you?" 11:22AM

17 She goes, "Sister, we got it worser than 11:22AM

18 you." 11:22AM

19 And I couldn't imagine how much more 11:22AM

20 worse they could have had it than I did, because 11:22AM

21 ever since that happened to me with that nun, I 11:23AM

22 can't speak it. 11:23AM

23 I can't do anything. I can't even try, 11:23AM

24 because it won't come out. Whatever they cursed 11:23AM

25 me with, it's still there. 11:23AM

1 But my daughter, she's learning, and my 11:23AM
2 granddaughter is learning, so that way, we can 11:23AM
3 get that language. 11:23AM
4 But I am 64 years old. There's no way I 11:23AM
5 can ever get that language. There's no way I 11:23AM
6 could ever talk a full sentence to my daughter 11:23AM
7 and my granddaughter ever again, because it's -- 11:23AM
8 I'm too old. 11:23AM
9 And one thing is: There's not enough 11:23AM
10 money to get my language back. I lost my 11:23AM
11 heritage. 11:23AM
12 I lost my identity between the white 11:23AM
13 world and the Lakota world. I have to walk that 11:23AM
14 straight line in the middle. And I do it, but 11:23AM
15 it's hard. 11:23AM
16 And so, I do want recompense. I want 11:23AM
17 apologies; I want our language back; I want our 11:24AM
18 land back. I want everything back. 11:24AM
19 And I am 64 years old. There was 12 of 11:24AM
20 us. All 11 of us went, except for one child. 11:24AM
21 And all of them died, and there's trauma. 11:24AM
22 And I'm the only one that's speaking out 11:24AM
23 for my sisters and brothers, because I am their 11:24AM
24 voice. 11:24AM
25 And they were too ashamed. I can only 11:24AM

1 talk about that one. I can't talk about the 11:24AM
2 sexual -- sexual one. It's too traumatic for 11:24AM
3 children. So, thank you. 11:24AM
4 Here's my daughter, a descendant. 11:24AM
5 CANDICE VIGIL LEFT HAND BULL: My name is 11:24AM
6 Candice Vigil Left Hand Bull. I am speaking 11:24AM
7 today on behalf of my mom, because I did not know 11:24AM
8 my mom was a boarding school survivor. 11:24AM
9 And my whole life, I resented her, 11:24AM
10 because I didn't know Lakota culture and I had to 11:25AM
11 go to school. 11:25AM
12 And she wanted us to get our education 11:25AM
13 and to be educated and to know who we were in 11:25AM
14 American culture. 11:25AM
15 And for my whole life, until nine years 11:25AM
16 ago, when my mom started to share her sobriety 11:25AM
17 and her story, I thought, "How did these things 11:25AM
18 happen," you know. And she didn't go into 11:25AM
19 detail. 11:25AM
20 And I worked in mental health services. 11:25AM
21 And the witness does not want me to use her name 11:25AM
22 or anything, but I can use the story. 11:25AM
23 I was sitting in a facilitated group, and 11:25AM
24 the survivor shared a poem called "Little Sis." 11:25AM
25 And after she finished reading this poem, she 11:25AM

1 said, "If anyone knows this little girl, her name 11:26AM
2 is Ruby Left Hand Bull. And if you know her and 11:26AM
3 if know that she's alive or her family knows who 11:26AM
4 she is, if you could just reach out, anyone in 11:26AM
5 the community, and let me know if she still 11:26AM
6 lives." 11:26AM
7 I took a really big gulp, because that 11:26AM
8 person was my mom, and I had to hold 11:26AM
9 confidentiality and have the understanding that 11:26AM
10 these things were very traumatic. 11:26AM
11 To hear my mom cry when we got a picture 11:26AM
12 of her from the boarding school, and her hair's 11:26AM
13 all jagged and her bangs are all messed up, and 11:26AM
14 this side's short, and this side's long -- and I 11:26AM
15 said, "Mom, is this you?" 11:26AM
16 And she said, "Yes, that is me." 11:26AM
17 And I said, "Can you tell me about that 11:26AM
18 day?" 11:27AM
19 And she said, "Not right now." 11:27AM
20 And I'm just sharing because the healing 11:27AM
21 that is happening in my family is not just my 11:27AM
22 mom's, but it's generational: My mom, me, my 11:27AM
23 children: My daughter, my sons. 11:27AM
24 And she's teaching us to speak up now 11:27AM
25 and not to be ashamed and not to be embarrassed 11:27AM

1 to talk about these things, because we are 11:27AM
2 finding our culture. 11:27AM
3 And I am proud to say that I'm ashke 11:27AM
4 kyem (phonetic), and that I stand -- and we drove 11:27AM
5 all night long from Denver, Colorado. 11:27AM
6 And I want to give a special shout-out 11:27AM
7 to Joaquin, because he came to our Denver Indian 11:27AM
8 Center, and he sat there and he told us that they 11:27AM
9 were coming here to our reservation, where this 11:27AM
10 happened. 11:27AM
11 And I worked all day, and I told my mom, 11:27AM
12 "Well, we got to go." 11:27AM
13 And she said, "I don't know if I can 11:27AM
14 go." 11:27AM
15 And we came. And I want to thank you 11:27AM
16 guys, because this is a part of our healing. 11:27AM
17 It's not just a story; it's not just something on 11:27AM
18 the news. It's something that's really 11:28AM
19 traumatic. 11:28AM
20 And now, I can sit here and talk with 11:28AM
21 her about these hard things. And I'm very proud 11:28AM
22 of her, because this is really hard for all of 11:28AM
23 you: Everyone that this has affected. 11:28AM
24 Some can speak; some cannot. And I just 11:28AM
25 want to thank you for the opportunity to come to 11:28AM

1 a place that is very healing for us. You guys 11:28AM
2 are so welcoming here, and I just want to thank 11:28AM
3 you for that. 11:28AM
4 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Thank 11:28AM
5 you so much. 11:28AM
6 RUBY LEFT HAND BULL SANCHEZ: I just 11:28AM
7 wanted to see if the medicine men have an answer 11:28AM
8 for me to speak Lakota again. 11:28AM
9 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: I 11:28AM
10 think we -- do we have someone there? 11:28AM
11 CHAIRMAN KEVIN KILLER: (Speaks Native 11:28AM
12 language.) I shake your hand with a warm, good 11:29AM
13 heart. 11:29AM
14 My Lakota name's Close to Earth. My 11:29AM
15 English name is Kevin Killer, and I'm currently 11:29AM
16 the Chair of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. 11:29AM
17 I want to say thank you to Secretary 11:29AM
18 Haaland, Assistant Secretary Newland, Principal 11:29AM
19 Deputy Assistant Secretary Garriott for having 11:29AM
20 these difficult conversations and sitting through 11:29AM
21 this. 11:29AM
22 You know, I come from two areas: The 11:29AM
23 Lakota-Kiowa space. I used to -- I was a former 11:29AM
24 state legislator in South Dakota, you know. 11:29AM
25 And I also bring greetings on behalf of 11:29AM

1 the Charbonneau sisters. I'm not sure if they're 11:29AM
2 here or not, but they're from North Dakota. 11:29AM
3 But, you know, they would come up and 11:29AM
4 actually testify about the same exact things that 11:29AM
5 have been going on. 11:29AM
6 And we had a different bill that -- you 11:29AM
7 know, where they actually limited the claims of 11:29AM
8 when boarding school survivors could file 11:29AM
9 against, you know, their -- against the people 11:29AM
10 who harmed them. 11:29AM
11 And, you know, we fought and fought for 11:29AM
12 ten years. Senator Heinrich, Senator Bordeaux 11:30AM
13 over there: They, you know, took up that fight. 11:30AM
14 And it was hard, you know, because we had to sit 11:30AM
15 here. 11:30AM
16 And so, I understand. (Speaks Native 11:30AM
17 language.) It's hard to see your own relatives 11:30AM
18 and your own elders tell those stories. 11:30AM
19 And, you know, recently, as the 11:30AM
20 president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, we actually 11:30AM
21 took steps to enact our own truth, justice: A 11:30AM
22 healing commission. And some of the members are 11:30AM
23 here today. 11:30AM
24 And I also want to -- and I don't want 11:30AM
25 to take up too much time and space for that, but 11:30AM

1 I want to make sure that our members get heard 11:30AM
2 today. 11:30AM
3 And so, I've got Former President 11:30AM
4 Cecelia Fire Thunder. She's going to speak on 11:30AM
5 behalf of some of the groups. 11:30AM
6 But, again, I want to say thank you so 11:30AM
7 much for being here and just sharing your 11:30AM
8 stories. 11:30AM
9 And, you know, because there's pain in 11:30AM
10 all this. And the saddest part is that, you 11:30AM
11 know, a lot of these kids: Their only crime was 11:30AM
12 being Native. That's really the only thing that 11:31AM
13 they're guilty of. And it's hard to hear that. 11:31AM
14 And, you know, being there, the 11:31AM
15 Secretary, yesterday, at Wounded Knee, you know 11:31AM
16 that there were kids there. 11:31AM
17 You know, that's one of the things that 11:31AM
18 we want to start, is the healing process. So I 11:31AM
19 appreciate all of our (speaks Native language) 11:31AM
20 here and everyone. 11:31AM
21 So, President, if you want to go ahead 11:31AM
22 and -- yeah, the President is going to share some 11:31AM
23 of the report that we found out on the item. 11:31AM
24 And I'll be submitting written 11:31AM
25 testimony, as well, so I want to respect that 11:31AM

1 process. But I want to make sure you get the 11:31AM
2 chance to speak. 11:31AM
3 CECELIA APPLE FIRE THUNDER: (Speaks 11:31AM
4 Native language.) Good morning, my relatives, 11:32AM
5 and thank you, Secretary Haaland, for coming to 11:32AM
6 visit with us and hearing our stories. 11:32AM
7 My name is Cecelia Apple Fire Thunder, 11:32AM
8 and I went to Holy Rosary Mission from 1953 to 11:33AM
9 1963. 11:33AM
10 I am a part of a healing movement for 11:33AM
11 the Red Cloud Indian School that used to be 11:33AM
12 called Holy Rosary Mission. 11:33AM
13 Ms. Irving and I are former students. 11:33AM
14 We are moving toward hearing the stories of all 11:33AM
15 of those who are still alive and on the Pine 11:33AM
16 Ridge Reservation who went to our boarding 11:33AM
17 schools. 11:33AM
18 We are recording their stories. They 11:33AM
19 can talk to us in a microphone so we can record 11:33AM
20 it; or, if they're willing to, they can submit 11:33AM
21 audio; video. 11:33AM
22 I have to share with you the many, many 11:33AM
23 hours that I listened to the individual stories 11:33AM
24 of those who went to Holy Rosary Mission. 11:33AM
25 Holy Rosary Mission, like St. Francis 11:33AM

1 Indian School, was created by the Jesuits and the 11:33AM
2 Franciscan nuns. 11:33AM
3 One of the most important things I want 11:33AM
4 to share with you is that we, as Lakota people, 11:34AM
5 have the capacity and the opportunity to heal 11:34AM
6 from all of the things that hurt us. (Speaks 11:34AM
7 Native language.) 11:34AM
8 So I want to share with you our report. 11:34AM
9 And if you want a copy of it, we will share it 11:34AM
10 with you. 11:34AM
11 Red Cloud Indian School started the 11:34AM
12 Truth and Healing Task Force. They created this 11:34AM
13 movement to start to address our story. Not all 11:34AM
14 stories of all boarding schools are the same. 11:34AM
15 Thirty-one boarding schools in the State 11:34AM
16 of South Dakota. Some of them were BIA schools, 11:34AM
17 some of them; and many of them are 11:34AM
18 religious-affiliated. How many of you know that 11:34AM
19 already? 11:34AM
20 So we have Tribal members who left Pine 11:34AM
21 Ridge and went to other boarding schools. They 11:34AM
22 went all over the country, many times. 11:35AM
23 And today, right now, we still have 11:35AM
24 tribal members who send their children away to 11:35AM
25 boarding schools in Oregon, Chemawa, Riverside. 11:35AM

1 How many of you know that, that the boarding 11:35AM
2 school effort is still ongoing? 11:35AM
3 I want to share with you that we had the 11:35AM
4 opportunity for the top Jesuit -- Father Sosa 11:35AM
5 came to Red Cloud Indian School about five weeks 11:35AM
6 ago. Five weeks ago. 11:35AM
7 Father Sosa represents the Jesuit order, 11:35AM
8 which is the largest, largest order in the 11:35AM
9 Vatican. 11:35AM
10 Father Sosa came to listen to us. 11:35AM
11 Father Sosa spoke to the community and, in his 11:35AM
12 speech -- and we have copies of it -- he 11:35AM
13 acknowledged the role the Jesuits played in the 11:35AM
14 attempt to erase us. Listen to me: Erase us. 11:35AM
15 (Speaks Native language.) 11:35AM
16 They did not get rid of us. We're still 11:36AM
17 here. (Speaks Native language.) That's what we 11:36AM
18 need to build our future on. 11:36AM
19 I want to read to you a letter. Rosebud 11:36AM
20 Sioux Tribe gave Father Sosa a Resolution to take 11:36AM
21 to the Pope at the Vatican, asking him to abolish 11:36AM
22 the Doctrine of Discovery and the 1493 Papal 11:36AM
23 Bull. 11:36AM
24 The Rosebud Sioux Tribe and our President 11:36AM
25 and our Tribal Council sent a letter to the Holy 11:36AM

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1 Father at the Vatican to step up and acknowledge 11:36AM
2 and let the whole world know the work -- what the 11:36AM
3 Vatican did to all of the Indigenous people on 11:36AM
4 the Western Hemisphere and on the African 11:36AM
5 Continent, to acknowledge that what they did was 11:36AM
6 wrong. And what they did was they hurt 11:36AM
7 generations and generations of people. 11:37AM
8 Let me read you this letter. Father Sosa 11:37AM
9 told the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux 11:37AM
10 Tribe -- Father Sosa says, "I promise you that I 11:37AM
11 will hand-deliver this letter, these letters, to 11:37AM
12 the Holy Father." 11:37AM
13 So, on September 27th, Father Sosa wrote 11:37AM
14 a letter to Red Cloud Indian School and the 11:37AM
15 Catholic Community. He said: 11:37AM
16 "On July 16th, I had the honor of 11:37AM
17 meeting with some of the leaders of the Oglala 11:37AM
18 Sioux Tribe and the Sicangu Lakota Council to 11:37AM
19 learn about life on the Pine Ridge and 11:37AM
20 St. Francis." 11:37AM
21 He said, "I received a letter signed by 11:37AM
22 Kevin Killer and by the -- Philimon D. Two Eagle 11:37AM
23 of the Treaty Council. I promised to give these 11:37AM
24 letters personally to the Holy Father. 11:37AM
25 "This morning, I met with Pope Francis. 11:38AM

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1 I spoke with him at length about my recent visit 11:38AM
2 to Pine Ridge, about the welcome given to the 11:38AM
3 Society of Jesus by Red Cloud and Chief Spotted 11:38AM
4 Tail, and about Nicholas Black Elk. 11:38AM
5 "He talked about his experience and 11:38AM
6 about the stories that he heard. I also put in 11:38AM
7 the hands of the Holy Father the two letters that 11:38AM
8 had been instructed to me. 11:38AM
9 "He listened carefully and expressed 11:38AM
10 gratitude for the letters. He said that many 11:38AM
11 people in Canada and the United States are now 11:38AM
12 participating in a process to discern the best 11:38AM
13 response today to the historical Doctrine of 11:38AM
14 Discovery. 11:38AM
15 "I shared with Pope Francis my own 11:38AM
16 personal hope that the conquests undertaken with 11:38AM
17 the blessings of Popes Nicholas the Fifth and 11:38AM
18 Alexander the Sixth are forthrightly condemned 11:39AM
19 and that these decrees again be defined as 11:39AM
20 definitely being abrogated, and that the Catholic 11:39AM
21 Church commit to working with others to eradicate 11:39AM
22 harmful messages of these decrees from the civil 11:39AM
23 jurisprudence of today's government." 11:39AM
24 I'm kind of nervous, can't you tell? 11:39AM
25 And why am I nervous? Well, because today is a 11:39AM

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1 very important day that we help each other. In 11:39AM
2 conclusion, he said: 11:39AM
3 "Please, share with the Lakota leaders 11:39AM
4 the news of my meeting with Pope Francis, 11:39AM
5 expressing the Holy Father's gratitude for their 11:39AM
6 letters and my own gratitude for all that they 11:39AM
7 taught me. May we again walk with the Good Red 11:39AM
8 Road together, for we are all relatives." 11:39AM
9 (Speaks Native language.) Father Sosa 11:40AM
10 said our team here, from Red Cloud Indian School: 11:40AM
11 We are working together not to tell you Red Cloud 11:40AM
12 stories, but to hear the voices of all of those 11:40AM
13 who went to Holy Rosary Mission from the 18-, 11:40AM
14 1900s to 1980, who were boarders and students. 11:40AM
15 We are recording their stories. We're 11:40AM
16 not only hearing their voices; we're crying with 11:40AM
17 them. 11:40AM
18 Not only are we hearing their voices, 11:40AM
19 but we're seeing their face as they tell us their 11:40AM
20 story. 11:40AM
21 Because the only people who can tell you 11:40AM
22 the truth about what happened at their boarding 11:40AM
23 schools are those who are still living with us. 11:40AM
24 And I want to be very clear. Those 11:40AM
25 stories are important. And, like this woman 11:40AM

1 said, our sister here said, "In my -- in the 11:40AM
2 healing, we're tiospaye." 11:40AM
3 The only pain that I felt as a little 11:40AM
4 girl was watching my mom and dad drive away when 11:41AM
5 they left me at Holy Rosary Mission. 11:41AM
6 Because, when they drove away, you know 11:41AM
7 what I felt? They didn't want me anymore. They 11:41AM
8 don't love me. I felt a sense of abandonment. 11:41AM
9 So, years later, I understood all those 11:41AM
10 emotions and feelings. I was able to put a word 11:41AM
11 to my feelings, and I was able to let it go. 11:41AM
12 So, today, I want to share with you that 11:41AM
13 we can let those things go. (Speaks Native 11:41AM
14 language.) 11:41AM
15 The good news is I'll be 76 in two years. 11:41AM
16 Obviously, I got rid of all that pain because I 11:41AM
17 am healthy and well and, most importantly, I get 11:41AM
18 to hear the stories of my colleagues and my 11:41AM
19 relatives, and I get to cry with them. 11:41AM
20 I get to cry about their losses. I get 11:41AM
21 to cry with them. But, at the same time, I get 11:41AM
22 to help them heal and show them how to heal: How 11:42AM
23 to do it and how to move forward. I want to 11:42AM
24 share that with you. 11:42AM
25 For ten years, I went there: From first 11:42AM

1 grade to tenth grade. And, most importantly, I 11:42AM
2 want to share with you that I was able to heal 11:42AM
3 and let it go. 11:42AM
4 And now, it's my turn to help others 11:42AM
5 heal and let it go, and that's what I wanted to 11:42AM
6 do. (Speaks Native language.) 11:42AM
7 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: I 11:42AM
8 would -- I'd like to, just before we continue 11:42AM
9 on -- we'll go for another 40 minutes until our 11:42AM
10 first break, when we excuse the press. 11:42AM
11 We ask our mic runners: We'd want to 11:42AM
12 prioritize the stories from the experiences from 11:42AM
13 boarding school survivors first, early in the 11:42AM
14 day, and we'll try to hear from as many people as 11:43AM
15 possible. 11:43AM
16 ROSALIE QUICK BEAR WHIRLWIND SOLDIER: 11:43AM
17 (Speaks Native language.) I talk Lakota and 11:43AM
18 Wasiju mixed together because, in the mornings, 11:43AM
19 they called me a devil-speaking person because I 11:43AM
20 talked Lakota. 11:43AM
21 So, to be -- not to get hit, I started 11:43AM
22 to talk English. So, I talk Lakota now; when the 11:43AM
23 nuns come, I talk English. So, I have two 11:43AM
24 languages. 11:44AM
25 But I need to tell something about what 11:44AM

1 happened to me at the boarding school. We all 11:44AM
2 were playing in a playground, in a play group. 11:44AM
3 And we were all running, and I fell. 11:44AM
4 And all the girls tripped over me, and 11:44AM
5 they fell on me, and they broke my leg, you know. 11:44AM
6 Because everybody fell on me, I broke my leg. 11:44AM
7 So, nobody helped me. Nobody helped me 11:44AM
8 to get me to the infirmary. But the kids that 11:44AM
9 were with me helped me. They dragged me on a 11:44AM
10 chair to the door. 11:44AM
11 And when the nuns came and took me to 11:44AM
12 the infirmary -- and I was in pain, because my 11:44AM
13 whole bone broke. My leg -- my ankle was 11:44AM
14 swaying. 11:44AM
15 But they put me in the infirmary, and I 11:44AM
16 stayed in there a few weeks. My leg was swollen 11:44AM
17 all the way up to my hip. 11:44AM
18 I couldn't eat. My fever was so high. 11:45AM
19 All that time, it got into my bone, that broken 11:45AM
20 ankle. 11:45AM
21 But nobody bothered. The nun comes in 11:45AM
22 and touches my head and (speaks Native language). 11:45AM
23 So, I had to walk back. 11:45AM
24 Somebody told my grandpa, so he came, 11:45AM
25 and he took me to the hospital. And it already 11:45AM

1 damaged my bones in my leg, and that bothered me 11:45AM
2 for the rest of my life. 11:45AM
3 And another thing that happened: I don't 11:45AM
4 know what I was doing with this girl, my friend. 11:45AM
5 They punished us, and they put us in a cellar 11:45AM
6 where they had pickles. 11:45AM
7 They made homemade pickles and had them 11:45AM
8 in a cellar with a cement floor, and the walls 11:45AM
9 were cement, and a big old giant door. 11:46AM
10 They threw us two in there, no lights, 11:46AM
11 and they forgot about us. So we ate pickles. I 11:46AM
12 don't know how many days we were in there, but we 11:46AM
13 ate the dill pickles. 11:46AM
14 We couldn't talk; we couldn't see. My 11:46AM
15 eyeballs were all swollen; my nose was swollen; 11:46AM
16 my lips were swollen. We couldn't talk to each 11:46AM
17 other anymore, but cry. 11:46AM
18 We couldn't breathe, because our throats 11:46AM
19 were swollen. We sat there, and we gave each 11:46AM
20 other -- she told me she didn't want to die, and 11:46AM
21 she kept crying. 11:46AM
22 She kept saying, "I'm going to die," and 11:46AM
23 I didn't know what to do. But I remembered my 11:46AM
24 mom. 11:46AM
25 (Speaks Native language.) She said, 11:46AM

1 "Think about the God the Father, and thank him 11:46AM
2 for you being alive." 11:46AM
3 At night, we say that before going to 11:46AM
4 bed. So, anyway, that's what I said, over and 11:47AM
5 over. 11:47AM
6 And all of a sudden, somebody opened the 11:47AM
7 door. And it was that nun that put us in there, 11:47AM
8 and she said, "Oh, my God. All this time, you're 11:47AM
9 in here?" 11:47AM
10 By that time, we couldn't even walk; we 11:47AM
11 couldn't stand up; we couldn't breathe. So I 11:47AM
12 ended up in the infirmary again. 11:47AM
13 But all my life, I know torture from the 11:47AM
14 boarding school. And I never knew what the 11:47AM
15 love -- the word "love" was. 11:47AM
16 Never knew. I never knew that. And my 11:47AM
17 folks never said they loved me, because my mom 11:47AM
18 died when I was little. Mom died when I was 11:47AM
19 four, and that's why I ended up in a boarding 11:47AM
20 school. 11:47AM
21 Anyway, as I grew up, (speaks Native 11:47AM
22 language). Nothing. No pity. Nice? I didn't 11:48AM
23 know that. 11:48AM
24 I grew up, maybe, just -- they called me 11:48AM
25 dumb because I didn't laugh. I didn't care. 11:48AM

1 Just to my friends. 11:48AM

2 Until I met my husband. And you know 11:48AM

3 what he said to me? He said, "I love you." 11:48AM

4 So I thought, "That's bad," you know? 11:48AM

5 "What does that mean?" 11:48AM

6 And he said, "I love you for who you 11:48AM

7 are, and I'll love you forever. No matter what, 11:48AM

8 I'll take care of you." 11:48AM

9 So I said, "Is that what love means?" 11:48AM

10 And he said, "Yes." 11:48AM

11 And he did love me. We were married 11:48AM

12 60 years. I lost him last year. But he was the 11:48AM

13 only one that ever told me about love and about 11:48AM

14 chantkiya. I thought there was no God; just 11:49AM

15 torture and hated. 11:49AM

16 Sometimes, I'm still -- to this day, I'm 11:49AM

17 quiet. I'll go away from people. But I still 11:49AM

18 can't really feel that love that we're supposed 11:49AM

19 to know as a human being. 11:49AM

20 But I let it go. I let it go. That was 11:49AM

21 killing me, because of what happened to me when I 11:49AM

22 was little. But I'm old now. (Speaks Native 11:49AM

23 language.) 11:49AM

24 Listen to me. Now, when I was seven, 11:49AM

25 eight years old, I was (speaks Native language). 11:49AM

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1 I was slow. But that's this thing that we all 11:49AM
2 went through. All that hurt. 11:49AM
3 But you think about God and Jesus 11:49AM
4 Christ, Wakhan Thanka. Leave it up to him, and 11:50AM
5 all of us can heal. 11:50AM
6 Because, you know what? He made us. 11:50AM
7 And I didn't know that. I thought -- I thought I 11:50AM
8 was just a -- I don't know. I didn't have no 11:50AM
9 feeling. I don't know how to explain myself 11:50AM
10 sometimes. 11:50AM
11 But the boarding school was a -- a time 11:50AM
12 that we were like Jews. They shaved our hair. 11:50AM
13 When we get to school -- I had real long braids. 11:50AM
14 They shaved my hair, totally shaved my hair. I 11:50AM
15 had a piece up here like a mass, you know? 11:50AM
16 And they put powder on us. They put DDT 11:50AM
17 on us, and we'd cough and it would sting. Or 11:50AM
18 they -- the girls -- (speaks Native language) -- 11:50AM
19 puff of smoke, and that dust would go. 11:50AM
20 But that would be like the Jews. The 11:50AM
21 only thing they didn't do to us is put us in a 11:50AM
22 hot place and gas us. That's the only thing they 11:51AM
23 didn't do. 11:51AM
24 But we went through what the Jews went 11:51AM
25 through, as Lakota people, and I am so happy to 11:51AM

1 be here today. 11:51AM

2 My friend, my best friend, when we were 11:51AM

3 little: I think she was always there, kind of 11:51AM

4 guiding me, because she's the one that 11:51AM

5 introduced -- she said, "Why don't you go over 11:51AM

6 there and talk? Let other people know what you 11:51AM

7 went through." 11:51AM

8 Because, you know, it bothered me 11:51AM

9 today -- my body -- from that poison that got in 11:51AM

10 my bone. It bothers me. I stagger. 11:51AM

11 And, anyway, it bothers me, but I'm not 11:51AM

12 going to let that win. I'm going to make it. 11:51AM

13 I'm going to make it, and I'm going to forget the 11:51AM

14 boarding school years. 11:51AM

15 I don't want to pass that on to my 11:51AM

16 children, my grandchildren. But I always tell 11:52AM

17 them, "You want to -- you see all this horror 11:52AM

18 stuff on TV, real bad? That's how we grew up. 11:52AM

19 That's why we are like we are, forlorn." 11:52AM

20 But we have our cantkiya. People 11:52AM

21 prayed. (Speaks Native language.) You have one 11:52AM

22 mind; one cord. (Speaks Native language.) 11:52AM

23 That's all we have to do. 11:52AM

24 But I just wanted to talk, because I'm 11:52AM

25 really thankful this happened. I even -- I'm 11:52AM

1 even brave to talk now, to let it out. 11:52AM

2 I had it all packed away like it was my 11:52AM

3 secret. But now, you all know my secret: What 11:52AM

4 they done to me. It wasn't good. 11:53AM

5 But I want to thank you, and I want to 11:53AM

6 ask Jesus Christ to bless you, all of you here. 11:53AM

7 All of you. 11:53AM

8 And I hope you all find that love you're 11:53AM

9 looking for. And I thank you very much. (Speaks 11:53AM

10 Native language.) 11:53AM

11 Now, I -- excuse me, but I didn't 11:53AM

12 introduce myself. My name is Rosalie Quick Bear 11:53AM

13 Whirlwind Soldier. 11:53AM

14 And my grandfather, Quick Bear, is -- 11:53AM

15 they brought him back from Carlisle. He was one 11:53AM

16 of the kids that was buried over there. 11:53AM

17 That was my grandfather. They brought 11:53AM

18 him back, and they buried him at the veteran's 11:53AM

19 cemetery. 11:53AM

20 But my name is -- I'm the 11:53AM

21 great-great-granddaughter of Chief Hollow Horn 11:53AM

22 Bear's son, Jay Kills Himself. 11:53AM

23 He was the last chief of the Rosebud 11:54AM

24 Sioux Tribe, and he could have done something, 11:54AM

25 but he didn't. 11:54AM

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1 And my husband's a chief, too. He's 11:54AM
2 Chief Whirlwind Soldier. And I have his war 11:54AM
3 bonnet, but I don't know who to give it to. But 11:54AM
4 that will come, too. That's who I am. I am 11:54AM
5 (speaks Native language). I tried love. 11:54AM
6 Every day I talk Lakota at my house. 11:54AM
7 The only one I have is me talking to the wind, 11:54AM
8 because my grandkids don't want to talk Lakota 11:54AM
9 because they say, "Well, what are the white 11:55AM
10 people going to say? 'Hmph, Indian.'" 11:55AM
11 I must have put that on them, that curse 11:55AM
12 on them. But today, that's going to change. And 11:55AM
13 I want to thank you all for being here and being 11:55AM
14 concerned and showing your love to the ones that 11:55AM
15 are hurt. (Speaks Native language.) Thank you. 11:55AM
16 RONALD NEISS: I'm going to talk quickly. 11:55AM
17 (Speaks Native language.) Good morning, you all. 11:55AM
18 (Speaks Native language.) 11:55AM
19 Secretary Haaland, I greet you with a 11:55AM
20 handshake and a warm heart. (Speaks Native 11:55AM
21 language.) 11:55AM
22 My name is -- my Lakota name is Spotted 11:56AM
23 Eagle Who Helps. That name was given to me in 11:56AM
24 1992 by the elders at Ghost Hawk Park at a 11:56AM
25 celebration, you know, that Honoring of Elders 11:56AM

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1 Day, an event that went away that needs to come 11:56AM
2 back. And, you know, so that's my Lakota name. 11:56AM
3 My English name is Ronald L. Neiss. I 11:56AM
4 attended Marty St. Paul's Indian Mission in 11:56AM
5 Marty, South Dakota, from the years of 1961 -- 11:56AM
6 '62 till about '71. 11:56AM
7 I was kicked out in about '71, and I'll 11:56AM
8 tell you the reason why. It's going to give you 11:56AM
9 a history. 11:56AM
10 I have some stories to tell. I told 11:56AM
11 people from Marty Indian School -- you know, 11:56AM
12 Marty itself, Secretary Haaland: It's out on the 11:56AM
13 prairie. Now, it's around Yankton Sioux Tribe. 11:57AM
14 Oh, but my father's Cleveland Robert 11:57AM
15 Neiss. I live in Rosy Bud right over here, you 11:57AM
16 know. 11:57AM
17 I live in Rosebud. My mother is 11:57AM
18 Patricia Hopkins from the Yankton Sioux 11:57AM
19 Reservation. 11:57AM
20 My father laid his spirit nearly 11:57AM
21 17 years ago, and I try to follow in his 11:57AM
22 footsteps. 11:57AM
23 My mother, with a little help, you know, 11:57AM
24 dementia and all that, is still with us. She's a 11:57AM
25 blessing. I'm very fortunate, at 66 years of 11:57AM

1 age, to still have my mother alive. 11:57AM

2 Now, Marty -- I let people know about 11:57AM

3 Marty. I just found out about this event a 11:57AM

4 couple days ago. RST Communications had a 11:57AM

5 Facebook page. I appreciate RST Communications' 11:57AM

6 short notice. 11:57AM

7 I did find out Friday, through 11:57AM

8 RST Communications, something about 1,000 pieces 11:57AM

9 of fry bread. I said, "What's that about," you 11:57AM

10 know. On Wednesday, I see something for this. 11:57AM

11 So, Marty itself: It's down by Yankton 11:58AM

12 Sioux Tribe. Marty Yankton School, St. Paul's 11:58AM

13 Indian Mission, Marty, South Dakota. A religious 11:58AM

14 group, as was pointed out. 11:58AM

15 A lot of these schools were started to 11:58AM

16 civilize the Lakota people. It was like a 11:58AM

17 lottery system: You were either Episcopal or 11:58AM

18 Catholic. 11:58AM

19 Seems like the Catholics won, because 11:58AM

20 the majority of them around here are Catholic 11:58AM

21 boarding schools. 11:58AM

22 Marty Indian School was actually my -- 11:58AM

23 on my mom's side, the land was donated by my 11:58AM

24 great-great-grandmother, White Tallow, to start 11:58AM

25 this mission. 11:58AM

1 If she had seen what would become and Page 61 11:58AM
2 the abuses that would happen, I don't think she 11:58AM
3 would have donated the land. But maybe she had 11:58AM
4 the vision to see that, now, it's changed. The 11:58AM
5 tribe controls it. 11:58AM
6 If you go by the cemetery, a few of my 11:58AM
7 relatives are buried there. There's a White 11:58AM
8 Tallow Lane. You can see that. That's for my 11:59AM
9 great-great-grandmother. 11:59AM
10 Maybe she'd seen that good would become 11:59AM
11 of it once the evil left and the religious order 11:59AM
12 evil had gone away. 11:59AM
13 So, Marty was by itself. It was -- it 11:59AM
14 was down on the prairie. To me, it was the most 11:59AM
15 isolated school. 11:59AM
16 You have the most isolated Indian school 11:59AM
17 where the abuse was there, also. Holy Rosary was 11:59AM
18 bad, too, but they were close to the community. 11:59AM
19 Marty was out on the prairie. 11:59AM
20 I think it -- I remember my grandmother 11:59AM
21 got buried. Our kin helped to build that church, 11:59AM
22 that beautiful church; to plant those trees. 11:59AM
23 So -- and she got the -- I -- so, I did 11:59AM
24 want to -- before I go any further, I want to -- 11:59AM
25 do you have someone from the IHS here? You have 11:59AM

1 someone here, the medicine people? 11:59AM

2 Seven years ago, I got vitiligo. I used 11:59AM

3 to be brown, brown as the next person. But 12:00PM

4 vitiligo took my brown, and I turned into a 12:00PM

5 Lakota Powder. 12:00PM

6 You know, you seen the movie? You know, 12:00PM

7 at least I don't get pulled over at the border 12:00PM

8 towns anymore. I was brown. 12:00PM

9 So, Pauline Cloud Man: She helped me. 12:00PM

10 She's very understanding. IHS, you have a 12:00PM

11 blessing in Pauline. 12:00PM

12 She helped me. She explained that you 12:00PM

13 use the melatonin, you know, and what that was. 12:00PM

14 So it has still been a process of discovery for 12:00PM

15 me. 12:00PM

16 I ask that you all -- you don't see it 12:00PM

17 too much, but they're out there. People, 12:00PM

18 especially kids, I see with white spots. You get 12:00PM

19 the white spots on your hands, it can stretch to 12:00PM

20 your face, you know. 12:00PM

21 And I ask that you understand and that 12:00PM

22 you pray for them. I don't think it would cost 12:00PM

23 too much to take that away. 12:00PM

24 But people need help, healing with that, 12:00PM

25 if you're brown like I was and you become this 12:00PM

1 color. 12:01PM

2 Everybody has melanin. Vitiligo -- but 12:01PM

3 if you're black or brown, like I was, it's very 12:01PM

4 traumatic. 12:01PM

5 So try to understand people who are 12:01PM

6 going through that. Don't make side snide 12:01PM

7 remarks about them or tease them. It happened to 12:01PM

8 me, you know. 12:01PM

9 So I would ask the IHS to put out a 12:01PM

10 brochure. I've been begging for this for years, 12:01PM

11 but it falls on deaf ears. 12:01PM

12 You know, there's enough people out 12:01PM

13 there that -- you know, that, "What's happening 12:01PM

14 to me," you know, that a brochure would be nice. 12:01PM

15 Indian -- the Dakota Plains Indian 12:01PM

16 Health Service puts out brochures. I want to see 12:01PM

17 that before I die. 12:01PM

18 There's -- at least a brochure that 12:01PM

19 helps explain that it's not contagious and, you 12:01PM

20 know, how it does come, so I can tell people. 12:01PM

21 Getting back to Marty Indian School, I 12:01PM

22 was there from '62 to about '71. I attended 12:01PM

23 Marty Indian School, and so here's my little 12:02PM

24 journey through that. 12:02PM

25 When you come over that hill -- back in 12:02PM

1 the day, before the -- it was all by itself. You 12:02PM
2 come over that hill, you see that beautiful 12:02PM
3 steeple, you start crying. 12:02PM
4 You begged your parents or whoever was 12:02PM
5 taking you, "Please don't take me there. Please. 12:02PM
6 I don't want to go. Please." 12:02PM
7 When you arrived, you're lined up by the 12:02PM
8 dormitories, by the steel radiators and stuff. 12:02PM
9 The big boys would come in. They worked you 12:02PM
10 over, because they -- it keeps them from crying, 12:02PM
11 too. 12:02PM
12 And those nuns: They taught -- they 12:02PM
13 looked the other way, because this is -- it 12:02PM
14 wasn't just physical; it was psychological 12:02PM
15 torture. It was warfare against Indian kids. 12:02PM
16 So the littler kids, when they got 12:02PM
17 bigger, they could beat up little kids for 12:02PM
18 crying, and the nuns looked the other way. That 12:02PM
19 was part of their strategy. 12:03PM
20 Okay. I told Marty Indian School people 12:03PM
21 that couldn't be here. I tried to talk with 12:03PM
22 them, so I hope the press is still listening to 12:03PM
23 this. 12:03PM
24 When you are -- you have the typical 12:03PM
25 things for most boarding schools, not just Indian 12:03PM

1 boarding schools. 12:03PM

2 You lay down like you're -- you're like 12:03PM

3 this, of course, you know (arms stretched out). 12:03PM

4 And if your hands drop, they hit you with a steel 12:03PM

5 ruler. 12:03PM

6 But one of the other things is -- see, 12:03PM

7 what many of our people would go through are, you 12:03PM

8 know, called belt lines. 12:03PM

9 Belt lines: You know, you would -- you 12:03PM

10 know, if you do something bad or deemed bad by 12:03PM

11 the nuns -- this is a boarding school, you know, 12:03PM

12 first to sixth grade -- then you would have to 12:03PM

13 run through a belt line. 12:03PM

14 See, there's two sides to it. And so, 12:03PM

15 you would have to run through that belt line and 12:03PM

16 through -- either side will get to smack you as 12:03PM

17 much as they could. 12:04PM

18 They're not supposed to use the buckle, 12:04PM

19 but if they didn't like you or you weren't a 12:04PM

20 member of their little gang or their little 12:04PM

21 clique, they would hit you with the buckle, and 12:04PM

22 the nuns would look the other way. They 12:04PM

23 tolerated it. It was, like, psychological. 12:04PM

24 If you did something wrong in the eyes 12:04PM

25 of the nuns, see, what would happen is, you know, 12:04PM

1 if no one owned up to it, then there was pillars. 12:04PM
2 You would be in your shorts. You would 12:04PM
3 have to go up to that pillar. You would lean 12:04PM
4 against that pillar, and you would get five to 12:04PM
5 ten smacks with that -- with their big, old belt: 12:04PM
6 Bam, bam, bam. You would get done. 12:04PM
7 You would have to -- then, the little 12:04PM
8 boys would get shoved to the front. You know, 12:04PM
9 shoved to the front, so the bigger boys would be 12:04PM
10 last, because they know the nuns would get tired, 12:04PM
11 so it wouldn't be as bad. Eventually -- you 12:04PM
12 know, so that was part of it. 12:04PM
13 Myself, one of my experiences: So, in 12:04PM
14 fourth grade -- you're not supposed to use more 12:05PM
15 than four pieces of toilet paper. 12:05PM
16 If you used more than four squares of 12:05PM
17 toilet paper at St. Paul's Indian Mission in 12:05PM
18 Marty, South Dakota, you would get beat. Not 12:05PM
19 more than four -- four rows. 12:05PM
20 One time, someone threw a whole roll of 12:05PM
21 toilet paper. A mortal sin. The nuns would say, 12:05PM
22 "That's a mortal sin." 12:05PM
23 They said it was a mortal sin because 12:05PM
24 someone put a whole roll of toilet paper in the 12:05PM
25 toilet, so we'd get the belt lines. 12:05PM

1 So, everybody was lined up. They're 12:05PM
2 getting beat. And a member of another little 12:05PM
3 gang, the other little gangs, said, "Neiss did 12:05PM
4 it." 12:05PM
5 I was a professional altar boy. I was 12:05PM
6 going to be a priest when I grew up. But they -- 12:05PM
7 finally, you know, they kept saying, "Yeah, he 12:05PM
8 did it. He did it. He did it," you know. 12:06PM
9 The nun -- I was ten years old. I 12:06PM
10 wasn't a little kid no more. The nun said, you 12:06PM
11 know, "Why did you do that?" 12:06PM
12 She took me over her knee. She had a 12:06PM
13 big, old brush and started hitting me and hitting 12:06PM
14 me. "Why did you do that? Don't lie. You did 12:06PM
15 it, didn't you?" 12:06PM
16 I said, "No. No, I didn't do it. No, I 12:06PM
17 didn't do that." 12:06PM
18 You know, I didn't want to admit to it. 12:06PM
19 Wouldn't cry. She said something to make me cry, 12:06PM
20 and she said, "You know, you're worse than" -- 12:06PM
21 she says, "You're like that man who nailed Jesus 12:06PM
22 Christ to the cross." 12:06PM
23 I said, "No, I didn't do it." 12:06PM
24 She said, "You're worse. You're Pontius 12:06PM
25 Pilot." 12:06PM

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1 Little girls, from Parcel Post, they got 12:06PM
2 these shoes. They had bows on them, like 12:06PM
3 sandals. They'd all wear them. 12:06PM
4 I had to wear those shoes for two weeks. 12:06PM
5 Psychological punishment, you know, because I was 12:06PM
6 ridiculed, you know; made fun of. 12:06PM
7 So, then, the runaways: When you'd run 12:06PM
8 away from Marty Indian/St. Paul's Indian Mission 12:07PM
9 in Marty, South Dakota, what would happen: When 12:07PM
10 you're little, I guess, first through sixth, 12:07PM
11 grade school -- St. Kat's -- it was called 12:07PM
12 St. Katherine's. 12:07PM
13 It was called St. Kat's. They just tore 12:07PM
14 it down recently. Part of Marty Indian School. 12:07PM
15 Shocked to see it, you know, torn down. 12:07PM
16 They would take the little boys. The 12:07PM
17 big boys would take the little boys. They would 12:07PM
18 truss them up like you would a deer. 12:07PM
19 You'd tie them up, and you'd come in, 12:07PM
20 and they would march in. That was through -- you 12:07PM
21 had to line up. 12:07PM
22 They'd march you, as a little boy, tied 12:07PM
23 up like this. Tied up. And then, they'd end up 12:07PM
24 getting beat, of course. 12:07PM
25 When you get to seventh, eighth, and 12:07PM

1 ninth grades, middle school, if you run away, you 12:07PM
2 graduated to the razor strap. 12:07PM
3 Brother Martin -- you know, it was 12:07PM
4 called the razor strap. It was actually this 12:07PM
5 big, old strap, rubber strap, that barbers would 12:07PM
6 use. 12:08PM
7 The better ones, you got five. My 12:08PM
8 brother: He got fifteen. He got up to fifteen. 12:08PM
9 I told him. He didn't want to be here -- 12:08PM
10 couldn't be here today. They left -- some still 12:08PM
11 have scars. 12:08PM
12 I have -- the only time I got it, I 12:08PM
13 said, "Damn." 12:08PM
14 I was frustrated. I said, "Damn," and I 12:08PM
15 got it beat on me. I got five for saying, 12:08PM
16 "Damn." 12:08PM
17 This afternoon, I didn't know if my 12:08PM
18 brother Martin would come. Little box -- they'd 12:08PM
19 use the big box for their haircuts, you know. 12:08PM
20 For brother Martin, they used a little box. 12:08PM
21 We always said -- when we were little, 12:08PM
22 you know, if you cried, you'd get beat. You 12:08PM
23 tried not to cry. If you cried, you're going to 12:08PM
24 get beat up for crying. 12:08PM
25 When I -- Father Francis, "Meatball," 12:08PM

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1 was another mean one. He would torture and beat 12:08PM
2 kids, you know. Once, he knocked me -- I was 12:08PM
3 frustrated, and he knocked me and my desk over. 12:08PM
4 If somebody was talking, he'd say, "Fee, 12:08PM
5 fi" -- it wasn't me, you know, but -- you know, 12:08PM
6 he'd say, "Fee, fi, fo, fum. I smell the blood 12:09PM
7 of a rummy dumb-dumb. Be he lie or be he dead," 12:09PM
8 he's looking around, you know, "if he don't shut 12:09PM
9 his mouth, I'll surely bust his head." 12:09PM
10 He hit me so hard that me and my desk 12:09PM
11 went flying, staggering across the room. So, it 12:09PM
12 was across the room, and I had a big desk. I'd 12:09PM
13 always sit in because you might get hit. The 12:09PM
14 only time that I ever ran away, you know, from 12:09PM
15 Marty. 12:09PM
16 But -- so -- but that's, you know, a 12:09PM
17 part of the whole experience, you know. I've 12:09PM
18 taken up too much time. 12:09PM
19 I've got a lot here, but -- you know, at 12:09PM
20 Marty Indian School, it really struck -- oh, I 12:09PM
21 got -- why I got kicked out of Marty. Okay. 12:09PM
22 Oh, wait a minute. If I can backtrack a 12:09PM
23 little bit, because I see my notes. In fifth 12:09PM
24 grade, I was 11, and there was Sister Paul. She 12:09PM
25 took over. 12:09PM

1 She looked like a linebacker. She could 12:10PM
2 have played for the Green Bay Packers, you know. 12:10PM
3 She was -- you know, when we'd get into 12:10PM
4 arguments, there was a sewing room you had to go 12:10PM
5 to. 12:10PM
6 A big, old sewing room with, you know, 12:10PM
7 things like this, with a bunch of sewing 12:10PM
8 machines. 12:10PM
9 She would invite another nun over, and 12:10PM
10 they would make you fight. They just loved it. 12:10PM
11 They liked the fights. 12:10PM
12 I was fighting -- there was a couple 12:10PM
13 John Ryans -- I switched their names here -- but 12:10PM
14 he got me. 12:10PM
15 You know, he wasn't the John Ryan you 12:10PM
16 might know, but he was another one. He was a big 12:10PM
17 guy. He was a grade above me. 12:10PM
18 I did my best. I was no weakling, you 12:10PM
19 know. I was one of the tough, tough guys. I was 12:10PM
20 no weakling. 12:10PM
21 I did my best, but he's a year older 12:10PM
22 than me, you know. Big guy. And, you know, a 12:10PM
23 year can make a big difference in the size of a 12:10PM
24 child, you know. 12:10PM
25 So, he started getting the best of me. 12:10PM

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1 I crawled underneath one of the sewing machines. 12:10PM

2 So, Sister Paul, the linebacker: She drug me out 12:10PM

3 by my heels, stood me up, and said, "Fight like a 12:10PM

4 man." 12:11PM

5 So, John: I guess he got tired of 12:11PM

6 hitting and kicking me. He couldn't. He said, 12:11PM

7 "No, I can't hit him no more." 12:11PM

8 So, I thank God for that till this day, 12:11PM

9 you know. 12:11PM

10 So I got kicked out because, after 12:11PM

11 Father Francis, Meatball -- we called him 12:11PM

12 "Meatball" -- you know, they had a teacher from, 12:11PM

13 you know, Back East: Mr. McKee. 12:11PM

14 He hit one of my cousins, Carol 12:11PM

15 Cournoyer. He hit Carol Cournoyer, and -- you 12:11PM

16 know, like this, boom. 12:11PM

17 So, Carol: On Facebook, I told Carol 12:11PM

18 about the Marty Indian Facebook site. "Carol, do 12:11PM

19 you remember that? Does that bother you?" 12:11PM

20 She didn't say too much. 12:11PM

21 When you look at that -- you know, my 12:11PM

22 cousin, Tenashi Bai Cournoyer, became the 12:11PM

23 chairman of Yankton Sioux Tribe. 12:11PM

24 He came and he whipped Mr. McKee, and he 12:11PM

25 dropped him, because we were getting tired of 12:11PM

1 being hit. Father started it off by saying -- 12:11PM
2 you know, we said, "We're not going to be hit no 12:11PM
3 more." 12:11PM
4 McKee, then, talked to me about a month 12:12PM
5 later. And I tried to just ward him off but, 12:12PM
6 eventually, I had to fight him. 12:12PM
7 I got kicked out. So, I got kicked out 12:12PM
8 of Marty; otherwise, I would have graduated from 12:12PM
9 there in '74. 12:12PM
10 Marty Indian School actually started -- 12:12PM
11 my brother got kicked out about a year later, him 12:12PM
12 and Loren Zayther (phonetic), because they had 12:12PM
13 started a Red Power, Red Panthers. 12:12PM
14 They had met with the -- Meatball was 12:12PM
15 the head. They asked him. They said, "There 12:12PM
16 used to be Indian curriculum at this school. You 12:12PM
17 know, you -- our language was stolen from us; our 12:12PM
18 culture. Why can't we have a culture class of 12:12PM
19 Indian Studies in our curriculum?" 12:12PM
20 And Robby said -- my brother Robby, he's 12:12PM
21 a -- he became the main guy about next year, Red 12:12PM
22 Power First. He said, "Your Jesus Christ had 12:12PM
23 long hair." 12:12PM
24 So Meatball looked at Robby and said, 12:12PM
25 "You know, if you would compare yourself to our 12:13PM

1 Lord Jesus Christ, you don't belong in this 12:13PM
2 school. Get out." 12:13PM
3 And Loren's sitting there, you know, so 12:13PM
4 he said, "And take him with you." 12:13PM
5 So, they both got kicked out that day. 12:13PM
6 Robert suffered when he came to Marty Indian 12:13PM
7 School -- I mean, to St. Francis, you know. So I 12:13PM
8 had a lot of relatives that went to St. Francis. 12:13PM
9 And -- you know, and I think these 12:13PM
10 boarding schools: They must have had workshops 12:13PM
11 to compare, you know, how they tortured Indian 12:13PM
12 kids -- "well, this works for us; this works for 12:13PM
13 them" -- because I see similarities. 12:13PM
14 Those that are suffering -- you know, I 12:13PM
15 know I took a lot of time. But, to me, this day: 12:13PM
16 It seems like I've waited most of my lifetime. 12:13PM
17 My kids -- now my grandkids can learn about it. 12:13PM
18 That's it. Thank you. 12:13PM
19 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Thank 12:13PM
20 you so much for sharing. We're going to hear 12:13PM
21 from one more speaker before we excuse members of 12:14PM
22 the press and break for lunch. 12:14PM
23 Before we eat, we'll have a prayer; and 12:14PM
24 then, we'll have lunch, and we'll bring people 12:14PM
25 back in, so -- 12:14PM

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1	MURIEL ANTOINE: Good morning. Oh, sorry.		12:14PM
2	ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Go		12:14PM
3	ahead.		12:14PM
4	MURIEL ANTOINE: Good morning. My name is		12:14PM
5	Muriel Antoine. Seventy-two years ago was the		12:14PM
6	last graduating class of Rosebud Boarding School,		12:14PM
7	was my class.		12:14PM
8	Most of the time that I was there -- we		12:15PM
9	need to remember the positive things. And all		12:15PM
10	the matrons and the dorm people that we had all		12:15PM
11	were Lakotas, so we had good personnel at Rosebud		12:15PM
12	Boarding School, which is where Sinte is built.		12:15PM
13	And I'd like to take this time to remind		12:15PM
14	us to think in good terms of what's positive for		12:15PM
15	our people.		12:15PM
16	And a lot of bad things have happened,		12:15PM
17	but there's a lot of good things there, too. And		12:15PM
18	I'd like to thank you for creating this day.		12:15PM
19	Thank you.		12:15PM
20	CHERYL ANGEL: Good morning. My name is		12:15PM
21	Cheryl Angel. I'm enrolled here. I was born in		12:15PM
22	the Black Hills, but I went to the boarding		12:16PM
23	school in St. Francis.		12:16PM
24	And I think the bottom line with		12:16PM
25	everybody's story that's going to come up and		12:16PM

1 speak is that we weren't treated human. 12:16PM
2 That's the bottom line. We have folks 12:16PM
3 from Christian institutions who came here and did 12:16PM
4 their best to take away everything. 12:16PM
5 We had representatives from Spain, 12:16PM
6 England, come here, using the Doctrine of 12:16PM
7 Discovery to treat us less than human; to take 12:16PM
8 our resources; to take our children; to take our 12:16PM
9 water; to dam it up; imprison it. 12:16PM
10 We had active mines in the Black Hills. 12:16PM
11 The sacred heart of everything that is. The 12:17PM
12 sacred heart of everything that is. 12:17PM
13 It means more than any religious 12:17PM
14 institution on this planet. That landscape in 12:17PM
15 the Black Hills: That's the most important 12:17PM
16 thing, because it lives. It has been living 12:17PM
17 longer than us. 12:17PM
18 The sacred heart of everything that is: 12:17PM
19 The Black Hills of the South Dakota. The water 12:17PM
20 that flows from that is pure. It was pure. It 12:17PM
21 was designed to sustain us for a millennia. 12:17PM
22 And in the last hundred years, 12:17PM
23 150 years, mining has come. Greed has come. 12:17PM
24 Without any thought of the people who lived 12:17PM
25 there. 12:17PM

1 I hear stories of our history that's not 12:17PM
2 taught in school. We were in prison. Our 12:17PM
3 ancestors were imprisoned and treated horribly. 12:17PM
4 Horribly. 12:18PM
5 Removed from this most sacred place on 12:18PM
6 this northern continent everything that we knew; 12:18PM
7 everything that's going to save us today, the 12:18PM
8 knowledge that's going to save us today. 12:18PM
9 These institutions, these boarding 12:18PM
10 schools, did their best to remove that from us. 12:18PM
11 So anyone who survived the boarding school, with 12:18PM
12 their language intact, with the knowledge of the 12:18PM
13 ceremonies, with the knowledge of these sacred 12:18PM
14 sites: We need to protect them; we need to 12:18PM
15 listen to them. Their stories are important. 12:18PM
16 Their knowledge is what we need to hear about. 12:18PM
17 You know, I -- I remember my hair being -- 12:18PM
18 my braids being cut off; put in -- washed like we 12:18PM
19 were dirty; talked to us like we were dirty. 12:19PM
20 Yeah, I still have pictures. We were 12:19PM
21 dressed in uniforms. They took everything from 12:19PM
22 us and handed -- like the military, handed us 12:19PM
23 this bundle with a towel in it; with soap in it; 12:19PM
24 socks; and a uniform. 12:19PM
25 All the little girls: We wore tan 12:19PM

1 shirts and green jumpers. All the older girls 12:19PM
2 wore blue jumpers with white jersey shirts. 12:19PM
3 It wasn't what our ancestors wanted for us 12:19PM
4 when they signed those treaties. That's not what 12:19PM
5 we agreed to. 12:19PM
6 When they agreed to lay down their 12:19PM
7 weapons -- in peace, mind you. They chose 12:19PM
8 peace -- that didn't make me quiet. That didn't 12:19PM
9 mean let someone rollover you. That's not what 12:19PM
10 peace is. 12:20PM
11 The peace that our ancestors were talking 12:20PM
12 about was the natural law, the order that came 12:20PM
13 with following natural law. 12:20PM
14 That order came from Creator. He built 12:20PM
15 that, created that for this planet to run without 12:20PM
16 us. All we had to do was follow it. 12:20PM
17 Our people have suffered a great disgrace, 12:20PM
18 humiliation, detrimental to all of us. My mother 12:20PM
19 spoke Lakota to us, and you know what she -- you 12:20PM
20 know what the interpretation of all her words 12:20PM
21 were? It was exactly what the matrons said. 12:20PM
22 Whatever the matrons said, over and over and over 12:20PM
23 and over, my mom spoke like that to us in Lakota. 12:20PM
24 And I didn't want to speak like that. I 12:20PM
25 didn't want to speak those words of the matrons 12:20PM

1 that were drilled into our parents. 12:20PM

2 They didn't treat us good. Oh, yeah. 12:20PM

3 Bad things happened. Those policies, those 12:21PM

4 churches: They supported genocidal policies. 12:21PM

5 Everything that happened to us is part of 12:21PM

6 genocide. 12:21PM

7 These stories that we're telling that 12:21PM

8 are going to come out: They're about how 12:21PM

9 inhumane we were treated, and that's not the 12:21PM

10 stories that are going to heal us. 12:21PM

11 The stories that are going to heal us 12:21PM

12 are the stories that remember our original 12:21PM

13 stories; our own stories; our creation stories; 12:21PM

14 the stories of the stars; the stories of our 12:21PM

15 heroes; the stories of our men and women who did 12:21PM

16 battle and did miraculous things, saving other 12:21PM

17 people. 12:21PM

18 Those are the stories that live in our 12:21PM

19 hearts. Those are the stories that identify our 12:21PM

20 culture and our relatives and the strength within 12:21PM

21 all of us. 12:21PM

22 They're not taught in schools; they're 12:22PM

23 taught by our grandparents. We really need our 12:22PM

24 grandparents now to remember those stories. 12:22PM

25 When the churches came, they said, "Only 12:22PM

1 one man gets to stand up in the front, and 12:22PM
2 everybody has to sit down and listen to them." 12:22PM
3 The same thing in the school: One person 12:22PM
4 gets to stand up; everybody sits down and listens 12:22PM
5 to them. 12:22PM
6 But that's not sovereignty. Sovereignty 12:22PM
7 is -- means my voice is just as important as my 12:22PM
8 sister's voice; as my grandmother's voice; as my 12:22PM
9 child's voice. 12:22PM
10 That's sovereignty: When we all get to 12:22PM
11 choose how we're going to heal; when we all share 12:22PM
12 the information of our stories, our history, our 12:22PM
13 culture, our language. 12:22PM
14 There needs to be a large amount of 12:22PM
15 sharing going on within our communities, and 12:22PM
16 there needs to be a venue and a structure for 12:22PM
17 that. 12:22PM
18 I want to see a letter from the 12:22PM
19 Department of Interior, the Secretary. I want 12:22PM
20 her to recognize and put it down on paper that 12:22PM
21 what happened to us at the boarding schools was 12:23PM
22 inhumane, and that the United States government 12:23PM
23 is going to be accountable for that agreement 12:23PM
24 with the churches that they made, because that's 12:23PM
25 where it started. 12:23PM

1 And who else do we have that has such a Page 81 12:23PM
2 big voice in this room? Who has the biggest 12:23PM
3 voice of all, according to the United States 12:23PM
4 government? She does, in this room. 12:23PM
5 You have a huge responsibility to say 12:23PM
6 that the treatment of all of our people was 12:23PM
7 inhumane and genocidal in nature. 12:23PM
8 And that the stories of our culture, our 12:23PM
9 language, our history: Those are the things that 12:23PM
10 need to be lifted up. 12:23PM
11 I want a letter that exempts my children 12:23PM
12 from the State. I don't want the State having 12:23PM
13 custody, the DSS. 12:23PM
14 I want a letter for all of our tribal 12:23PM
15 members that we are exempt from the Department of 12:23PM
16 Social Services; that we are exempt from the 12:23PM
17 state of the education system in South Dakota. 12:23PM
18 I want that to happen in all states, 12:23PM
19 because we're sovereign. We shouldn't have to be 12:23PM
20 answering to the State Department of Education; 12:24PM
21 the State Department of Social Services. 12:24PM
22 I want all of the state contracts to end 12:24PM
23 with all of our tribes on this, on our homelands, 12:24PM
24 because we're not ruled by the State. I'm 12:24PM
25 sovereign. I want my children to be sovereign. 12:24PM

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1 I want the mining to be stopped. I want 12:24PM
2 the guardianship, the stewardship of the Black 12:24PM
3 Hills, the most sacred place to all of us here: 12:24PM
4 I want that to be returned to our people, that 12:24PM
5 governance returned. 12:24PM
6 Can you promise me that, Secretary 12:24PM
7 Department of Interior? Can you say, "I'm going 12:24PM
8 to work on returning the stewardship and the 12:24PM
9 governance of the Black Hills and of all these 12:24PM
10 treaty lands, returned to the people"? 12:24PM
11 Because that's what I'm here to ask for. 12:24PM
12 Because we have the wisdom, we have the history, 12:24PM
13 we have the culture, we have the language, we 12:24PM
14 have the relationship, we have the stories of how 12:24PM
15 to protect better than the United States; than 12:24PM
16 the Department of Forestry. We have that. 12:24PM
17 That's what I want to hear. That's what I came 12:25PM
18 to ask. 12:25PM
19 Yes, listen to our stories, but they're 12:25PM
20 all the same. We were treated inhumanely. And 12:25PM
21 yet, we survived. 12:25PM
22 Why? Because we have our language; our 12:25PM
23 history; our stories. All of that. That's what 12:25PM
24 we need to be protected and remain intact. 12:25PM
25 And I want to apologize for raising my 12:25PM

1 voice in front of my elders. This is not how I 12:25PM
2 wanted to present myself. 12:25PM
3 But these words need to be said for our 12:25PM
4 children. These younger children around the drum 12:25PM
5 need to know that they have the answer. 12:25PM
6 They're the solution. All they need to 12:25PM
7 do is hang onto those songs; hang onto our 12:25PM
8 language; hand onto our stories, because we're 12:25PM
9 sovereign. We always have been. 12:25PM
10 It's an illusion that the government has 12:25PM
11 control over us. It's an illusion that this 12:25PM
12 State can come take our children. It's an 12:26PM
13 illusion that the education system has control of 12:26PM
14 our future. 12:26PM
15 Those are illusions. Those are all 12:26PM
16 contracts, and I want them to end. I want them 12:26PM
17 to end so we can be sovereign again. Thank you 12:26PM
18 for listening to me. 12:26PM
19 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Thank 12:26PM
20 you, thank you. And, at this time, we're going 12:26PM
21 to take a break for lunch before any more 12:26PM
22 speakers. 12:26PM
23 We will come back from lunch, and we'll 12:26PM
24 continue with the listening session. Okay, we're 12:26PM
25 going to have a prayer for the food before we 12:26PM

1 break. 12:26PM

2 DUANE HOLLOW HORN BEAR: (Speaks Native 12:26PM

3 language.) I was born on this reservation back 12:30PM

4 in 1949, on the homeland. 12:30PM

5 I was born at home on 9/11/1949. I 12:30PM

6 recently turned 73 years old. In 1956 through 12:30PM

7 1969, I spent 13 years at the St. Francis 12:30PM

8 Boarding School. 12:30PM

9 They asked me to do a meal prayer here, 12:30PM

10 but after listening to some of the relatives, I 12:30PM

11 searched my mind and I searched my heart, and I 12:30PM

12 asked myself, "Do I have the courage to share 12:30PM

13 what had happened to me?" 12:31PM

14 Yesterday, I joined a lot of young 12:31PM

15 relatives on the buffalo harvest, and I sat with 12:31PM

16 a couple of people. 12:31PM

17 And I shared with them, and I said, "Is 12:31PM

18 this what" -- I think it was someone named Holly. 12:31PM

19 I don't know if she's here today. 12:31PM

20 I said, "Is this what Ms. Deb wants to 12:31PM

21 hear?" 12:31PM

22 And she says, "Exactly." 12:31PM

23 But through the night, I kept waking up 12:31PM

24 and asking myself, "Do I have the courage to 12:31PM

25 share this?" 12:32PM

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1 In my lifetime, I've been to many places 12:32PM
2 around the world. I went through this boarding 12:32PM
3 school system. 12:32PM
4 In 1959, when I was ten years old -- in 12:32PM
5 the boarding school system, many of you may 12:32PM
6 remember that are around my age -- in your late 12:32PM
7 60s, early 70s -- that, on Saturday nights, they 12:32PM
8 would show a movie in the gymnasium for all the 12:32PM
9 school kids and, on Sundays, it was for the 12:32PM
10 public. 12:32PM
11 But this one Saturday night, many of the 12:32PM
12 kids didn't get to go home, which was me. I 12:32PM
13 don't know where my dad was. 12:32PM
14 If anybody knows anything about policies 12:32PM
15 and acts between Native peoples -- because we 12:33PM
16 have been put through so many, such as the 12:33PM
17 Relocation Act, which uprooted my family and put 12:33PM
18 us in Chicago, and a job in a factory building 12:33PM
19 tractors was given to my dad. 12:33PM
20 But, in 1954, when I witnessed a reward 12:33PM
21 given to Native Americans for their participation 12:33PM
22 in World War II, World War I, and Korea -- in my 12:33PM
23 studies, when I learned that my great-grandfather 12:33PM
24 and others that asked this government, "Do not 12:33PM
25 sell this alcohol to our people. It makes us 12:33PM

1 insane. We cannot handle it." 12:33PM

2 But, in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower, 12:33PM

3 he says, "These Native peoples came, and they 12:33PM

4 fought alongside us. They have no business in 12:34PM

5 our wars; but yet, they came and they fought 12:34PM

6 alongside us, and they fought gallantly. We need 12:34PM

7 to reward them. Give them what they want." 12:34PM

8 What did they want? They want that fire 12:34PM

9 water. So, in July 13th or 17th of 1954, when I 12:34PM

10 was going on five years old, he was legalizing 12:34PM

11 alcohol to the sale of Native Americans. 12:34PM

12 This homeland skyrocketed to almost 12:34PM

13 100 percent in the '60s when I was growing up. A 12:34PM

14 reward? A sickness that was given to us. 12:34PM

15 In that boarding school system there, in 12:34PM

16 1959, in the dining room, there was going to be a 12:34PM

17 movie that night, and I was anxious to see this 12:34PM

18 movie. 12:35PM

19 I didn't have the dime to buy that 12:35PM

20 popcorn, but they gave us apples. I cut my apple 12:35PM

21 in half, and I said, "I'm going to chew on this 12:35PM

22 at the movie." 12:35PM

23 When we were leaving the dining room, 12:35PM

24 Father Dreckman (phonetic) -- many of you 12:35PM

25 remember him -- he began to search us boys to see 12:35PM

1 whether we were sneaking silverware out of the 12:35PM
2 dining room. 12:35PM
3 And when he found that apple in my 12:35PM
4 pocket, he slammed it in the trash can and said, 12:35PM
5 "I want to see you at lineup." 12:35PM
6 I hid behind the pillars in the 12:35PM
7 playroom. Didn't want to make eye contact. 12:35PM
8 Prayed and hoped that he had forgotten. 12:35PM
9 But when they blew the whistle -- and 12:35PM
10 everybody in the first grade to line up the 12:35PM
11 fastest and the straightest, you get the front 12:35PM
12 row seats in the gymnasium. 12:35PM
13 Thinking he forgot, when he called my 12:36PM
14 grade, I started going to line up. He came down, 12:36PM
15 and he beat me up. "I told you I wanted to see 12:36PM
16 you at lineup." 12:36PM
17 All the kids came into that gymnasium 12:36PM
18 for their movie. I was taken up to the third 12:36PM
19 floor, to the high school boys' dormitory. 12:36PM
20 He went into that room and came out with 12:36PM
21 a huge, thick paddle, wrapped with that canvas 12:36PM
22 and some tape. 12:36PM
23 "Drop your pants and your underwear." 12:36PM
24 How many did I get? Fifty. For half an 12:36PM
25 apple. 12:36PM

1 He wailed on me. Screaming; crying. But 12:36PM
2 he had to get his 50. He literally beat the shit 12:36PM
3 out of me. 12:36PM
4 I didn't go to the movie. I couldn't 12:36PM
5 sit down for days; weeks. My brother told me I 12:36PM
6 was black and blue all across my back. 12:37PM
7 Nothing to help with the pain. He drug 12:37PM
8 me into the dormitory. I don't know what else he 12:37PM
9 did to me. 12:37PM
10 These are the things that, in the '50s, 12:37PM
11 that, those of us that were in boarding school, 12:37PM
12 for half an apple, we were whipped. 12:37PM
13 I came through that boarding school. I 12:37PM
14 was not academically prepared to succeed in 12:37PM
15 higher education. 12:37PM
16 The Vietnam War was going strong in the 12:37PM
17 late '60s. That's where I ended up, serving for 12:37PM
18 this country. One year, day-to-day, in Vietnam. 12:37PM
19 Came home. Spent time in Fort Carson, Colorado. 12:37PM
20 My little brother, who was supposed to 12:38PM
21 go to college, joined the American Indian 12:38PM
22 Movement. And we all know, through the early 12:38PM
23 '70s, what was going on here. 12:38PM
24 I was at Fort Carson, Colorado; then, I 12:38PM
25 came home. My little brother said, "What are you 12:38PM

1 doing? We're doing things. You have to join 12:38PM
2 us." 12:38PM
3 I says, "I'm in the Army. I'm trying to 12:38PM
4 go to Germany next." 12:38PM
5 "Well, take me to this AIM rally at 12:38PM
6 Mother Butler in Rapid City." 12:38PM
7 I listened to a speaker there saying, 12:38PM
8 "You see that drunken Indian man standing on the 12:38PM
9 street corners of today's cities? That drunken 12:38PM
10 Indian man has made a very profound statement, 12:38PM
11 saying, 'I would rather drink myself to death 12:38PM
12 than to conform to live the ways of the white 12:38PM
13 man.'" 12:38PM
14 Drink yourself to death? Is that the 12:39PM
15 mentality of hate? If that is, I don't want it 12:39PM
16 to be with me. 12:39PM
17 I went back to the Service, but every 12:39PM
18 time I came into that, there they were: In 12:39PM
19 Custer; they were here at the BIA in DC; and 12:39PM
20 then, when they occupied Wounded Knee. 12:39PM
21 I stood there, asking myself, "Who in the 12:39PM
22 hell am I? Do I belong to my people, who are 12:39PM
23 being surrounded at Wounded Knee, or do I belong 12:39PM
24 to this man's army, who are pointing those 12:39PM
25 weapons at my people? Who the hell am I? I 12:39PM

1 belong to my people in Wounded Knee." 12:39PM
2 I kept leaving the Army until they 12:39PM
3 caught up with me in '74. "You owe us a year and 12:39PM
4 nine months, or you can finish this in prison." 12:40PM
5 I was court-martialed and sent to 12:40PM
6 Leavenworth, military discipline. This is what 12:40PM
7 happened. 12:40PM
8 What is going on now today? Back then, 12:40PM
9 the President of the United States: He was 12:40PM
10 either going to get impeached if he didn't step 12:40PM
11 out of office. 12:40PM
12 We all remember Tricky Dicky and 12:40PM
13 Watergate. When he stepped out of office, Gerald 12:40PM
14 Ford took the presidency, and he gave Nixon a 12:40PM
15 full pardon. 12:40PM
16 To make it look good, to please the 12:40PM
17 masses, he looked into the prisons and said, "If 12:40PM
18 you are in here because of just that one offense, 12:40PM
19 you weren't where you were supposed to be. 12:40PM
20 President Ford is giving you a full pardon." 12:40PM
21 The guards laughed at me coming out of the 12:40PM
22 prison, saying, "I don't know what good that 12:41PM
23 document will do you. You'll never -- probably 12:41PM
24 never get to work for the U.S. government." 12:41PM
25 "You can keep your government. I am 12:41PM

1 going home to my people." 12:41PM

2 I came home, and I remained here, except 12:41PM

3 to go to school. But I was lost. I was angry. 12:41PM

4 I was drinking too much. I was smoking too much 12:41PM

5 pot for what Vietnam did to me. I took a delve. 12:41PM

6 I saw a lot of a humble medicine man who 12:41PM

7 took me in and became my mentor for ten years 12:41PM

8 until he passed on. 12:41PM

9 I came to him and says, "There is 12:41PM

10 nothing materialistic on the face of this Earth I 12:41PM

11 can give you in return for what you did for me 12:41PM

12 and my family. I'm not a secret one. You talk 12:41PM

13 to the Creator." 12:42PM

14 He took me up on a hill. "Stay here until 12:42PM

15 I come back for you." 12:42PM

16 Four days and four nights. The first 12:42PM

17 night, I says, "No problem. I can do this. I 12:42PM

18 just got back from Vietnam, and I know there's no 12:42PM

19 VC in these woods," until I heard that coyote 12:42PM

20 someplace. Fear. 12:42PM

21 But up on that hill, I found myself. I 12:42PM

22 wanted happiness. I wanted to be happy. Well, 12:42PM

23 what was happiness? What did it look like? What 12:42PM

24 did it feel like? 12:42PM

25 I had my friends. We had things that 12:42PM

1 could numb our spirits and numb our bodies. We'd 12:42PM
2 laugh. That was fake happiness. What was real 12:42PM
3 happiness? 12:42PM
4 I began to sit through the night until the 12:42PM
5 pink, orange, purplish clouds. The sun was 12:43PM
6 coming up. 12:43PM
7 I got up, and I looked towards the east, 12:43PM
8 and I saw that Morning Star and asked him, "Am I 12:43PM
9 entitled to happiness?" 12:43PM
10 When that sun came over the horizon and 12:43PM
11 hit my face, I broke down crying through that 12:43PM
12 whole day. 12:43PM
13 What do I need to do to be happy? I 12:43PM
14 realized I had to forgive. Forgive myself. 12:43PM
15 Then, I realized I had to forgive Father 12:43PM
16 Dreckman. 12:43PM
17 "When it's your day to go and meet your 12:43PM
18 Creator, you tell the Creator why you had to whip 12:43PM
19 this little Indian boy 50 times for half an 12:43PM
20 apple. I forgive you, Father Dreckman. I 12:44PM
21 forgive you." 12:44PM
22 Forgiveness. Asking forgiveness. That 12:44PM
23 man I killed in Vietnam: He had a family; maybe 12:44PM
24 he had children. 12:44PM
25 He was fighting for a way of life that 12:44PM

1 he believed in. He looked like me. He was 12:44PM
2 brown-colored, like me. And I took his life. 12:44PM
3 Come home angry; lost. 12:44PM
4 I've been to countries and, lately, I 12:44PM
5 went to Bologna, and the peoples talked about 12:44PM
6 genocide. 12:44PM
7 This is what we're talking about here, 12:44PM
8 this genocide. How are we going to address the 12:44PM
9 genocide that was imposed on us? 12:45PM
10 Spirituality. When I came back to my 12:45PM
11 ways and this humble man guided me home, I know 12:45PM
12 who I am. 12:45PM
13 I spent 25 years in this institution, 12:45PM
14 giving back to my -- the other generations what's 12:45PM
15 rightfully theirs: Their history, their culture, 12:45PM
16 (speaks Native language), their language, their 12:45PM
17 history, their culture. 12:45PM
18 Then, I moved on to St. Francis Indian 12:45PM
19 School for six years. This year, they gave me a 12:45PM
20 contract, but I said, "My men's report says that 12:45PM
21 I have colon cancer," so I stepped away from 12:45PM
22 being an employee. I'm doing consulting work 12:45PM
23 now. 12:45PM
24 None of my family, the males, have ever 12:46PM
25 reached 80 years old, and now the fear is in me: 12:46PM

1 Am I going to make 80 years old? 12:46PM

2 I just turned 73. What do I have left? 12:46PM

3 What have I been through? And to bring these 12:46PM

4 out. 12:46PM

5 Relatives, drink water and heal. 12:46PM

6 (Speaks Native language.) 12:46PM

7 (Off the record from 12:46 p.m. until 2:18 p.m.) 12:46PM

8 RUSSEL EAGLE BEAR: We'll kick this off 12:46PM

9 with a prayer; and then, we'll turn it over to 02:19PM

10 our youth counsel. 02:19PM

11 They have a statement that they want to 02:19PM

12 make, and they also have somebody here to -- one 02:19PM

13 of our young girls is going to sing or render a 02:19PM

14 song, so go ahead. I think we have -- we're 02:19PM

15 ready to go. 02:19PM

16 And Secret Service are walking around, so 02:19PM

17 don't give up your names right now yet. 02:19PM

18 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: (Speaks Native 02:19PM

19 language.) At this time, ladies and gentlemen, 02:19PM

20 we're going to go back into our session with a 02:19PM

21 prayer; and then, we're going to go right back to 02:19PM

22 our youth with a beautiful song and dissertation 02:19PM

23 to Deb Haaland and her staff. (Speaks Native 02:19PM

24 language.) 02:19PM

25 DINESHA BLACK HORSE: (Sings in Native and 02:19PM

1	English language.)	02:19PM
2	CHRISTOPHER EAGLE BEAR: You all can be	02:22PM
3	seated. (Speaks Native language.) My name is	02:22PM
4	Christopher Eagle Bear. I'm a member of the	02:22PM
5	Sicangu Youth Council.	02:22PM
6	Speaking on behalf of the Sicangu Youth	02:22PM
7	Council, we would like to acknowledge all of the	02:22PM
8	survivors, first and foremost.	02:22PM
9	The fact that you are all here shows the	02:23PM
10	continuing story. It shows the strength and	02:23PM
11	resilience you all have been through to get to	02:23PM
12	this point.	02:23PM
13	And, without you, there would be no us.	02:23PM
14	You survived so that we could fight for our	02:23PM
15	language, our history, and our culture, and so	02:23PM
16	that we could build.	02:23PM
17	I'd like to acknowledge the United States	02:23PM
18	Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland; and the	02:23PM
19	Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian	02:23PM
20	Affairs, Bryan Newland; as well as Rosebud Sioux	02:23PM
21	Tribe for hosting this and making it happen for	02:23PM
22	the Great Plains Region.	02:23PM
23	The history of Indian boarding schools	02:23PM
24	was and is one of the biggest devastating,	02:23PM
25	catastrophic times for Indigenous people, a time	02:23PM

1 that would forever change the way we view 02:23PM
2 ourselves; raise our children; and go about our 02:23PM
3 everyday lives. 02:23PM
4 Everyone in here is a survivor of a 02:23PM
5 boarding school. We may not know it, but our 02:24PM
6 circle of trauma has affected us all in one way 02:24PM
7 or another. 02:24PM
8 Now, with more of a better 02:24PM
9 understanding, we are able to heal from the 02:24PM
10 hardships that our grandmothers and grandfathers 02:24PM
11 before us had to endure and experience during the 02:24PM
12 times of boarding schools that crossed their 02:24PM
13 lives. 02:24PM
14 We push for our culture and our language 02:24PM
15 for our future generations so that they're 02:24PM
16 immersed in it, and we go full-circle again. 02:24PM
17 And what's -- when we started the 02:24PM
18 journey with the repatriation of our ancestors 02:24PM
19 from the Carlisle Industrial Boarding School, we 02:24PM
20 were always guided by spirit; always guided by 02:24PM
21 prayer. 02:24PM
22 We always made it important to 02:24PM
23 incorporate our way of life, our culture into the 02:24PM
24 repatriation process. 02:24PM
25 Working together, our prayers were 02:24PM

1 answered. Some of our children -- of the 02:24PM
2 children made it home, pow wow. 02:25PM
3 And the ones that are still there: We 02:25PM
4 haven't forgotten them, either. We're going to 02:25PM
5 go back and get them, as well. 02:25PM
6 And this is just the first of many 02:25PM
7 boarding schools that we're going to go to get 02:25PM
8 them home, because the end goal is to have all 02:25PM
9 our relatives home. 02:25PM
10 And it's that strength and power that 02:25PM
11 the Sicangu Youth Council recognizes. We are the 02:25PM
12 grandchildren who question and seek knowledge; 02:25PM
13 the ones that protect our knowledge of elders and 02:25PM
14 seek the healthy path for future generations. 02:25PM
15 And if we cannot find one, we'll make one. 02:25PM
16 We were taught that true politeness was 02:25PM
17 defined in actions rather than words. We are 02:25PM
18 Lakota before we are anything else. 02:25PM
19 I'm sorry. It's taking me back. My 02:25PM
20 grandmother is sitting right here. I've known 02:25PM
21 her my whole life, you know. I've never known 02:26PM
22 the -- why she couldn't share this stuff with us, 02:26PM
23 you know. 02:26PM
24 We're lucky to have the survivors that 02:26PM
25 are here. Their voices are still important. 02:26PM

1 What they went through still needs to be heard. 02:26PM
2 And I stare at you guys, because someone 02:26PM
3 has to be held accountable for what our 02:26PM
4 grandparents went through. 02:26PM
5 Each and every one of you has a spirit 02:26PM
6 and a kid that goes with that spirit, and this 02:26PM
7 song is for those kids. 02:26PM
8 (Sings in Native language.) 02:26PM
9 Thank you. 02:26PM
10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Okay. 02:28PM
11 Good afternoon, everybody. It's 2:30. We're 02:28PM
12 going to try to go for 90 minutes and see where 02:28PM
13 we're at, if we need a break. 02:28PM
14 And we'll try to hear from as many as we 02:28PM
15 can in that time. And we want to prioritize, 02:28PM
16 make sure we're leaving space to hear from people 02:28PM
17 who are boarding school survivors themselves and 02:28PM
18 their families. 02:28PM
19 And we're here to listen. Just want to 02:28PM
20 make sure that everyone understands the time 02:28PM
21 constraints and that we're respectful of others 02:28PM
22 who want to speak, as well. 02:28PM
23 HOLY WHITE HORSE: (Speaks Native 02:29PM
24 language.) My name is Holy White Horse. I'm 02:29PM
25 named after my great-great-grandfather, who was a 02:29PM

1 healer. 02:29PM

2 I come from war veterans. I come from 02:29PM

3 the No Retreat Group line, so I'm one of the 02:29PM

4 survivors. 02:29PM

5 I came from Fort Belknap, the Nakota or 02:29PM

6 Assiniboine, and I just want to say that there 02:29PM

7 should be a flag right there on that: Prisoner 02:30PM

8 of war and missing in action. Those are our kids 02:30PM

9 that are missing in action. 02:30PM

10 One of the things that I've talked about 02:30PM

11 at Indian boarding schools: My grandfather. He 02:30PM

12 came here. 02:30PM

13 He -- probably at nine years old -- 02:30PM

14 1898, somewhere around there -- he ran away from 02:30PM

15 Carlisle Indian School. He couldn't speak 02:30PM

16 English, and it took him six months to get home 02:30PM

17 at nine years old. 02:30PM

18 So, on my mother's side, my grandmother 02:30PM

19 told me, in 1903, when she was five years old, 02:30PM

20 she was taken by the nuns to that one in Great 02:30PM

21 Falls. They beat her up because she only spoke 02:31PM

22 her Native language, Cree. 02:31PM

23 And so, that's -- the best part of it is 02:31PM

24 they still knew their culture and their language. 02:31PM

25 My grandmother doctored people and delivered 02:31PM

1 17 breached babies until IHS stopped her. 02:31PM

2 One of the things that I want to say is 02:31PM

3 that, looking at the parochial schools, you know, 02:31PM

4 some of us that are -- you know, our families 02:31PM

5 went. 02:31PM

6 But, you know, the sad part about it is 02:31PM

7 a lot of us had to watch the priest sodomize 02:31PM

8 our -- so, had to watch our classmates become 02:32PM

9 sexually assaulted. 02:32PM

10 So that's -- nobody wants to share 02:32PM

11 things like that. I've learned how to be tough, 02:32PM

12 because you couldn't cry. Couldn't do that. 02:33PM

13 So I think, every time I ran away from 02:33PM

14 the captives, or whatever they called it, one of 02:33PM

15 the things that, when I used to go -- had to -- 02:33PM

16 forced to go to church when you run away -- and 02:33PM

17 then, you know, try to hide that. And it hid for 02:33PM

18 a long time. 02:33PM

19 And one of the things that I can't 02:33PM

20 stand, as part of the trauma, is people praying 02:33PM

21 in church. 02:34PM

22 And every time I go to a funeral or 02:34PM

23 someplace or a church, I would be saying -- when 02:34PM

24 they'd be praying, I'd be saying -- I'd be pissed 02:34PM

25 off, you know. 02:34PM

1 And I still, to this day, feel the same 02:34PM
2 way, is that way, because you get those 02:34PM
3 flashbacks. 02:34PM
4 So that's probably the hardest thing that, 02:34PM
5 I think, anybody could go through. Nobody wants 02:34PM
6 to tell their stories. It's much easier to tell 02:34PM
7 someone else's but your own. 02:34PM
8 So I started drinking when I was in 02:34PM
9 seventh grade. And one of the things that some 02:35PM
10 of us won't do is we won't shoot ourselves; we 02:35PM
11 won't hang ourselves; we won't take pills. 02:35PM
12 But we'll get drunk, and we'll fight. 02:35PM
13 We'll get someone to beat us. That's what we do: 02:35PM
14 Have someone beat us to death, because all you do 02:35PM
15 is fight; drink in the bars. 02:35PM
16 And you get reckless. And so, you end 02:35PM
17 up driving 100 miles an hour. I ran it a few 02:35PM
18 times over 100 miles an hour. The only thing I 02:35PM
19 remembered was the beer and, you know, just that 02:35PM
20 terrible stuff. 02:35PM
21 Then, when I went to Flandreau -- when 02:35PM
22 you got in trouble, they sent you to Flandreau. 02:36PM
23 So I was a good bullshitter, and I convinced my 02:36PM
24 folks that they were going to lock me up, so I 02:36PM
25 went to Flandreau Indian School. 02:36PM

1 And one of my friends died. I had a lot 02:36PM
2 of friends, and one of the things we done is we 02:36PM
3 wanted to go downtown and buy some liquor. I 02:36PM
4 guess we were about 17. 02:36PM
5 And one of the things that happened was 02:36PM
6 the officer who was the cop, he was the one 02:36PM
7 that -- we seen him. 02:36PM
8 And then, we were running, and I ran 02:36PM
9 right into him coming around the corner, from 02:36PM
10 here to you. And he had his pistol drawn, and he 02:36PM
11 said, "Stop, or I'll blow your fucking head off." 02:36PM
12 And the first thing I thought of was, 02:36PM
13 "Oh, shit. I'm going to hurt Mother if this guy 02:37PM
14 kills me." 02:37PM
15 I wasn't scared, and so I faced him; I 02:37PM
16 went up to him. And he has this pistol behind -- 02:37PM
17 I think it was a .357 -- behind my head, right, 02:37PM
18 and he slammed me against the car; and then, he 02:37PM
19 handcuffed me so tight that I had welts. 02:37PM
20 And, you know, I figured he was going to 02:37PM
21 kill me if I did run, but I wasn't scared; I was 02:37PM
22 only more concerned about, you know, hurting my 02:37PM
23 mother. 02:37PM
24 So, to this day, you know, if somebody 02:37PM
25 threatens me, you know, that flashback comes 02:37PM

1 back, and I get pissed off. 02:37PM

2 And I'm afraid that, if I -- I've been 02:37PM

3 threatened to be killed because I was on the 02:37PM

4 council. 02:37PM

5 When you deal with sexual assault or 02:37PM

6 something and you stand up for someone, you know, 02:37PM

7 you're going to get threatened. 02:38PM

8 So that's one of the things that I seen 02:38PM

9 as a -- you know. So I'd say, "Let them 02:38PM

10 son-of-a-bitches come after me." 02:38PM

11 And Anna, my wife, says, "Jamie, you 02:38PM

12 can't be doing that. This is old school. You've 02:38PM

13 got a grandson to worry about." 02:38PM

14 "Shit, I can't." 02:38PM

15 Old school, you know. And that's really 02:38PM

16 hard to -- so you end up being this bad guy in 02:38PM

17 there, you know, and -- because you're just not 02:38PM

18 someone right. 02:38PM

19 And so, I think, one of the things that 02:38PM

20 we look at is the priests and the nuns, you know, 02:38PM

21 who tell you that you'll burn in hell, you know. 02:38PM

22 "If you lie, you're going to burn in hell"; or, 02:38PM

23 "If you steal, you're going to burn in hell." 02:38PM

24 And you hear that all the time, and I 02:38PM

25 didn't believe it, you know. And I got proof, 02:38PM

1 because I lied in my first confession, so -- I 02:39PM
2 just BSed it, because I didn't believe it. So 02:39PM
3 one -- you know, all that trauma and them telling 02:39PM
4 us that. 02:39PM
5 And, you know, I lost a sister-in-law on 02:39PM
6 May 1st to domestic violence. She was killed. 02:39PM
7 And, you know, she was -- they were in Blackfeet 02:39PM
8 Country. 02:39PM
9 And that's what she -- she didn't want 02:39PM
10 to go to hell. Scared, you know. And that 02:39PM
11 really -- when Adam told me that, that really 02:39PM
12 bothered me. 02:39PM
13 What the hell has the priests and nuns 02:39PM
14 and brothers got to us to make us feel like 02:39PM
15 nothing, like we're just a piece of shit, you 02:39PM
16 know. 02:39PM
17 And so, that's one of the things that 02:39PM
18 really bothers me is, on my Assiniboine side, you 02:39PM
19 know, my grandfather took us to Sun Dance a long 02:40PM
20 time ago -- five, six years old -- and I was told 02:40PM
21 stories on that side of the family. 02:40PM
22 And one of the things, you know, when 02:40PM
23 you go, you have relatives come after you in a 02:40PM
24 good way; and then, you have these guys telling 02:40PM
25 her, "You'll go to hell," and that really, 02:40PM

1 really, really hurts. 02:40PM

2 There's so many kids at home that I see 02:40PM

3 that are sexually abused -- and, you know, boys 02:40PM

4 and girls -- and it's something that we need to 02:40PM

5 take care of. 02:40PM

6 We have over 8,000 members of the Nakota 02:40PM

7 and all you people, and our IHS budget -- I mean, 02:40PM

8 six to eight contractors -- it took about five 02:40PM

9 years. 02:40PM

10 Jim Miller helped us get it, and 02:40PM

11 \$348,000. That's only, like, \$40 apiece for 02:41PM

12 everybody, you know. 02:41PM

13 That's not enough. But, you know, I 02:41PM

14 think that's something that I see, is: It's sad 02:41PM

15 that we have to continue this shortfall. 02:41PM

16 And I just wanted to say that, you know, 02:41PM

17 some of the notes that I have right now is, you 02:41PM

18 know, back in the day, before there was -- like, 02:41PM

19 back in the '30s, around over 5,000 acres that 02:41PM

20 the Catholics stole. They stole it. 02:41PM

21 They had slave labor with our own 02:41PM

22 people, our kids. And one of the things they 02:41PM

23 done is they had some grain that was fed to the 02:41PM

24 horses, and it spoiled. 02:42PM

25 They didn't want to send -- feed it to 02:42PM

1 the horses, so they fed it to the kids. And 02:42PM
2 then, they buried our kids any place they killed 02:42PM
3 them, and that's really sad to see. 02:42PM
4 But they tell me I can't lie or I'm 02:42PM
5 going to go to hell and all this, and they pull 02:42PM
6 worse things than I have ever done. 02:42PM
7 Myself, I believe it's -- today, these 02:42PM
8 priests and nuns that are trying to cover up, 02:42PM
9 they're accessories to a murder. I'm not a 02:42PM
10 lawyer, but that's how I feel. 02:42PM
11 So, you know, there's so many things 02:42PM
12 that we really need to look at as far as our own 02:42PM
13 people. 02:42PM
14 And that, you know, the land transfer, 02:42PM
15 you know, back to our people, must -- it should 02:43PM
16 happen because, you know, by law, they're 02:43PM
17 supposed to give those lands back. 02:43PM
18 You know, we can't get our family 02:43PM
19 members back that they've murdered, but we could 02:43PM
20 get the land back. We could heal. 02:43PM
21 You know, trauma: The opposite of 02:43PM
22 trauma is choice, and you need a choice of -- to 02:43PM
23 heal. And that's one of the hardest things that 02:43PM
24 we'll ever go through, is healing. 02:43PM
25 But it's -- my brother, Jim Miller, 02:43PM

1 lives in Porcupine, and that school helps me. 02:43PM
2 He's my brother; he's a combat vet; spiritual 02:43PM
3 leader; and he uses horse medicine, and that's 02:43PM
4 what we need to do. 02:44PM
5 And I apologize for anything, but I 02:44PM
6 just -- just need a lot of healing myself, and 02:44PM
7 just want you, as our leaders, to help us to 02:44PM
8 heal. 02:44PM
9 And there's so many of our young ladies 02:44PM
10 here and our young men that -- you know, it made 02:44PM
11 me feel good to see them sing and serve the 02:44PM
12 people. 02:44PM
13 And that's what we need to do. It's 02:44PM
14 good to see them doing things for people. With 02:44PM
15 that, I thank you, and I appreciate you very 02:44PM
16 much. (Speaks Native language.) 02:44PM
17 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: So, 02:45PM
18 we're going to hear from this woman first; and, I 02:45PM
19 think, we have an elder here next after you, 02:45PM
20 correct. 02:45PM
21 VIOLET CATCHES: (Speaks Native language.) 02:45PM
22 My name is Violet Catches. I grew up as Violet 02:46PM
23 Holy. 02:46PM
24 My name, as Violet Holy, are going to 02:46PM
25 contain the records that I have at St. Joseph's 02:46PM

1 Indian School. 02:46PM

2 There was a lot of abuse. All different 02:46PM

3 kinds. And one of the worst kinds is the 02:46PM

4 cultural genocide, and that is washing my mouth 02:46PM

5 out with soap. I mean, really washing my mouth 02:46PM

6 out with soap. 02:46PM

7 And so, I stopped speaking. And I may 02:46PM

8 have been absorbing English, but it wasn't only 02:46PM

9 that. 02:46PM

10 If I couldn't read any -- a word in 02:46PM

11 English, the nuns took my hand and used a ruler. 02:46PM

12 And back then, in the 1950s, the rulers had a 02:47PM

13 metal insert in them, and they hit you until you 02:47PM

14 bleed. They don't stop. 02:47PM

15 Or, sometimes, if they catch you doing 02:47PM

16 something, they'll put your thumb as far as you 02:47PM

17 can tippy-toe, and you have to stand there like 02:47PM

18 that. 02:47PM

19 And that really caused -- you know, 02:47PM

20 they'd do stuff. If you fall, then they come and 02:47PM

21 they spank you. They -- you know, they really 02:47PM

22 mistreat you. 02:47PM

23 There was a lot of different kinds of 02:47PM

24 abuse, and I'm going to talk about that much of 02:47PM

25 my own abuse, because I'm a voice for my 02:47PM

1 grandmother. 02:47PM
2 Her name is Mabel Holy. She survived 02:47PM
3 Wounded Knee. She survived the Wounded Knee 02:47PM
4 Massacre. 02:47PM
5 They went back to break her with this, 02:48PM
6 because most of the people that survived went 02:48PM
7 back there because that's where the other half of 02:48PM
8 our people were waiting for Big Foot to come back 02:48PM
9 and take us to our own reservation. 02:48PM
10 And so, I talk like I was there, but I 02:48PM
11 wasn't there. My grandma talked like that, so 02:48PM
12 I'm talking like my grandmother. 02:48PM
13 So they were going to take us to this 02:48PM
14 new reservation for our own, the Big Foot band. 02:48PM
15 That didn't happen. Instead, they massacred. 02:48PM
16 So when they were taken back, the 02:48PM
17 children were then taken away. The children, in 02:48PM
18 that time, when they were taken away, it didn't 02:48PM
19 happen right in 1890. It was about 1891, '92. 02:48PM
20 And they -- my grandfather, my mom's 02:48PM
21 father, and his two sisters were taken to the 02:48PM
22 Sioux San Boarding School in Rapid City, South 02:48PM
23 Dakota. 02:48PM
24 And, for me, I went through -- I've 02:48PM
25 become very involved with remembering the 02:49PM

1 children -- well, kind of, the chopping stuff. 02:49PM
2 We cook there. 02:49PM
3 I volunteer. I do -- you know, I help 02:49PM
4 as much as I can because, in my family, they were 02:49PM
5 looking for my grandmother -- my grandfather -- 02:49PM
6 my mom's dad's sister. 02:49PM
7 My mother's father was also at the Sioux 02:49PM
8 San Boarding School, but he finished and went 02:49PM
9 home. 02:49PM
10 And then, his sister didn't come home. 02:49PM
11 Two of them. Their name is Mabel Holy and Julia 02:49PM
12 Holy. We still have not located Julia Holy. 02:49PM
13 My grandfather passed away not knowing 02:50PM
14 that his sister passed away. He wrote back to 02:50PM
15 the superintendent at the school and the 02:50PM
16 superintendent at the Cheyenne River, and they 02:50PM
17 didn't answer. My grandfather passed away in 02:50PM
18 1945, not knowing what happened to his sister. 02:50PM
19 I think that having this kind of trauma, 02:50PM
20 not just the boarding school, my own experience, 02:50PM
21 but my grandmother's and grandfather's 02:50PM
22 experiences, being taken; not only that, I know 02:50PM
23 the stories of when a whole bunch of little kids 02:51PM
24 were taken from families, taken through Philip, 02:51PM
25 and put them on the boxcars. A train took them 02:51PM

1 away, families crying. 02:51PM

2 They followed them in wagons to Philip, 02:51PM

3 where the trains waited. And even though they 02:51PM

4 cried, the soldiers there ripped the kids off -- 02:51PM

5 out of their families' arms and put them into 02:51PM

6 that boxcar. This is a story that my uncle told 02:51PM

7 me that he was told when he was little. 02:51PM

8 So we carry that kind of information, 02:51PM

9 that kind of history. We cannot forget. We 02:51PM

10 always have to remember. 02:51PM

11 And I think that, knowing this and 02:51PM

12 knowing that we're -- you know, we still need 02:51PM

13 this healing. 02:51PM

14 But in the process of the healing -- 02:52PM

15 first of all, my crystal -- and I'm sure a lot of 02:52PM

16 people feel the same way -- give us back our 02:52PM

17 land. Give us back the places where these 02:52PM

18 schools were built. Bring our children back. 02:52PM

19 They were children. We're the children; 02:52PM

20 they're the grandmas and grandpas. Where are 02:52PM

21 they? Where's my Grandma Julia? 02:52PM

22 I hope someday we find her before I 02:52PM

23 leave. I'm only 72. I don't know how long I'm 02:52PM

24 going to be here, because I'm the last one. 02:52PM

25 I have an older sister. She's 76 or 02:52PM

1 somewhere around there, and she doesn't really 02:52PM
2 get involved. 02:52PM
3 I know she cares, but she has too many 02:52PM
4 grandchildren, so she can't come in and speak 02:52PM
5 like that. 02:52PM
6 But we need to find our relatives. We 02:52PM
7 need to put -- we need to heal. We need to go 02:53PM
8 on. 02:53PM
9 But in order to do that, we have to have 02:53PM
10 some kind of restitution. Something that helps 02:53PM
11 us, that we can see. 02:53PM
12 Like, for example, that Sioux San: Give 02:53PM
13 us all that land back. Let us build memorials. 02:53PM
14 Let us put a memorial going on there. 02:53PM
15 But help us, you know. Help us get all 02:53PM
16 of our other land back and so that we can, maybe, 02:53PM
17 build healing centers there. 02:53PM
18 And there's another thing that I've been 02:53PM
19 involved in with our Wounded Knee descendants, 02:53PM
20 and we took this thing about Removing the Stain: 02:53PM
21 Removing all of the Medals of Honor given to the 02:54PM
22 soldiers who massacred our people, my relatives, 02:54PM
23 innocent people -- I'm sorry. 02:54PM
24 I don't want to leave this world until I 02:54PM
25 know some things will happen. I really 02:54PM

1 appreciate you coming here and doing this for us. 02:54PM
2 Thank you so much. 02:54PM
3 TRACY "CHING" KING: I want to stand up 02:54PM
4 here like the priests. The reason why I stand up 02:55PM
5 here, I got cancer in the old hip. I left 02:55PM
6 Vietnam, but Vietnam didn't leave me. Just like 02:55PM
7 the boarding school. 02:55PM
8 Four days ago, I lost a takoza. You ask 02:55PM
9 any of these spiritual men in here, or any of 02:55PM
10 these spiritual women: There's a four-day thing 02:55PM
11 that you work hard; you keep your word. 02:55PM
12 I wasn't really supposed to be here. I 02:55PM
13 went up to see my brother; had breakfast in Rapid 02:55PM
14 City. I met a couple beautiful attorneys that 02:55PM
15 work in this. 02:55PM
16 So the old people will tell you: When 02:55PM
17 somebody feeds you, you should tell them a story. 02:56PM
18 Don't have to be a war story, but you tell them a 02:56PM
19 story in thanksgiving for that (speaks Native 02:56PM
20 language). 02:56PM
21 I just lost a grandson. I lost him four 02:56PM
22 days ago. So, for me, this is my fourth day. I 02:56PM
23 told the attorneys and my brother. 02:56PM
24 I kept my word. I worked hard. I 02:56PM
25 prayed this morning and smudged before I came. I 02:56PM

1 come from (speaks Native language) Porcupine, 02:56PM
2 South Dakota, by way of Eagle Butte. 02:56PM
3 So when I'm there, you know, there was an 02:57PM
4 old person who took me aside, and he said, "You 02:57PM
5 know, you can become a member of this tribe by 02:57PM
6 either you're married into it, you're hoopla'ed 02:57PM
7 (phonetic) into it, or you're born into it." 02:57PM
8 So I sobered up 38 years ago. I'm a 02:57PM
9 product of the boarding school. Well, let me put 02:57PM
10 it this way: How many in here had to stand at 02:57PM
11 the altar of their God with a bar of soap in your 02:57PM
12 mouth? Let's see a show of hands. Two. 02:57PM
13 How many of you men that wet the bed had 02:57PM
14 to wear a dress the next day? Show of hands. 02:58PM
15 How many of you have been through a belt line, 02:58PM
16 and they turned the buckle on you? Instead of 02:58PM
17 using the strap, they turned the buckle on you? 02:58PM
18 I often wondered why my parents had no 02:58PM
19 love. They would either hug you like a football 02:58PM
20 player, or they would come and tell you that they 02:58PM
21 loved you. I never got that. 02:58PM
22 I never got that, and the reason why was 02:58PM
23 my parents were in a boarding school, too. Same 02:59PM
24 with my grandparents: They were in a boarding 02:59PM
25 school. 02:59PM

1 So our dad would get us up, march us to 02:59PM
2 the barn, milk cows, feed cows. Every place we 02:59PM
3 went was, "Hurry up. Got to get this done." 02:59PM
4 So when I started to have children, what 02:59PM
5 the hell did I do? I did the same damn thing. I 02:59PM
6 was raised with the whip. I had to get that out 02:59PM
7 of my system. 02:59PM
8 You know, this 38 years, for me, has 02:59PM
9 been one hell of a journey. I had to go to PTSD 02:59PM
10 treatment in Palo Alto, California. I had to go 03:00PM
11 to codependency treatment, intense codependency 03:00PM
12 treatment. 03:00PM
13 My first four years of sobriety was 03:00PM
14 white-knuckling. Pissed off; mad at everybody. 03:00PM
15 My siblings, they all sobered up. They were 03:00PM
16 always talking about, "Let go, let God, easy does 03:00PM
17 it." 03:00PM
18 I didn't know what the hell they were 03:00PM
19 talking about. So the fifth year in my sobriety, 03:00PM
20 I went to treatment, and I found out what they 03:00PM
21 were talking about. 03:00PM
22 The hardest part for me, being a warrior 03:00PM
23 and a macho man, riding around, riding bull, I 03:01PM
24 went to work for the U.S. Federal Probation. 03:01PM
25 I worked for them for 17 years. Since 03:01PM

1 you got all people that are foul clientele that 03:01PM
2 their crime was sexual abuse, incest, man, did I 03:01PM
3 get shaky. I started to sweat. 03:01PM
4 The head -- the -- Dr. Frazetta 03:01PM
5 (phonetic) was running that division at the time. 03:01PM
6 I told him, "You know, Dr. Frazetta, I can't do 03:02PM
7 this." 03:02PM
8 I started crying. I said, "I need help. 03:02PM
9 I need help. That's what happened to me by a 03:02PM
10 priest." 03:02PM
11 A lot of men don't like to talk about 03:02PM
12 it. When I brought it up within my own circle, 03:02PM
13 my own relatives, "Oh, you don't go around saying 03:02PM
14 that shit." 03:02PM
15 They tried to cut me off. But if it 03:02PM
16 wasn't for my counseling, my treatment -- I 03:02PM
17 belong to a combat support group in Fort Meade, 03:02PM
18 South Dakota. I go once a month. 03:02PM
19 Thirty-eight years ago was the first 03:02PM
20 sweat lodge I was ever in in my whole life, so I 03:03PM
21 didn't grow up in the traditional way. 03:03PM
22 I went in that sweat lodge. First and 03:03PM
23 only time that I found myself. At that time, I 03:03PM
24 had five years of sobriety -- oh, no. 03:03PM
25 I had one year -- thirty-eight years of 03:03PM

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1 sobriety -- I had three years of sobriety. That 03:03PM
2 fourth year in my sobriety, I tried to Sun Dance. 03:03PM
3 I'm not saying fault is the cure, but 03:03PM
4 what they took from us, we've got to get back. 03:03PM
5 I'm not going to stand up here and -- you know, 03:03PM
6 and talk about the parochial schools, "They're 03:04PM
7 doing this; they're doing that." 03:04PM
8 But they're all facing it down. They're 03:04PM
9 going to name their school The Dakota 38. How 03:04PM
10 many seen the film "The Dakota 38"? That's what 03:04PM
11 dreams do. That's where dreams will take you. 03:04PM
12 St. Joseph's is going to change their 03:04PM
13 name to Wanbli Tanka. These Catholic boarding 03:04PM
14 schools were funded by the government for years, 03:04PM
15 so we've got a lot to think about. We've got a 03:04PM
16 lot to do. 03:04PM
17 The little kids that were singing such 03:04PM
18 beautiful songs, we've got a lot of work to do. 03:05PM
19 You know, when I came in and they were singing, I 03:05PM
20 had a lump in my throat, thinking of my little 03:05PM
21 grandson. My little grandson died, and that's 03:05PM
22 historical trauma at its best. 03:05PM
23 So, like I said earlier, you know, I 03:05PM
24 didn't know I was going to be here. I got to 03:05PM
25 meet this beautiful young man and this beautiful 03:05PM

1 Madam Secretary; got to meet these leaders here, 03:05PM
2 spiritual leaders. 03:05PM
3 So, as a family -- I call you all my 03:05PM
4 family -- I want to tell you that I love you 03:05PM
5 guys, because I love myself. I love who I am 03:05PM
6 now. 03:06PM
7 It's hard to stand up here and talk. I 03:06PM
8 was watching some of these spiritual leaders. 03:06PM
9 God, I wish I was young again. 03:06PM
10 I've got to stay on my ten-and-a-halfs 03:06PM
11 and keep moving, you know what I'm saying? So 03:06PM
12 when I do fall backwards, I'm giving myself a 03:06PM
13 self-talk. 03:06PM
14 But the horrific things that happened to 03:06PM
15 our people, we kind of skipped a generation. Our 03:06PM
16 parents should have been in here. 03:06PM
17 Thank God this beautiful lady had the 03:06PM
18 balls to come here to do these workshops, to do 03:06PM
19 this thing. Thank God for her. 03:06PM
20 My grandma and grandpa -- my grandpa was 03:07PM
21 a full-blooded German; my grandma was a 03:07PM
22 full-blooded Nakota. 03:07PM
23 My grandpa learned the language. He 03:07PM
24 could talk Nakota better than some of these 03:07PM
25 Nakotas that speak today. 03:07PM

1 They had to go to Fort Yates, North 03:07PM
2 Dakota. We lived in Whitehorse, South Dakota. 03:07PM
3 We had to go buy bison. 03:07PM
4 My Aunt Sophie, she disguised herself as 03:07PM
5 a boy for three years to take care of her little 03:07PM
6 brothers. 03:07PM
7 She disguised herself as a boy to take 03:07PM
8 care of her two little brothers for three years. 03:08PM
9 That's how much love we had back then and that's 03:08PM
10 what we're striving to do, is to get that love 03:08PM
11 back; to love one another. 03:08PM
12 So, I kept my word today. I made it 03:08PM
13 here; I worked hard; I got to meet a couple 03:08PM
14 beautiful attorneys. 03:08PM
15 So I just want to leave you with this: 03:08PM
16 We still have boarding schools, and you know what 03:08PM
17 one is called? The Department of Social 03:08PM
18 Services, taking our kids. 03:08PM
19 The other one is the U.S. Federal Court 03:08PM
20 System, because I worked in there as a federal 03:09PM
21 probation officer. 03:09PM
22 Fifteen years ago, I changed the federal 03:09PM
23 probation system and showed them, "Hey, we have 03:09PM
24 our own way." 03:09PM
25 I got them back to the sweat. I guess I 03:09PM

1 showed the guy, the Western Division, how to give 03:09PM
2 one. 03:09PM
3 The Western probation officers, they had 03:09PM
4 to do a giveaway on file, and they wanted me to 03:09PM
5 orchestrate it. I said, "That ain't my doing. 03:09PM
6 It's your doing. I'll go help you." 03:09PM
7 That old adage that says you can lead a 03:09PM
8 horse to water, but you can't make it drink. So, 03:09PM
9 I'm here because I promised my sisters and my 03:10PM
10 brother that I'd be here. 03:10PM
11 I feathered my horse this morning, and 03:10PM
12 I'll ride it for my grandson. That's historical 03:10PM
13 trauma at its finest, that my grandson has 03:10PM
14 passed. 03:10PM
15 Came up the road with a gun and shot 03:10PM
16 himself. So I have to go back and deal with 03:10PM
17 that. 03:10PM
18 But I kept my word, Brother. And the 03:10PM
19 reason why I kept my word is because I'm sober. 03:10PM
20 I'm sober. 03:10PM
21 I want to be a role model to the next 03:10PM
22 up-and-coming generation. (Speaks Native 03:10PM
23 language.) 03:11PM
24 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: 03:11PM
25 Thanks. It is ten after 3:00. We're going to 03:11PM

1 try to go for another hour and assess where we're 03:11PM
2 at. 03:11PM
3 We want to hear from folks about their 03:11PM
4 boarding school experiences. Make sure that you 03:11PM
5 leave that space free. 03:11PM
6 LOIS DELORES ANTOINE: My name is Lois 03:12PM
7 Delores Antoine. I want to thank you. Every 03:12PM
8 moment of our lives is time passing, and I want 03:12PM
9 to thank you for giving us, all of you, including 03:12PM
10 all of you who are here, the gift of time. 03:12PM
11 So I want to say to you -- do you have a 03:12PM
12 watch? Do you have a watch? Do not let me talk 03:12PM
13 longer than seven minutes. I respect your gift, 03:12PM
14 and I want to use it respectfully. I am now 03:12PM
15 going to talk. 03:12PM
16 I went to school here in 1939, 1940, and 03:12PM
17 1941: Seventh and eighth grade. I was born in 03:13PM
18 1927. But this isn't about me now. 03:13PM
19 I'm going to talk about what I felt when 03:13PM
20 these people pulled us out. Remember, 03:13PM
21 everything -- the Creator made us all. We all 03:13PM
22 have the same blood flowing in our veins, and he 03:13PM
23 gave us dominion over this land. 03:13PM
24 But I want you to remember that this 03:13PM
25 place here, where you're having the meeting 03:13PM

1 today, used to be -- I think, about over here, 03:13PM
2 was the hospital; next was the home ec room; a 03:13PM
3 little farther down was the residence for the 03:13PM
4 teachers. 03:13PM
5 Then, beyond that, there was staff 03:13PM
6 buildings and a large auditorium where everybody 03:13PM
7 came to watch movies. 03:13PM
8 On that side was a great dining hall; 03:13PM
9 where the parking lot is was the boys' dormitory; 03:13PM
10 the school building in between the girl's 03:14PM
11 dormitory and playgrounds up at the edge of the 03:14PM
12 property. 03:14PM
13 Then, behind was a powerhouse; the 03:14PM
14 laundry room; the garages. But in these 03:14PM
15 buildings, while I was here, many of our 03:14PM
16 relatives served us. 03:14PM
17 They were the cooks; they were the 03:14PM
18 dormitory attendants; they were the people who 03:14PM
19 watched over us. 03:14PM
20 If you looked beyond the area of the 03:14PM
21 boarding school, there were wagons parked with 03:14PM
22 tents. 03:14PM
23 The old campus tents. Not this kind, 03:14PM
24 but the big wall tent. And then, our relatives 03:14PM
25 were sitting out there, I guess hoping for a 03:14PM

1 glimpse of us. 03:14PM

2 But, to me, I heard a lot of children's 03:14PM

3 laughter; there was singing. They taught us how 03:14PM

4 to weave. The senior girls wove their own 03:14PM

5 material for their graduation suits. 03:14PM

6 We were in the home ec building. We 03:15PM

7 learned how to cook, care for children; we 03:15PM

8 learned how to sew. So, it wasn't all bad. 03:15PM

9 And I left here to go to a Christian 03:15PM

10 girls school, and I'll have to tell you that I 03:15PM

11 loved that place beyond means. 03:15PM

12 I learned so many things there. I 03:15PM

13 learned how to sing Lakota hymns, and I didn't 03:15PM

14 know what I was singing because I was a 03:15PM

15 nonspeaker. 03:15PM

16 I remember my friend, Christine Dunham, 03:15PM

17 spoke to me at a meeting in Lower Brule one time 03:15PM

18 in Lakota, and I had been standing beside her, 03:15PM

19 singing away in Lakota. 03:15PM

20 And, afterwards, she talked to me in 03:15PM

21 Lakota, and I said, "Oh, my dear, I'm sorry, but 03:15PM

22 I don't speak the language." 03:15PM

23 "But you were just singing it." 03:15PM

24 And at this school, they taught us how 03:15PM

25 to pray in Lakota; how to sing in Lakota. So I 03:15PM

1 may be one of the few who adjusted to what 03:16PM
2 boarding schools were. 03:16PM
3 I had a peanut sister and I had a big 03:16PM
4 sister at St. Mary's. But the thing is -- I 03:16PM
5 don't want to talk beyond buildings -- is that 03:16PM
6 there were many people here with great spirits, 03:16PM
7 And I am a believer that you can wound a spirit 03:16PM
8 as well as the body. 03:16PM
9 And I felt, kind of, uncomfortable, 03:16PM
10 because I know some -- there was a teacher who 03:16PM
11 taught the sciences, and I wanted to be a nurse 03:16PM
12 at that time. 03:16PM
13 She taught the sciences, and I'd go to 03:16PM
14 her frequently, and she was like a great aunt to 03:16PM
15 me. She was kind to me; she remembered my 03:16PM
16 birthday. 03:16PM
17 So, it wasn't all impersonal, or it 03:16PM
18 wasn't all hurting. But I want you to -- are you 03:16PM
19 watching the time? 03:16PM
20 I want to tell you to tell these people 03:16PM
21 that, with life, I bet, if you go off now, you 03:17PM
22 will find children who are being neglected; who 03:17PM
23 have nobody to look after them at all. 03:17PM
24 I'm a social worker. I got my master's 03:17PM
25 in social work, and I have seen some pretty tough 03:17PM

1 situations for children. 03:17PM

2 Now, I look at this Secretary here, and I 03:17PM

3 honor her because she has kept -- listened to the 03:17PM

4 children, and they're the ones who brought back 03:17PM

5 our relatives from the school in Pennsylvania. 03:17PM

6 And I was -- I belong to the 03:17PM

7 Preservation Committee of the tribe here. I 03:17PM

8 really, I really believe that was a wonderful 03:17PM

9 thing to do. 03:17PM

10 She still recognized her children -- or, 03:17PM

11 the young people who were singing here, serving 03:17PM

12 here. And I look at them, and I think, "There is 03:17PM

13 our future. We've got to listen to them." 03:18PM

14 And I think that the only way we've got 03:18PM

15 to do this is respect people like her, the 03:18PM

16 teachers who are kind. 03:18PM

17 I had a nephew whose father was dying of 03:18PM

18 cancer. His mother ran off with another man to 03:18PM

19 Oklahoma, leaving him in a house by himself with 03:18PM

20 no heat or water or food. 03:18PM

21 So I tried to give him money and help. 03:18PM

22 I wanted him to live with me, but he wouldn't 03:18PM

23 come. 03:18PM

24 And he used to hitchhike to get to 03:18PM

25 school, and then they were going to expel him 03:18PM

1 because he did not attend school regularly. 03:18PM
2 So, you know, I asked if I could meet with 03:18PM
3 the social workers, and I said, "Do you know this 03:18PM
4 young man's father?" 03:18PM
5 "Well, yeah. They live here in North 03:18PM
6 Mission." 03:18PM
7 I said, "Do you know him, though?" 03:18PM
8 I said, "Do you know that he's dying of 03:18PM
9 cancer?" 03:18PM
10 And I said, "Do you know the mother?" 03:19PM
11 "Well, no." 03:19PM
12 So I said, "Do you know that he's 03:19PM
13 practically homeless?" 03:19PM
14 I said, "Have you ever inquired why he 03:19PM
15 is absent?" 03:19PM
16 So what we need in this world is more 03:19PM
17 kindness. We need our spirits to be gentle and 03:19PM
18 giving, not count what -- how they hurt us or how 03:19PM
19 they spoke to us. 03:19PM
20 I have -- I recently had a bad day 03:19PM
21 because my granddaughter spoke harshly to me, 03:19PM
22 went out and slammed the door, and I thought, 03:19PM
23 "She didn't learn a thing about respect from me." 03:19PM
24 And then, my son came. And I lost two 03:19PM
25 sons within three months of each other and a 03:19PM

1 grandson who hung himself. 03:19PM

2 And the sons: One died of -- well, they 03:19PM

3 both eventually died of liver cancer. But one 03:19PM

4 died in December of 2018, and the other in 03:19PM

5 February of two thousand -- the older son died in 03:19PM

6 2017, and the next-to-the-youngest died in 03:19PM

7 February of 2018. 03:20PM

8 So I was impacted by great sorrow, and 03:20PM

9 nothing -- I don't know if anything is worse than 03:20PM

10 losing a grown son who was successful and had a 03:20PM

11 lot to live for. But they fought cancer really 03:20PM

12 hard, and I appreciated that. 03:20PM

13 But the thing is, the spirit we have here 03:20PM

14 today, numerous souls sitting here, waiting to do 03:20PM

15 a kind act, waiting to give somebody a handshake 03:20PM

16 and say, "God be with you." 03:20PM

17 And, please, keep on doing what you're 03:20PM

18 doing. It's kind to our children. And to our 03:20PM

19 children, I owe the biggest debt of all, because 03:20PM

20 we learn from them. 03:20PM

21 And my time is up, but I love you all. 03:20PM

22 My spirit goes out to every one of you because I 03:20PM

23 know you're listening because you have children 03:20PM

24 and you have kindness in your heart. 03:20PM

25 And God be with you all. I believe 03:21PM

1 strongly in our Creator. I believe in guidance 03:21PM
2 and that we will listen, finally. God be with 03:21PM
3 you. 03:21PM
4 PAULINE CLOUD MAN: (Speaks Native 03:21PM
5 language.) I will speak English now. We are 03:22PM
6 from the group called Subwunda Owaya Wokaniza 03:22PM
7 (phonetic), and we are survivors of the Indian 03:22PM
8 boarding school at St. Francis. 03:22PM
9 Now, when I think about it, it's like 03:22PM
10 the Auschwitz of the reservation. It was quite 03:22PM
11 an experience. 03:22PM
12 Anyway, I'm here to talk about some of 03:23PM
13 the trauma and atrocities that we experienced 03:23PM
14 while we were at the boarding school by the hands 03:23PM
15 of the nuns and the priests in the '50s and '60s. 03:23PM
16 They put me there back in 1956, and I 03:23PM
17 was six, seven years old. And my mother had 03:23PM
18 passed away, so my grandparents put me there. 03:23PM
19 But I have an older sister, and her name 03:23PM
20 is Bernice Andrews, and she got cancer and passed 03:23PM
21 away. 03:23PM
22 But I wanted to tell what happened to 03:23PM
23 her. It was, like, child labor that was forced 03:23PM
24 on people that were only ten, twelve years old, 03:24PM
25 to run these big machines. 03:24PM

1 And they had a thing like a presser that 03:24PM
2 they were pressing the nuns' sheets that they 03:24PM
3 slept in. 03:24PM
4 And so, she was one of them that was 03:24PM
5 running the presser and, somehow or other, she 03:24PM
6 didn't get her hands out fast enough. 03:24PM
7 And the presser came down, and it was 03:24PM
8 hot, hot, and it just, like, cooked her fingers. 03:24PM
9 They ended up almost amputating her -- both her 03:24PM
10 hands. 03:24PM
11 But my uncles, they stepped in. They were 03:24PM
12 against it. She was kind of, like, at a burn 03:24PM
13 center for a long time. 03:25PM
14 And she came back, and she still -- she 03:25PM
15 had regained the use of her hands, but she had 03:25PM
16 scars, you know. The day that she died, she had 03:25PM
17 scars on her fingers. 03:25PM
18 And there was one young man that was just 03:25PM
19 sleepy. And he had his arm like this to a 03:25PM
20 spinner, and his arm went in, and it just jerked 03:25PM
21 off his arm. 03:25PM
22 I think he was probably, like, 03:25PM
23 twelve years old, too. So it was -- I always was 03:25PM
24 afraid that they might assign me to something 03:25PM
25 like that, too. 03:25PM

1 And I remember I had to run this buffer to 03:25PM
2 buff the floor. And I was too little, and I 03:25PM
3 couldn't -- I couldn't reach over to turn it off. 03:25PM
4 So it took off, and it swung me all over the 03:26PM
5 room. 03:26PM
6 I was screaming. There was nobody 03:26PM
7 around. Good thing it didn't start slamming me 03:26PM
8 against the wall. 03:26PM
9 So, after that, I ran away. And then, 03:26PM
10 my grandpa came looking for me, and this other 03:26PM
11 girl told me that, if I didn't go back, that they 03:26PM
12 were going to put him in the jail. I didn't want 03:26PM
13 that for my grandpa, so I went back. 03:26PM
14 And then, they took us down in -- they 03:26PM
15 called it, like, a dungeon. And they had this 03:26PM
16 big paddle stick, and that's what they used on 03:26PM
17 us. 03:26PM
18 I don't even remember how many times 03:26PM
19 they hit us. You know, thank God that it didn't 03:26PM
20 paralyze us. It was just something else. 03:27PM
21 But, anyway, I remember when they'd get us 03:27PM
22 up about 5:30 in the morning and make us all go 03:27PM
23 to church. Everybody had to go to church. 03:27PM
24 And some of the students would be so 03:27PM
25 tired, they'd have their heads on the pew, and 03:27PM

1 the thing that you kneeled on is -- they called 03:27PM
2 that the pew. 03:27PM
3 And this nun would have a needle, and 03:27PM
4 she would just stick us if you were slumped over. 03:27PM
5 And thank God, again, that we didn't get 03:27PM
6 hepatitis or some other terrible disease from 03:27PM
7 each other, because she was using the same 03:28PM
8 needle. 03:28PM
9 And also, the DDT that was used in our 03:28PM
10 hair and such. And the DDT: I started 03:28PM
11 researching it, and I just -- I couldn't do it. 03:28PM
12 It just -- it's a forever chemical, and 03:28PM
13 it goes way in your bones. And you pass it down 03:28PM
14 to your children; they pass it down. 03:28PM
15 I truly think that that's why a lot of 03:28PM
16 my people have cancer. I'm a cancer survivor. 03:28PM
17 So, anyway. 03:28PM
18 And then, there was the control that the 03:28PM
19 nuns wanted so bad. They'd pick out a girl, and 03:28PM
20 she'd be the favorite. 03:29PM
21 And she'd -- she was, like, the spy to 03:29PM
22 the rest of the children and go running back and 03:29PM
23 tell the nuns, and they'd do punishing. 03:29PM
24 And that girl would be abusive. And I 03:29PM
25 heard stories about one of those girls that 03:29PM

1 molested some of the other girls. 03:29PM
2 Anyway, I think we were lucky to come 03:29PM
3 out of this, kind of, alive. But we're in the 03:29PM
4 group, and we know there's going to be -- we want 03:29PM
5 more documentation from some of the other 03:29PM
6 students, but some of them just -- it's too 03:29PM
7 painful. Too painful. They won't do it. I had 03:30PM
8 a hard time writing, crying at the same time. 03:30PM
9 And then, there was an incident, also. 03:30PM
10 Able Two Eagle (phonetic) was one of the 03:30PM
11 students. I think he was a grade behind me. 03:30PM
12 But he had an altercation with one of 03:30PM
13 the brothers or fathers, and he was expelled. So 03:30PM
14 he went into the Service, and he was killed in 03:30PM
15 Vietnam. 03:30PM
16 Things, maybe, would have been different 03:30PM
17 for him if the staff -- that staff member didn't 03:30PM
18 physically attack him. 03:31PM
19 That's some of the things that I wanted 03:31PM
20 people to hear so we wouldn't have to take this 03:31PM
21 to our graves by ourselves. 03:31PM
22 And so, later on, I went to Haskell Indian 03:31PM
23 Junior College, and I got my LPN; then, I got my 03:31PM
24 RN degree from USD. 03:31PM
25 And I worked thirty years in the 03:31PM

1 emergency room and ten years just, kind of, like, 03:31PM
2 all over the hospital. 03:31PM
3 So, now, I have forty years with his. 03:31PM
4 But through everything that I went through, it 03:31PM
5 made me kind of furious. 03:31PM
6 So, I started a group called the 03:32PM
7 Original Descendents of the Battle of Little 03:32PM
8 Bighorn, and to honor our warriors that went to 03:32PM
9 Little Bighorn to battle the Seventh Cavalry. 03:32PM
10 So there's, like, 300 descendants of the 03:32PM
11 Sicangu. So, every year, we go up there and we 03:32PM
12 do an honoring. 03:32PM
13 And then, Chief Two Strike and Chief 03:32PM
14 Crow Dog really had a lot to do with starting the 03:32PM
15 Rosebud Fair. 03:32PM
16 It was about the same year as the 03:32PM
17 battle, and it took those warriors two months to 03:33PM
18 come back; and then, they had a celebration. 03:33PM
19 That was the first-ever Rosebud Fair. 03:33PM
20 So, to this day, we're still going with 03:33PM
21 the Rosebud Fair, honoring. My father's dad was 03:33PM
22 Chief Eagle Feather from Parmelee, and on my 03:33PM
23 mother's side was my grandma. 03:33PM
24 One of my grandmas was Noisy, and Noisy 03:33PM
25 was the eldest daughter of Chief Two Strike. So 03:33PM

1 maybe that's where I became, kind of, fearless. 03:33PM

2 But they were chiefs way before there 03:33PM

3 was even government-appointed chiefs, when the 03:33PM

4 chiefs were the servants of the people. 03:34PM

5 But I would like to present Deb Haaland 03:34PM

6 with one of our t-shirts and turn the mic over to 03:34PM

7 Phyllis White Shield, who is spearheading this 03:34PM

8 group with the boarding school. 03:34PM

9 It won't take me long to read the 03:34PM

10 warriors: Bad Hand, White Buffalo, Crow Dog, 03:34PM

11 White Bear, Eagle Man Survivor, Brave Hawk, Cloud 03:34PM

12 Man, Eagle Bear, (inaudible), White Horse, 03:34PM

13 Coffee, Two Eagle, Ring in the Face, Yellow 03:35PM

14 Cloud, Crazy Horse. 03:35PM

15 Crazy Horse's mother was the sister -- 03:35PM

16 was Henry Big Crow's mother, so they were first 03:35PM

17 cousins. 03:35PM

18 And then, there's Howling Bear, Brave 03:35PM

19 Thin Elk, Bear Shield, Two Strike, Crow Eagle, 03:35PM

20 White Hawk, (inaudible), Thunder Hawk, and 03:35PM

21 Buffalo Horse. 03:35PM

22 We never did identify any relatives 03:35PM

23 named Buffalo Horse, who is our first Indian 03:35PM

24 scout. He scouted the Seventh Calvary for a few 03:35PM

25 days. 03:36PM

1 And Stands and Looks Back, and also 03:36PM
2 Brave Bird. Thank you for listening to me. 03:36PM
3 (Speaks Native language.) 03:36PM
4 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: So 03:36PM
5 before -- ma'am, before you speak, just wanted to 03:36PM
6 do a time check here. It's a little after 3:30. 03:36PM
7 I know our youth drum group is going to 03:36PM
8 sing at 4:00, and that's when, I think, we will 03:36PM
9 wrap up and do our prayers. 03:36PM
10 PHYLLIS WHITE SHIELD: Okay, thank you. 03:37PM
11 Well, as a school teacher, I'm pretty used to 03:37PM
12 following a schedule, so I'll try to do that for 03:37PM
13 you. 03:37PM
14 And (speaks Native language). That's 03:37PM
15 the children of St. Francis Mission Boarding 03:37PM
16 School. 03:37PM
17 One year ago, I was asked to help put 03:37PM
18 some of the testimonies together for this group. 03:37PM
19 And so, as a teacher and educator, and also a 03:37PM
20 third-generation boarding school survivor, I 03:37PM
21 agreed to do so. 03:37PM
22 My mother first went to St. Francis 03:37PM
23 Mission Boarding School in 1935, when she was 03:37PM
24 five years old. 03:37PM
25 She went to the Mission Boarding School, 03:37PM

1 and she stayed there until she was 03:38PM
2 seventeen years old. 03:38PM
3 And so, I know, through my mother, her 03:38PM
4 pain and her trauma. And, often, I say to my 03:38PM
5 brother, who -- my brother and I also went to the 03:38PM
6 St. Francis Mission Boarding School, and we'd 03:38PM
7 often sit and we'd talk to each other, and we are 03:38PM
8 just now trying to heal through that process, by 03:38PM
9 listening to others. 03:38PM
10 And, as an educator and a teacher, I 03:38PM
11 always wonder why; I always wonder how; and I 03:38PM
12 always wonder what we can do to help this coming 03:38PM
13 generation. 03:38PM
14 Every day, I'm in the classroom. Every 03:38PM
15 day, with sixth, seventh, and eighth graders 03:38PM
16 almost every day, and I can see some of the 03:39PM
17 inherited traumas in our students. 03:39PM
18 So I want to just briefly say that, in 03:39PM
19 respect, I am a reader, as well as my brother. 03:39PM
20 And, in a recent reading, there's an author -- 03:39PM
21 and I won't mention her name. 03:39PM
22 She's an author who did some 03:39PM
23 investigations and discovery of the connection 03:39PM
24 between emotions and the vagus, the vagus nerve. 03:39PM
25 What's interesting -- and I found that 03:39PM

1 this one investigation contrasted well with the 03:39PM
2 traumatic experiences of Native boarding school 03:39PM
3 survivors and the generations affected. 03:39PM
4 The vagus nerve releases a hormone, the 03:39PM
5 norepinephrine, into the part of the brain known 03:40PM
6 as the amygdala, where the strongest emotional 03:40PM
7 memories and their original reactions are stored. 03:40PM
8 The more fearful the experience, the 03:40PM
9 greater the surge of epinephrine into the 03:40PM
10 amygdala, and that increases the amygdala's 03:40PM
11 ability to store vivid, more strongly-felt, 03:40PM
12 lasting memories. 03:40PM
13 They are called viscera reactions or 03:40PM
14 reason. The viscera react subconsciously when 03:40PM
15 memory of a traumatic moment arises. 03:41PM
16 Often unexpectedly in the amygdala 03:41PM
17 reside -- and I want to say, again -- the 03:41PM
18 amygdala reside the horror stories of our lives, 03:41PM
19 the worst experiences we've had. This is the 03:41PM
20 memory made for people with post-traumatic stress 03:41PM
21 disorder. 03:41PM
22 The amygdala is at the base of the 03:41PM
23 brain. This part of your brain plays a role in 03:41PM
24 memory, decision-making, and emotions such as 03:41PM
25 fear. 03:41PM

1 In the respect of research, there are 03:41PM
2 many investigations and discovery regarding 03:41PM
3 horrific trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, 03:41PM
4 and brain studies. 03:41PM
5 With compensation, St. Francis Mission 03:41PM
6 Boarding School survivors and their families can 03:42PM
7 investigate and discover the causes of their 03:42PM
8 lives and begin to build a stronger, healthier 03:42PM
9 familial circle and toward future generations. 03:42PM
10 So, with this, it's just a short study. 03:42PM
11 And I know that, through the day, we've listened 03:42PM
12 to the traumas; we've listened to stories. 03:42PM
13 But, often, we have -- in this 21st 03:42PM
14 century, we have young Native students who are 03:42PM
15 first-generation in technology. 03:42PM
16 And, in the schools, they know how to 03:42PM
17 use their technology. They're quick; they're 03:42PM
18 smart; they know. So they can research on 03:42PM
19 technology. 03:42PM
20 We have very intelligent, intelligent 03:42PM
21 Native students. Their spirits are strong, 03:42PM
22 they're vibrant, and they want to learn. 03:43PM
23 So what I'm saying here -- as an educator 03:43PM
24 and also a product of Sinte Gleska University, in 03:43PM
25 which I graduated here at Sinte in 1983, and then 03:43PM

1 went on to Penn State to earn my master's in 03:43PM
2 administration -- we need to be able to develop 03:43PM
3 the curriculums to help this generation. 03:43PM
4 To help my takozas before I leave this 03:43PM
5 earth, I want to be able to have something that 03:43PM
6 they can understand. 03:43PM
7 And one of the things is they're 03:43PM
8 curious. They're very curious. They want to 03:43PM
9 know. They want to know why. 03:43PM
10 The biggest question that one of the 03:43PM
11 students had to say is he said to me, "Ms. White 03:43PM
12 Shield, why did the government have the power to 03:43PM
13 create that kind of trauma? Why did they have 03:44PM
14 that power? Who gave them that power?" 03:44PM
15 And so, it's absolutely stunning to them 03:44PM
16 to think, you know, with their pen and paper, 03:44PM
17 that they were able to develop objectives of 03:44PM
18 assimilation and acculturation for our 03:44PM
19 great-grandparents; our grandparents. 03:44PM
20 And that, even in my generation, we all 03:44PM
21 know that it wasn't until 1978, with the Indian 03:44PM
22 Religious Freedom Act, that we would be able to 03:44PM
23 say who we are. 03:44PM
24 So within about, maybe, thirty years, we 03:44PM
25 have been able to, at least, have the confidence 03:44PM

1 to say who we are so that we can heal. That 03:45PM
2 hasn't been very long ago. 03:45PM
3 As a teacher, I remember, in 1978, 03:45PM
4 another colleague of mine was putting boarding 03:45PM
5 school issues and the government on bulletin 03:45PM
6 boards. The administration came in and told us 03:45PM
7 to take it down. 03:45PM
8 So, then, I'm saying, in conclusion, 03:45PM
9 let's develop future curriculum to help our 03:45PM
10 students understand the trauma; understand 03:45PM
11 mistakes, that it's not wrong to make a mistake. 03:45PM
12 It's to also be able to develop 03:45PM
13 relationships and, most of all, to be able to get 03:45PM
14 along together. Thank you very much. 03:45PM
15 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Thank 03:45PM
16 you so much. 03:45PM
17 PHYLLIS WHITE SHIELD: And thank you, 03:45PM
18 Pauline. 03:45PM
19 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: We 03:45PM
20 have our -- we're going to go to our final 03:45PM
21 speaker this afternoon right here. 03:46PM
22 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Speaks Native language.) 03:46PM
23 I wanted to quickly go through -- I wrote down 03:46PM
24 all my comments so, for the sake of posterity, I 03:46PM
25 can hand this to the team. 03:46PM

1 I represent here, with my chepashe 03:46PM
2 (phonetic), Judy Carmichael and Faith Spotted 03:46PM
3 Eagle. We represent the fulltime government 03:46PM
4 system. 03:46PM
5 One of the things to remember is that, 03:46PM
6 when the colonists came in, the land policy and 03:46PM
7 the education policy and the 150 treaties 03:46PM
8 destroyed natural government systems. 03:46PM
9 So we sit here in observance of the 03:46PM
10 natural government system that the Brave Heart of 03:46PM
11 Lakota icha (phonetic) still exists from it a 03:46PM
12 long, long time ago. 03:47PM
13 The Dakota word for "ruining things" is 03:47PM
14 wichoichaya woshicha, so the paper we're 03:47PM
15 presenting to you is called The Ruining of the 03:47PM
16 Generations, because that's what the teacher was 03:47PM
17 talking about and that's what was happening: 03:47PM
18 Long-term havoc on our generations. 03:47PM
19 The koshi (phonetic) of Brave Heart 03:47PM
20 Society gave the Rosebud niantha (phonetic) 03:47PM
21 all-good handshakes for hosting this powerful 03:47PM
22 circle and welcoming all the relatives to 03:47PM
23 continue to heal from the holocaust, and I think 03:47PM
24 we need to remember it was a holocaust that we 03:47PM
25 have suffered on Turtle Island. 03:47PM

1 We have come as survivors of boarding 03:47PM
2 schools, children and grandchildren. Actions 03:47PM
3 like today will widen the road for healing. 03:47PM
4 Our horrific stories can now come out of 03:47PM
5 the darkness that originated in schools that were 03:47PM
6 birthed by the War Department of this country to 03:47PM
7 wrongly carry out treaty obligations that were 03:47PM
8 construed to be part of the U.S. Constitution 03:47PM
9 through inhumane methods, as you have heard over 03:47PM
10 and over today. 03:47PM
11 All of our lands were desecrated by more 03:47PM
12 than 150 treaties between our beautiful tribes 03:48PM
13 and the U.S. that included education, and each 03:48PM
14 one of the treaties that were totally unfair, and 03:48PM
15 that's in your boarding school report. 03:48PM
16 They destroyed our natural Indigenous 03:48PM
17 ways of schooling, which created strong, 03:48PM
18 competent human beings that possessed great 03:48PM
19 civility that is now lacking in our communities. 03:48PM
20 A relative to me, Ella Deloria, said 03:48PM
21 that the ultimate aim of Dakota life was that one 03:48PM
22 must be a good relative. We have forgotten that, 03:48PM
23 because we have been taught systems of violence. 03:48PM
24 Honorable, courteous, and ready to make 03:48PM
25 personal sacrifices: Boarding schools destroyed 03:48PM

1 that methodically every day and night for 03:48PM
2 150 years for our families. 03:48PM
3 To me, Ella said that, "If you did not 03:48PM
4 belong to a Lakota iche (phonetic), you were no 03:48PM
5 one in the camp." 03:48PM
6 Today, Indigenous societies barely 03:48PM
7 survive, and we, at Brave Heart, have determined 03:49PM
8 to live long and hard in the way of good 03:49PM
9 relatives, despite the holocaust that injured and 03:49PM
10 killed thousands of our people, many of whom 03:49PM
11 remain in unmarked graves. 03:49PM
12 As a child of a boarding school ina, or 03:49PM
13 mother, I was deprived of the best of her because 03:49PM
14 of trauma that she could not overcome from the 03:49PM
15 Rapid City Boarding School in South Dakota, and 03:49PM
16 others that followed. 03:49PM
17 My chuwe, older sister, told me of the 03:49PM
18 terrible day that the Indian police and agents 03:49PM
19 chased my ina, her brother and sister, into the 03:49PM
20 cornfields and dragged them away to Rapid City. 03:49PM
21 She was six years old. That is when the fear 03:49PM
22 began and never ended. 03:49PM
23 My beautiful grandparents, Louis and 03:49PM
24 Lillian B. Gassman, tearfully followed the 03:49PM
25 children to Rapid City and tried to camp next to 03:49PM

1 the boarding school. 03:49PM
2 They were not allowed to, so they 03:49PM
3 settled at Oshkosh Camp along Rapid Creek in 03:49PM
4 Mniluzahan in Rapid City, and lived in a tent 03:49PM
5 village with many other parents, despite the cold 03:50PM
6 winters, out of love. 03:50PM
7 Eventually, my ina got away to come home 03:50PM
8 to her parents and had my sisters and I and my 03:50PM
9 little brothers, who did not survive. 03:50PM
10 My ina held it together until she was 03:50PM
11 twenty-eight. I loved hearing my dad say that my 03:50PM
12 ina was real smart. 03:50PM
13 Sadly, the trauma swarm caught her at 03:50PM
14 twenty-eight, and she began medicating herself 03:50PM
15 through alcohol to shut out the memories, and I 03:50PM
16 was taken from her at a year and a half. 03:50PM
17 The most important bond in the world, 03:50PM
18 between a child and a mother, was destroyed by 03:50PM
19 boarding school abuse and memories that she 03:50PM
20 shared with thousands of Native children across 03:50PM
21 Turtle Island, children who did not witness 03:50PM
22 healthy parenting, lost forever, which is 03:50PM
23 affecting our communities. 03:50PM
24 As I grew up, I was surrounded by the 03:50PM
25 stories of rape, molestation, physical and 03:50PM

1 emotional abuse, isolation, loneliness, 03:50PM
2 starvation, and endless other tortures and 03:50PM
3 deprivation. 03:51PM
4 The consistent story that I heard was 03:51PM
5 that these precious Native babies began wetting 03:51PM
6 the bed at these schools because of the abuse, 03:51PM
7 and many were forced to stand with the wet sheets 03:51PM
8 over their heads as punishment. 03:51PM
9 It must have been a cruel nationwide 03:51PM
10 policy carried out by nuns, teachers, priests, 03:51PM
11 and matrons of dorms. 03:51PM
12 Because of these horror experiences 03:51PM
13 endured by my relatives at Genoa Indian School; 03:51PM
14 Mark -- St. Paul's Indian Mission; Pipestone, 03:51PM
15 Minnesota; Carlisle and Haskell, my father 03:51PM
16 refused to let me go to boarding school, even 03:51PM
17 though many of them were closing. 03:51PM
18 The horror came into our homes because 03:51PM
19 the hurt could not be healed, and all the 03:51PM
20 violations passed into unilateral violence in 03:51PM
21 what I call red rage, which manifests itself in 03:51PM
22 our communities, and we are destroying each 03:51PM
23 other. 03:51PM
24 I began to understand how all this 03:51PM
25 unhealed colonial abuse has exacerbated the 03:51PM

1 violence and rage in our communities. 03:52PM
2 Although we are still trying to be good, 03:52PM
3 beautiful tribal people, we are injured. We are 03:52PM
4 horribly injured. 03:52PM
5 That is why we must tell these stories 03:52PM
6 and seek healing, justice, and reparations for 03:52PM
7 these wrongs of the American Holocaust on our 03:52PM
8 people. 03:52PM
9 In 1994, the Brave Heart Society brought 03:52PM
10 back the Nagi Kicopi Woichun (phonetic) to our 03:52PM
11 circle, the Calling of the Spirit, to help our 03:52PM
12 relatives heal from this 150-year injury that 03:52PM
13 hangs like a black cloud over our people within 03:52PM
14 every village. 03:52PM
15 As a result of this massive colonial 03:52PM
16 abuse and genocidal policies of the 03:52PM
17 U.S. government -- I can't turn the page -- there 03:52PM
18 is a massive PTSD, or post-traumatic stress 03:52PM
19 disorder, in our communities; and broken and 03:52PM
20 destroyed tribal infrastructure that also has 03:52PM
21 rage in it. 03:52PM
22 If these disorders cannot be addressed, 03:53PM
23 they manifest into mental disorders. But they 03:53PM
24 can be healed with massive resources to right 03:53PM
25 these wrongs created to destroy Indigenous 03:53PM

1 people. 03:53PM

2 Cultural infrastructures must be 03:53PM

3 strengthened and nurtured at every level. They 03:53PM

4 are good medicine. 03:53PM

5 By the grace of Creator and the pain 03:53PM

6 within us, I began to understand this unhealed 03:53PM

7 stress and became a PTSD therapist. 03:53PM

8 And I see my cousin-brother, Duane, over 03:53PM

9 there, Hollow Horn Bear. We work together at the 03:53PM

10 VA with injured veterans who have the same 03:53PM

11 affliction that our villages have. 03:53PM

12 I worked seventeen years with several 03:53PM

13 VA centers because I wanted to understand this 03:53PM

14 affliction that my father had from the schools 03:53PM

15 and, also, the military. 03:53PM

16 I thank and pray for all these countless 03:53PM

17 veterans, my father, and all the babies who went 03:53PM

18 to boarding school for this understanding of 03:53PM

19 PTSD. 03:53PM

20 We have traditional methods to heal from 03:53PM

21 these injuries, but they are too numerous to deal 03:53PM

22 with in communities whose traditional 03:53PM

23 infrastructures have been destroyed by genocide. 03:54PM

24 What is genocide? It is real for us. 03:54PM

25 It is beyond real for my little sister, who was 03:54PM

1 wrongly placed in a white foster home before the 03:54PM
2 ICWA and was repeatedly raped. 03:54PM

3 It was beyond wrong for my older sister, 03:54PM
4 who protected me from the predator who got to 03:54PM
5 her. 03:54PM

6 It was the trickle-down colonial abuse. 03:54PM
7 It is unforgivable that anxiety disorders still 03:54PM
8 run rampant in my cousins and sisters, nieces who 03:54PM
9 were violated at boarding school. 03:54PM

10 They survived genocide. Genocide is an 03:54PM
11 internationally recognized crime where acts are 03:54PM
12 committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or 03:54PM
13 in part, a national or ethnic religious group. 03:54PM

14 These acts are in five categories: One, 03:54PM
15 killing members of the group; two, causing 03:54PM
16 serious bodily or mental harm to members of the 03:54PM
17 group; three, deliberately inflicting on the 03:54PM
18 group conditions of life calculated to bring 03:54PM
19 about its physical destruction, in whole or in 03:54PM
20 part; four, imposing measures intended to prevent 03:55PM
21 births, with the sterilizations that happened to 03:55PM
22 us; five, forcibly transferring children out of 03:55PM
23 the group to another group. 03:55PM

24 As I look around the room, in this safe 03:55PM
25 place -- and it feels good in here; it's like 03:55PM

1 coming home -- I'm in awe of the miracle of all 03:55PM
2 of us surviving the above things that were done 03:55PM
3 to us. 03:55PM
4 This is the greatest act of resistance, 03:55PM
5 and I know that our ancestors are here with us 03:55PM
6 today. We stand on their prayers. 03:55PM
7 Now, the question is: What will the 03:55PM
8 U.S. government do in taking responsibility for 03:55PM
9 this methodically inflicted trauma? 03:55PM
10 We are here to stay, but we have to have 03:55PM
11 answers. I need to know if every level of our 03:55PM
12 dear relative here that is sitting with us, tozan 03:55PM
13 gib (phonetic), if they also are working to 03:55PM
14 address this problem at the area level; at the 03:55PM
15 regional level, besides yourself. Because you 03:55PM
16 are one person alone with your team up there. 03:56PM
17 But, as I know, as a PTSD therapist, 03:56PM
18 this affliction is wide, long, and scary in our 03:56PM
19 communities. 03:56PM
20 And we cannot even do our spiritual 03:56PM
21 ceremonies and good medicine without resources, 03:56PM
22 because we have to have jobs at the same time. 03:56PM
23 So, I give special thanks to you. I 03:56PM
24 consider you a tozan, a niece, a warrior niece; 03:56PM
25 and your beautiful team up there, Wizi and Bryan. 03:56PM

1 And we pray for you as you leave this 03:56PM
2 oyate, and we'll continue praying for you because 03:56PM
3 we need an answer. 03:56PM
4 I worked in Canada for many years, where 03:56PM
5 they paid out \$10,000 to each survivor of the 03:56PM
6 residential schools. 03:56PM
7 It was a really painful process, because 03:56PM
8 they couldn't get the \$10,000 unless they told 03:56PM
9 their story. 03:56PM
10 That was really horrific. But they did 03:56PM
11 get reparations, and I think that's what we need 03:56PM
12 to look at. 03:56PM
13 We need to look at something that has 03:57PM
14 massive resources where we have mobile health 03:57PM
15 clinics, because mental health is now a big 03:57PM
16 problem in our community. It is very wide and 03:57PM
17 scary. I'm afraid for my grandchildren. 03:57PM
18 So, thank you. Wopila tanka. I want to 03:57PM
19 thank the Rosebud Sicangu. My grandfather was on 03:57PM
20 the first Tribal Council here. His name was 03:57PM
21 Yellow Thunder Gassman. 03:57PM
22 There was a dumb agent that registered 03:57PM
23 him at Yankton -- oh, I'd better not say that. 03:57PM
24 Maybe that was smart. 03:57PM
25 But he registered him at Yankton, even 03:57PM

1 though he was Sicangu, so I have Sicangu blood. 03:57PM
2 So, every now and then, when I get mad, I 03:57PM
3 threaten to come over here and enroll. But I 03:57PM
4 love you all. Thank you. Wopila. 03:57PM
5 ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRYAN NEWLAND: Thank 03:57PM
6 you. President Herman, I want to thank you and 03:57PM
7 the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Sinte Gleska 03:57PM
8 University. 03:57PM
9 And everybody who joined us this morning 03:57PM
10 and today, we appreciate your time. I'm sorry 03:57PM
11 we're wrapping up now. 03:58PM
12 We've got -- I know our Youth Drum is 03:58PM
13 going to sing for us. We're going to have 03:58PM
14 closing prayers and songs. We can hear from you 03:58PM
15 briefly, ma'am. 03:58PM
16 PATTI ROMERO: Will the remaining boarding 03:58PM
17 school survivors come up here, please. This area 03:58PM
18 that we're on was a -- 03:58PM
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you. 03:58PM
20 PATTI ROMERO: I don't know anything about 03:59PM
21 computers. So, anyway, we are the last ones here 03:59PM
22 today because the other ones apparently 03:59PM
23 testified. And, who else? Is there any more? 03:59PM
24 Okay, my name is Patti Romero. When 03:59PM
25 things like this go on, I, kind of, like to get 03:59PM

1 involved and get all the others involved. 03:59PM
2 I mean, that's our support. You know, 03:59PM
3 that's -- they're my support because I live 03:59PM
4 alone, and I have -- I really have no one except 03:59PM
5 them, and they're my sisters and brothers. 03:59PM
6 And I really want to go on and on and 04:00PM
7 on, but you know what? I remember my Uncle 04:00PM
8 Robert told us one time in a ceremony, "When you 04:00PM
9 guys pray, KISS." 04:00PM
10 "What?" 04:00PM
11 "Keep it short, stupid." 04:00PM
12 "No, Uncle Robert, don't say that. Say, 04:00PM
13 'Keep it short, sucka.'" 04:00PM
14 Oh, we used to have so much fun. But, 04:00PM
15 okay. Which -- 04:00PM
16 FRANCES FLOOD HEART: Hello, my name is 04:00PM
17 Frances Flood Heart, and I went to St. Francis 04:00PM
18 and also at Dakota St. Paul's Indian Mission. 04:00PM
19 And then, through here, it was St. Francis Indian 04:00PM
20 Mission. 04:00PM
21 But I just wanted to say a couple words, 04:00PM
22 that's it, and not take too much of anybody's 04:00PM
23 time. 04:01PM
24 My sister -- one of my sisters had a 04:01PM
25 baby from one of the priests, and we don't know 04:01PM

1 what happened to it. It's one of my babies. 04:01PM
2 When I became well, when I had children, 04:01PM
3 I had seven children. They belonged to me. I 04:01PM
4 took care of them, I could love them, I could hug 04:01PM
5 them, I could squeeze them, and I could kiss 04:01PM
6 them. We never had that in boarding school. 04:01PM
7 But they talked about the Charbonneau 04:01PM
8 girls, and there are nine of them, and they were 04:01PM
9 all abused sexually, mentally, physically. 04:01PM
10 And both of my sisters: We all went 04:01PM
11 through that at St. Paul's Indian Mission in 04:01PM
12 Marty, South Dakota. 04:01PM
13 And I love every single one of you who 04:01PM
14 are here and all the ones who came. And I wanted 04:01PM
15 to hear more testimony from the survivors, 04:01PM
16 because that helps me heal. That will help me 04:02PM
17 heal. 04:02PM
18 I'm not here alone anymore, and I'm not 04:02PM
19 afraid anymore. And I can speak the way I want, 04:02PM
20 I can say what I want, and I know not to be 04:02PM
21 afraid of wasicu anymore. 04:02PM
22 But we had tunnels in our school that 04:02PM
23 went from building to building. Every time we 04:02PM
24 heard those keys, we knew somebody was coming 04:02PM
25 after us. 04:02PM

1 And there's a lot of girls and there's a 04:02PM
2 lot of boys at our school that experienced 04:02PM
3 things, and we seen them. 04:02PM
4 And even though we were five and 04:02PM
5 six years old, we couldn't understand it, but we 04:02PM
6 seen everything. 04:02PM
7 So I just wanted to say that much. And 04:02PM
8 I would like you to pray for everybody, each and 04:02PM
9 every one of us. 04:02PM
10 And pray for our leaders and our babies 04:02PM
11 over there that are singing. They make me 04:02PM
12 strong. 04:02PM
13 And all the spiritual people that are 04:02PM
14 here, thank you. Because, without you, our 04:02PM
15 hearts would still be broken. (Speaks Native 04:02PM
16 language.) 04:02PM
17 FEMALE SPEAKER: I graduated from a 04:03PM
18 boarding school where our hall matron was Lakota, 04:03PM
19 so I don't have no complaints. 04:03PM
20 I got to see my grandparents, so I don't 04:03PM
21 have no complaints against the boarding school. 04:03PM
22 I survived. 04:03PM
23 My husband was in the Air Force. I 04:03PM
24 became a teacher's aid, I became a teacher, I 04:03PM
25 became a principal, and I became a 04:03PM

1 great-great-grandmother the last few days, and I 04:03PM
2 thank boarding schools for what they did for me. 04:03PM
3 And I'm sorry for all of the heartache, 04:03PM
4 but there is some great places that help people, 04:03PM
5 and I survived. Thank you. 04:03PM
6 BEN WHITE HORSE: Hello, my name is Ben 04:03PM
7 White Horse. I'm from the boarding school here. 04:04PM
8 I learned a lot of stuff while I was at the 04:04PM
9 boarding school: I learned how to obey; I 04:04PM
10 learned how to discipline. 04:04PM
11 The way they treated me, to me, it 04:04PM
12 wasn't bad, but it was -- in the long, longer 04:04PM
13 run, it was good because I learned how to be in 04:04PM
14 the Service and everything, so I enjoyed it. And 04:04PM
15 God bless all you guys. 04:04PM
16 FEMALE SPEAKER: I think I need to say 04:04PM
17 something. I was just going to let it go, but I 04:04PM
18 think I need to say something. 04:04PM
19 First of all, thank you, Secretary 04:04PM
20 Haaland and Assistant Secretary Newland and 04:04PM
21 Wizipan and relatives. 04:04PM
22 I just want to say that my mother, my 04:04PM
23 grandmother, and probably my great-grandmother: 04:05PM
24 All boarding school. 04:05PM
25 My mother went to Pierre Learning 04:05PM

1 Center -- it was a boarding school back then -- 04:05PM
2 when she was five years old due to the fact that 04:05PM
3 she was assaulted. 04:05PM
4 And so, the state or the government, 04:05PM
5 somebody -- I don't know who; she didn't say -- 04:05PM
6 took her and sent her over there and left her 04:05PM
7 there until she was thirteen years old. 04:05PM
8 I went to the boarding school when I was 04:05PM
9 four. I was not -- I was a fluent speaker; I 04:05PM
10 didn't understand English. So, when I went 04:05PM
11 there, I -- it was just a culture shock. 04:05PM
12 I couldn't eat their food. I was 04:05PM
13 throwing up. I couldn't drink the milk. I was 04:05PM
14 wetting the bed. And so, I remember my sister: 04:05PM
15 They brought her in and had her clean my bed 04:05PM
16 sheets. 04:06PM
17 I can't remember after that. Being four 04:06PM
18 years old, you don't remember everything; just 04:06PM
19 shots here and there. 04:06PM
20 I remember going in through the -- over 04:06PM
21 there was the beginner classrooms, so I was there 04:06PM
22 and didn't understand English. 04:06PM
23 And I remember I needed to go to the 04:06PM
24 bathroom, and I was thinking in my head, "How can 04:06PM
25 I -- how do I tell them I need to go to the 04:06PM

1 bathroom? I know I can't go here because there's 04:06PM
2 no slop bucket." 04:06PM
3 We used to use a slop pail in our home, 04:06PM
4 and we'd go to the bathroom. And, nothing. So 04:06PM
5 I'm thinking, "What do I do?" 04:06PM
6 And all of a sudden, all of the kids 04:06PM
7 were in line for the bathroom. All in line. And 04:06PM
8 I was standing there, thinking, "I can't hold it 04:06PM
9 anymore." 04:06PM
10 So there were some boxes over there, so 04:06PM
11 I went over there, and I went to the bathroom. 04:06PM
12 And then, I think it was probably during the time 04:07PM
13 that we were reading those books, "Look, Jane," 04:07PM
14 "Run, Spot," like that. So then, I said, "Uh-oh, 04:07PM
15 look." 04:07PM
16 That's all I could say to tell the 04:07PM
17 teacher I peed on the floor. And so, a lot of 04:07PM
18 wetting the bed; a lot of throwing up on account 04:07PM
19 of the food; crying. 04:07PM
20 I wanted to see my sister; I wanted to 04:07PM
21 see my brother. Couldn't do it. They wouldn't 04:07PM
22 let me. So it was just terrible. 04:07PM
23 And I tell you, this was in September. 04:07PM
24 In December, I don't remember that. Just -- but 04:07PM
25 somehow, I was home. 04:07PM

1 And little did I find out that they 04:07PM
2 couldn't keep me there, because of what I was 04:07PM
3 doing. And so, they sent me home on a mail 04:07PM
4 truck. 04:07PM
5 Yeah, so that's my story. But I've got 04:07PM
6 one thing that's been bothering me for years. 04:08PM
7 And this was in -- when I was a -- I think I must 04:08PM
8 have been a seventh grader. 04:08PM
9 I was good friends with a -- really 04:08PM
10 close friends with a two-spirited guy. I just 04:08PM
11 loved him. He was really nice. 04:08PM
12 And I don't know what happened, but I 04:08PM
13 just remember this man that ran the boarding 04:08PM
14 school, he took him. And right there, right in 04:08PM
15 front of some of us. (Speaks Native language.) 04:08PM
16 He beat him. 04:08PM
17 Probably about six years ago, I came 04:08PM
18 here for graduation, and I was sitting up there. 04:08PM
19 There was a lot of people in here, and I was 04:08PM
20 sitting up there and just looking around. 04:08PM
21 And here, right next to me, was this old 04:09PM
22 man. And that was the man that ran the school at 04:09PM
23 that time. 04:09PM
24 And, you know what? I wanted to stand 04:09PM
25 up and disrupt this whole graduation that was 04:09PM

1 going on, because I had to say something. I 04:09PM
2 wanted to give this boy a voice, because he 04:09PM
3 didn't have one back then. 04:09PM
4 I wanted to stand up and say, 04:09PM
5 "Everybody, this man here is a child-abuser. I 04:09PM
6 seen him beat a two-spirited skinny boy at the 04:09PM
7 boarding school." 04:09PM
8 I also wondered what -- and then, 04:09PM
9 eventually, I just didn't. I could've. 04:09PM
10 Sometimes, I wished I did. 04:09PM
11 But I didn't want to disrupt the 04:09PM
12 graduation, either, and that's the thing that 04:10PM
13 really stays with me. 04:10PM
14 It's sad. Excuse me. But, yeah. I 04:10PM
15 often wondered how he's doing now. I'm thinking 04:10PM
16 he probably passed away or he's in prison or 04:10PM
17 something. 04:10PM
18 But this man did that to him, and I just 04:10PM
19 want to -- I just feel like he needs to face 04:10PM
20 consequences. So, I didn't mean to talk this 04:10PM
21 long, but I just wanted to share that with you. 04:10PM
22 MARIE WHITE HORSE: Hello. My name is 04:10PM
23 Marie (phonetic) White Horse, and I came out to 04:10PM
24 the boarding school out here back in -- when I 04:10PM
25 was in third grade. 04:10PM

1 I've been through a lot of -- when I 04:10PM
2 first got here, I was kind of timid and went 04:10PM
3 through a lot of bullying, and I had to 04:11PM
4 finally -- someone finally got tired of being me 04:11PM
5 and my sister's -- fighting for me, so they 04:11PM
6 taught me how to fight. And, after that, I 04:11PM
7 started sticking up for myself. 04:11PM
8 But all the abuse I went through was 04:11PM
9 from the matrons at the dorm. They knew my 04:11PM
10 family; they knew who -- where I was from. And 04:11PM
11 some of them didn't like my family, so they took 04:11PM
12 it out on us: Me and my sister. 04:11PM
13 They were -- that's what bothers me the 04:11PM
14 most. One of them kept pulling my hair. If I 04:11PM
15 didn't cry, she'd keep pulling it; if I cried, 04:11PM
16 she'd keep pulling it. 04:11PM
17 Now I don't know, when I'm in certain 04:11PM
18 situations, if I should cry or if I should just 04:11PM
19 hold it in. 04:11PM
20 And that's what's bothering me, and 04:11PM
21 that's what I've been going through ever since. 04:11PM
22 But all the matrons now are dead, so that's what 04:11PM
23 it is. 04:11PM
24 PATTI ROMERO: Thank you. I guess 04:11PM
25 everybody's telling their history, so boarding 04:11PM

1 schools have been in my life since my 04:11PM
2 grandfather's older brother, Chauncey Yellow 04:11PM
3 Robe, was taken to Carlisle. 04:12PM
4 And, I guess, he always said, "The only 04:12PM
5 way to beat them is to learn what they teach 04:12PM
6 you." 04:12PM
7 And so, it was just a matter of time 04:12PM
8 before it came down to us. And I didn't know 04:12PM
9 where I was going and why they were leaving me. 04:12PM
10 And ever since this flyer came out, I've 04:12PM
11 been crying all week, and I'm trying to find out 04:12PM
12 what I'm not dealing with, so I'm crying. 04:12PM
13 It's -- I don't know. I always try to 04:12PM
14 make the best of everything. I'm a loner. I 04:12PM
15 keep to myself. I don't bother anybody, unless I 04:12PM
16 have to. 04:12PM
17 But it's kind of hard. You know, this 04:12PM
18 boarding school issue is really hard. I wish 04:13PM
19 that all the other -- I wish that all the other 04:13PM
20 ones stayed a little longer, so then I don't miss 04:13PM
21 them more. 04:13PM
22 Sometimes, it seems like, a lot of 04:13PM
23 times, I think I'm well, but I don't have 04:13PM
24 anything to do with them. I have to drill to 04:13PM
25 keep from falling apart. 04:13PM

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1 But anyway, I want to thank everybody 04:13PM
2 for coming and sharing, although -- see, I don't 04:13PM
3 know what it is. So, I'm just going to have to 04:13PM
4 leave this here. I've got to get this taken care 04:13PM
5 of. 04:13PM
6 I've been through all kinds of 04:13PM
7 treatments, and many thought I had it together 04:13PM
8 until this issue came up; and now, I'm just all 04:13PM
9 falling apart again. Thank you. 04:14PM
10 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Speaks Native language.) 04:14PM
11 Today, I just want to share that I'm very 04:14PM
12 grateful that everybody got up here and that 04:14PM
13 we're all supportive of each other. 04:14PM
14 I, also, am a boarding school survivor. 04:14PM
15 I went to Marty Indian School from K through 04:14PM
16 sixth. 04:14PM
17 That was painful, very painful, to cry 04:14PM
18 for your mom; not knowing why you had to get out 04:14PM
19 of bed; peeing in bed, every night; getting the 04:14PM
20 wooden paddle; your hands being hit; having to 04:14PM
21 wear these long, old-fashioned boots to share 04:14PM
22 with the world that you wet the bed; being 04:14PM
23 humiliated like that in public; being treated 04:14PM
24 like you were worthless. 04:15PM
25 And the food that we ate, we were forced 04:15PM

1 to eat. And being forced to eat food that we 04:15PM
2 didn't like was very difficult. 04:15PM
3 There's a lot of pain in being forced to 04:15PM
4 pray. I used to wonder why we had to pray so 04:15PM
5 much. 04:15PM
6 Years later, I realized I was probably 04:15PM
7 praying for those nuns and priests that were 04:15PM
8 abusing us every day. 04:15PM
9 My great-grandfather went to Carlisle, 04:15PM
10 Pennsylvania, and all of the generations after 04:15PM
11 that were in boarding school. We were forced 04:15PM
12 into it, forced into that way of life. 04:15PM
13 When St. Francis Indian Mission shut 04:15PM
14 down and they had the priests over there, even 04:15PM
15 though my kids weren't in boarding school, they 04:15PM
16 were sexually abused by the St. Francis 04:15PM
17 priests. 04:16PM
18 People were upset because they were sent 04:16PM
19 away. I was grateful. These are all the things 04:16PM
20 that -- many of us have stories. 04:16PM
21 I, myself, happen to be a psychologist, 04:16PM
22 and you would never guess that I have a story, 04:16PM
23 too. But I do. 04:16PM
24 And I came with my mom. She's here, 04:16PM
25 too. So, I thank you for your time. We 04:16PM

1 appreciate it. 04:16PM

2 FEMALE SPEAKER: Since I am the oldest 04:16PM

3 here, I believe, in this hall: Creator God, I 04:16PM

4 ask you to look down on these people who are 04:16PM

5 hurting. 04:16PM

6 And I want you, who are here, who know 04:16PM

7 how to pray, to pray with me for these hurting 04:16PM

8 souls. 04:16PM

9 I ask that God forgive the men and women 04:17PM

10 who caused the hurt. I ask those who are hurting 04:17PM

11 to forgive those who hurt them, and we will all 04:17PM

12 pray for you to become healed. 04:17PM

13 So, Creator God, hear our prayer today. 04:17PM

14 We want this to be a mighty prayer, to go up for 04:17PM

15 all of us here and those who aren't here who 04:17PM

16 grieve, because you have the power to heal. 04:17PM

17 And, Creator God, we know you listen to 04:17PM

18 us, so listen today and hear us. And you who 04:17PM

19 have ears, repeat the prayer. Heal the injured 04:17PM

20 souls of our people so they can go forward in 04:17PM

21 health and happiness. 04:17PM

22 All this, in the mighty name of all who 04:17PM

23 keep us. All this, we ask in Jesus's name. 04:17PM

24 Amen. 04:17PM

25 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Okay. At this time, 04:18PM

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1 we're going to call upon our veterans. We would 04:18PM
2 invite you to please stand. We'll retire our 04:18PM
3 staff and our flags and turn it over to the 04:18PM
4 veterans at this time. 04:18PM
5 (Whereupon, the flags were retired.)
6 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Flag Song.
7 (Whereupon, the Flag Song was sung.)
8 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Veterans' Song.
9 (Whereupon, the Veterans' Song was sung.)
10 KEITH HORSE LOOKING: Thank you. Can you 04:22PM
11 all be seated. At this time, I'm going to turn 04:22PM
12 it over to Russell. 04:22PM
13 RUSSELL EAGLE BEAR: We'd like to thank 04:22PM
14 everyone for coming. I'm thankful to all of you 04:22PM
15 who had an opportunity to give testimony. 04:22PM
16 I know it's a really hard thing, and the 04:22PM
17 only way that we're going to see this through is 04:22PM
18 with prayer and to be able to comfort each other. 04:22PM
19 But, maybe, this whole testimony 04:23PM
20 business: Maybe, as a result, we'll see 04:23PM
21 something from the federal government. 04:23PM
22 And I'm hoping and praying in that way 04:23PM
23 so that we can continue the healing process in 04:23PM
24 our own way, and to be able to secure our 04:23PM
25 language and our culture and our way of life. 04:23PM

1 And so, I know they're pressed for time, 04:23PM
2 and it was -- but it was a good day, because many 04:23PM
3 of you spoke. 04:23PM
4 But, with that, we wanted to do an 04:23PM
5 honoring before -- before they leave. And we 04:23PM
6 want the Secret Service to close their eyes when 04:23PM
7 we do this so they won't get reported by email. 04:23PM
8 But, anyway, I want to turn it over to 04:24PM
9 Chairman Scott, and you can have the final word. 04:24PM
10 And they're sitting right there; say whatever you 04:24PM
11 want. 04:24PM
12 PRESIDENT SCOTT HERMAN: Again, I want to 04:24PM
13 thank the Secretary of Interior's office. I'd 04:24PM
14 like to thank Deb Haaland, Bryan Newland, and 04:24PM
15 Wizi for coming down. 04:24PM
16 It's been a long day, and I commend each 04:24PM
17 and every one of you that gave testimony today. 04:24PM
18 It was really interesting to hear all the 04:24PM
19 stories. 04:24PM
20 And, myself, I had a father that 04:24PM
21 attended boarding school here in this spot, too, 04:24PM
22 as well. 04:24PM
23 So I've seen some of the things that I 04:24PM
24 have to go through as far as what he had to go 04:24PM
25 through, which he couldn't teach me by being in a 04:24PM

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1 boarding school. So I, too, am affected by the 04:24PM
2 boarding-school era. 04:24PM
3 So, again, I'd like to thank every one 04:24PM
4 of our guests; everyone who came and gave 04:24PM
5 testimony today. 04:24PM
6 And may God bless you and love you guys 04:24PM
7 all. And we'll have our little honoring and 04:24PM
8 giveaway. So, thank you. 04:25PM
9 RUSSELL EAGLE BEAR: I know Chairman Scott 04:25PM
10 and his staff will be presenting, and we also 04:25PM
11 have our Sicangu Youth Council. 04:25PM
12 They're also going to do a presentation, 04:25PM
13 so maybe you can all come up and do your 04:25PM
14 honoring. 04:25PM
15 So, maybe, Scott, your staff can come up 04:25PM
16 first; and then, the youth will follow. And, 04:25PM
17 again, thank you for coming. 04:25PM
18 PRESIDENT SCOTT HERMAN: Okay, I'd like 04:25PM
19 for -- this is probably the only time I'll ever 04:25PM
20 get to boss a special, important person like this 04:26PM
21 around, so I'll ask Secretary Haaland to come up 04:26PM
22 front and center, please. Thank you. Yup. 04:26PM
23 And the Youth Council, can you come up 04:26PM
24 with the Secretary, and we'll present them with a 04:26PM
25 beautiful star quilt. 04:26PM

1 I know they can't receive gifts but, 04:26PM
2 hopefully, it goes on her wall back in her office 04:27PM
3 for everybody to admire as coming from the 04:27PM
4 Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Thank you very much, Deb 04:27PM
5 Haaland. 04:27PM
6 She also has a cape; some shells; and a 04:27PM
7 necklace, also, as a gift. So, hopefully, we're 04:27PM
8 not overwhelming you with gifts. You can wear 04:27PM
9 them all at once. Okay, thank you. Thank you, 04:27PM
10 Secretary. 04:28PM
11 I'd like -- I guess I'll ask Deb Haaland 04:28PM
12 to come back up. This is from the President's 04:28PM
13 Office. It was special-made probably about last 04:28PM
14 year, when we knew you were coming. So, thank 04:28PM
15 you. 04:29PM
16 Assistant Secretary, come up front, 04:29PM
17 please. Bryan Newland, we've been on Zoom call 04:29PM
18 many, many times, and have been very pleasant to 04:29PM
19 our people. 04:29PM
20 We appreciate all that you do for our 04:29PM
21 people here. You always have been a very good 04:29PM
22 person to talk to. He always tells you "yes." 04:29PM
23 No, I'm just kidding. But, thank you. 04:29PM
24 Thank you, Bryan Newland. We appreciate all your 04:29PM
25 help. Thank you very much. 04:29PM

1 Okay, we have another star quilt. We're 04:30PM
2 overwhelming you. So we have another one from 04:30PM
3 the President's Office. 04:30PM
4 Like I said, we have many meetings with 04:30PM
5 Bryan and his office. And I got his personal 04:30PM
6 cell phone so, hopefully, he answers for me. 04:30PM
7 Thank you. Thank you, Bryan. 04:30PM
8 And then, there's another gentleman here, 04:30PM
9 Joaquin Gallegos. He's been calling the shots 04:30PM
10 for the whole event. 04:30PM
11 So he's, kind of, been telling us what 04:30PM
12 to do, so I'm going to tell him what to do right 04:30PM
13 now: Joaquin, come up, please. 04:30PM
14 Joaquin is the person who, basically, 04:30PM
15 coordinated the whole event. He, basically, told 04:30PM
16 us what's going happen and what we can do and 04:30PM
17 what we can't do, so he's been very pleasant to 04:30PM
18 us. 04:30PM
19 He's been very -- he's a very nice 04:31PM
20 person. He has a lot of energy. You'd have to, 04:31PM
21 to work for the Secretary's Office. So, thank 04:31PM
22 you very much. 04:31PM
23 Okay, this is for one of our very own: 04:31PM
24 Wizi. Come up, please. Wizi, we have a lot of 04:31PM
25 respect for you. 04:31PM

1 You come from Rosebud. You're a very 04:31PM
2 good tribal member, and you do your best for us, 04:31PM
3 and that's all you can do sometimes. 04:31PM
4 But we do appreciate all your hard work 04:31PM
5 that you do in D.C., and we also appreciate all 04:31PM
6 the work you do back home, too, so thank you very 04:31PM
7 much. We really appreciate you. 04:31PM
8 Okay, I think that's it. All the gifts 04:32PM
9 are off the wall. So, again, you know, thank 04:32PM
10 you, everybody, for coming. 04:32PM
11 We'll have our Honor Song, and maybe we 04:32PM
12 can have our last emcee. So, thank you guys very 04:32PM
13 much for attending. Have a safe trip home. 04:32PM
14 Thank you. 04:32PM
15 (Whereupon, the Tribal Consultation 04:46PM
16 Hearing concluded at 4:32 p.m.)
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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Elizabeth H. Lundquist, a stenographic court reporter residing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing one hundred seventy (170) pages of typewritten material constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of my original stenotype notes, as they purport to contain, of the hearing reported by me at the time and place hereinbefore mentioned.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2023.



Elizabeth H. Lundquist

Elizabeth H. Lundquist
Court Reporter and Notary Public
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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