

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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Congress Hal Holmes,
House Building,
Washington, D.C.

June 1, 1954

[No acknowledgement necessary: just for your files, info. etc
Dear Congressman Hal:

I'm enclosing for your Wanapum files a publication
The Rocky Boy Indians Montana's Displaced Persons.

I've just obtained these items, and haven't read them thoroughly yet, but thought there might be a gem of some kind of idea, as time goes on. I thought that should be particularly true, inasmuch as these people I do not believe were natives of the United States, they were at war with this country, and they later became public charges.

The Wanapums have a much better record and have been rewarded with nothing.

I also enclose a clipping concerning Memorial day.

I have received a note of acknowledgement from Sen. Magnuson, for which I have thanked him, and have also provided him with a copy of Rocky Boy. His note indicated he was inquiring of the Bureau concerning the Wanapums. I had thought I had made that clear of the Bureau's present attitude or rather the attitude under the past administration. So I had to write in detail concerning the status of these people as previously viewed, that the government does not recognize them etc. and how relief can come only through two means.

Incidentally the State Fisheries people picked up two Wanapums last week for fishing at the Horn Dam, where they have always fished. The state is evidently moving in on all Indians.

The late L.V. McWhorter obtained passage of a state law permitting these people to fish at the Horn Dam. The Yakimas never used it. It was Wanapum territory. Then about two or three years ago, someone had this and several other Indian fishing bills killed, by number, without letting anyone know that it was being done.

Now these people have no salmon to store for next winter. I will have to notify the welfare dept. that they will probably become expensive welfare charges. But more importantly to them, they will have no salmon, from their home waters where it must come from, for their winter and spring salmon feasts. Those feasts, a part of their religion of thanks to the Creator, are as important to them as is the Mass to the Catholic and the rite of Holy Communion to the Protestant. So you see, it keeps getting deeper and deeper all the time. My forebears helped fight for religious freedom. Now I've got to do it for the Wanapums. Guess you think I'm a crank or a campaigner, but I'm more a sticker for a principal. kind regards Click