

[Election + Affairs]

Dec. 26, 1955

United States Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Washington 25, D.C.

Mr. M. M. Tozier,
information officer

Dear Mr. Tozier:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, and the enclosure of The Secretary's letter addressed to Mr. Oliver LaFarge.

Your letter was sent to The Yakima Daily Republic, where I am city editor.

I wish to take this opportunity to correct what appears to be a misconception.

The letter states "...because your newspaper has shown some degree of special interest in current Indian matters and has given editorial attention to material from the Association on American Indian Affairs."

The newspaper has not been on the mailing list of the Association on Indian Affairs, nor has it been guided by any "policy" or representation as expressed by the association. It has been guided strictly and solely by its own observations of the ~~xxxxix~~ existing situation.

Incidentally, and since I have a feeling that "politics" are being injected into the controversy, I am a Republican and have never been anything but a Republican, receiving my schooling so to speak from Hiram Johnson himself in California.

The information contained in the mimeographed letter is gratefully received. I assume there are numerous problems throughout the entire nation regarding Indian Affairs and it is enlightening to receive information "direct from the mouth of the horse."

I believe as time goes on the Department will discover that the unsettled situation on the Yakima Reservation, and off of it, stems from a multiplicity of situations.

My observations have been that the reservation has made remarkable strides toward progress and economic development within the past five or six years, under the guidance of very efficient and helpful Department employees.

I have written many stories concerning this wholesome development.

I can, however, sense a discontent on the part of enrolled persons who are virtually non-Indians, over failure to secure ready money when the Yakima Reservation starts coming into ready money through development of its resources.

I know of many living off the reservation, even some full bloods, who get by with the minimum of work although it is available in their regions, and who attempt to subsist upon per capita payments and other income that does not come fast enough to suit their needs for cars to replace ones they wreck when they are drunk etc. They no doubt would relish a change on the reservation and are working for it. Some of these live as distant as Idaho and down in Oregon.

I know of others, who are part-bloods, who wish to retain tribal identity. They also live off the reservation. They are strongly in support of the full bloods.

It is all a very mixed up situation and one that I would not want to pass judgment on. It is for the people themselves to decide. But they, each individually and as groups, collectively, should be held responsible for their actions.

I have also written many stories about the true Indians themselves, and the old people.

But in these various stories, and other writings, there is one thing to remember. A newspaper does not make news. It reports the news that is made by others. The present Bureau is no more responsible for the failures of the Bureau of other years, than you or I.

A large segment of Indians I am familiar with, even those who are good friends of mine, are nothing more than a highly developed welfare state ~~stemming from~~ stemming from the past. The whites have also developed a similar welfare state, convinced that the world owes them a living. One administration cannot unmake that situation in a few short years.

I did not intend to embark upon a dissertation, but tossed in these remarks trusting that they will be received in the proper light. After all I, as an individual and others like me, in the long run, have both bills to shoulder. This country was headed in the wrong direction several administrations ago and it is not easy to check it now. The present Department is to be commended for its sincere efforts. And I will most surely help out at proper times and resist at improper times.

Please don't hesitate to send me any future copies of "educational" information.

Sincerely

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