



National Association of Blackfeet Indians

CARPENTERS UNION BUILDING
231 BURNETT AVENUE NO.
RENTON, WASHINGTON 98055

July 16, 1968

LINCOLN D. BILLEDEAUX
National Chairman

SENIOR VICE CHAIRMEN

MR. HERB L. BARNES
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MR. L. C. NEWBREAST
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

JUNIOR VICE CHAIRMEN

MRS. FORREST D. ROHOLT
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

MR. GEORGE CALFROBE SR.
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

MR. ROBERT E. BARLOW
EVERETT, WASHINGTON

MR. CHESTER E. GLADSTONE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MR. RONALD L. CROSS GUNS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

TREASURER

MR. DARRELL L. NORMAN
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Editor

The Yakima Herald-Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Sir:

Attached is a press release which we know will be of great interest to your Indian reader and particularly our Blackfeet and Gros Ventre members, several hundred who reside in the Yakima-Toppenish-White Swan area.

Should you need additional information on the release please feel free to call on our Junior Vice Chairman, Mr. George Calf Robe Sr., 1104 East Yakima Avenue, Yakima, Washington.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lincoln D. Billedeaux
Lincoln D. Billedeaux

PRESS RELEASE
JULY 16, 1968

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKFEET INDIANS
~~231 Burnett North~~
~~RENTON, WASHINGTON 98055~~

The Washington, D. C. law firm of Wilkinson, Cragun & Barker, tribal claims attorneys representing the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes in a suit against the federal government for lands illegally taken under a Treaty Agreement of May 1, 1888, encompassing 13 million acres, have informed Lincoln D. Billedeaux, Chairman of the National Association of Blackfeet Indians, that they and the U. S. Attorney General's office have negotiated a settlement for a net judgment of \$8,678,811.92 for the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes.

On March 31, 1967, the U. S. Indian Claims Commission handed down a gross judgment of \$11,125,606.40, or eighty cents an acres for these lands which have produced millions of dollars to their white owners throughout Montana. The federal government attorneys have deducted \$2,006,516.29, they say were supposedly paid these tribes under the Agreement of May 1, 1888, plus \$439,275.19, for offsets, this sum is for alleged expenditures which the federal government maintains they used for the welfare and support of these tribes, thus reducing the gross award to \$8,679,811.92. Yet to be deducted from this amount is legal fee of ten per cent and expenses. Final acceptance or rejection of this settlement will have to be decided by the tribes. The tribal claims attorneys are preparing a long detailed report on the settlement.

Approximately 5000 Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Indians make their homes in the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon, at the present time, with several thousand more residing in other states. The National Association of Blackfeet Indians have members of their organization scattered throughout the globe and a state meeting is being planned for Spokane to be held on Sunday, August 25, 1968. If arrangements can be finalized.

In commenting on the latest development of the judgment award, Billedeaux said, on the basis of the information we have and this include a copy of the Treaty Agreement of May 1, 1888, it would appear the judgment award, both gross and net, is entirely inadequate compensation for these valuable lands which were seized by federal government