

1212 N.32nd Ave.
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Jan. 13, 1955

Mr. Bernard G. Lanctot,
Chief Assistant Attorney General,
Attorney General's Office,
Olympia, Wash.

Dear Mr. Lanctot:

Last June I communicated with the Attorney General concerning the case of the "anapum Indians of Priest Rapids.

I received a letter from you, written June 29, informing me that it would take a short time to provide information requested, at the behest of these Indians who are poor and without legal counsel.

Having heard nothing from you since that time, and also realizing that the press of business may still be heavy, I am however writing again in the hopes of obtaining this information before Jan. 27.

On that date the State Director of the State Department of Fisheries and his staff is to visit Yakima and I am asking for a conference with someone on his staff regarding these people.

These people, the "anapums, were deprived of their traditional fishery on the Yakima River last spring by enforcement officers of the State Department of Fisheries. However the Yakima Indians, a treaty tribe, were permitted to continue to fish at Prosser.

I do not believe that the hon. director understands that since the "anapums were not treaty people, their rights to their fishery were never legally extinguished by the Government of the United States.

They do not wish to employ legal counsel, as in the matter of obtaining protective rights for their graveyard etc. at Priest Rapids Dam site, which was granted by the Federal Power Commission.

The feel however that if the State Department of Fisheries wishes to acquire full title to their fishery on the Yakima River, it must be done legally or they must be compensated for it. Their prime concern is that they be permitted to continue to fish, since their wants are small--some 80 fish a year for less than eight Indians at that site--but they are important since they are used for the Mass and Holy Communion in their religious ceremonies which were observed before the coming of the white men.

The information requested pertained to the responsibility for killing a state law which allowed the "anapums to fish at "anawish.

I hope this information can be provided soon.

Sincerely Click Relander