

The Department of Justice,  
Room 2129 Deptl of Justice Bldg.  
Washington, 25, D.C.

1212 N. 32nd Avenue

Yakima, Washington

Aug. 12/1954

LLY: Re Yakima 160

Dear Sir:

I am sending an extra copy of this letter in event you wish to forward it to Dr. Voegelin.

I have been scanning and transcribing from the Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs series [1848-73] and am highly impressed by the vast amount of material therein which appears to relate to Yakima 160, ie: The marked similarity of the Mid-Columbia Tribes and the way they were treated by the Yakimas is identical in many ways with that of the Wanapums.

One of the rolls contains letters pertaining to the Klickitats, one of the 14 tribes included in the Yakima Treaty and a report of their "agent" from the Dalles in 1855-56, that they did not recognize Kamiakin as a chief, were not represented at the Treaty Council of Walla Walla etc. and still refused to sell their land. This of course gets into the fact that the Klickitats were later enrolled etc.

The whole tenor of many letters (pre-treaty) show that the treaty makers were not familiar with the country, did not make a thorough search to contact all Indians, and there is NO reference to the territory from Pasco northward along the Columbia, the Wanapums locale.

Other letters are packed with information as to the Mid-Columbias, their location ~~and~~ along the river on the south side, including the fisheries claimed by the Yakimas in their negotiations for the Dalles Dam settlement. It is evident that after the war they drifted back, taking possession, as Kamiakin did, of that which they wanted.

I mention this in event the Yakimas pursue their claims through litigation. There will be much of interest in these rolls.

I will have much typescript material, comparatively speaking, having scanned six rolls so far. I make an abstract of articles not copied. I feel that it will save much time and eye strain if the "push gets on," and will endeavor to cover as much as I can before Sept., when the series on loan, is to be returned to Dr. V. But most certainly it is building up a picture of an expansive Yakima claim, of chiefs who were not chiefs but gained that only by might and I believe that I can prepare notes and citations along that line that will fit into the Wanapum picture and expand it far down the river.

I go on vacation August 21, and will spend the first part of that time below Hood River where I have a contact with a woman reported to be the last of the Log River (Hood River) Indians. I am sculpturing a head of her, and she may be quite communicative.

Chief Tommy Thompson of the Mid-Columbias, the "yam, whose uncle was Stocketley, a Deschutes, has given me his old name, Chief La Wot and uses the name Chief Kuni, Kuni being his father's name. He seems more determined than ever from what I hear that the Yakimas are overstepping their claims to the fishery. But of course I stay out of their "arguments." He voluntarily sounds off against the Yakimas.

and the treaty he says that is "covered with blood." I suppose a Portland law firm, something like Deasley is still pressing a claim for the Mid-Columbias. I believe the Engineers wish to settle outright for \$3,750 each but they hear the big talk from the Yakimas and don't want to accept.

I have provided a set of notes concerning previous interviews with Tommy Thompson. He blossomed out, under Yakima introduction, as 99 years old, and for a time was on very friendly terms with them. Now, I don't know what happens and don't ask.

Suffice it to say that the Yakimas are still my friends, still know how I stand on Priest Rapids and appear to respect me. Whereas no one was ever able to get them to register to vote (even their attorney) I have written several short stories on that and made references to it, and put myself on record with some of their leaders and they line out a registration educational campaign to be handled by a committee!

While I have been spending from 30 to 45 hours a week on the microfilm, I believe that ~~from~~ only 10 per cent of that would be material to 160. I would estimate that the portion covering potential material could be covered ~~at~~ at a total of 30 to 35 hours, perhaps less.

I believe that the period up to 1862, I am now at 1857, might be revealing and in event that the negotiations over the dam settlement appear headed toward litigation, the Huntington Treaty part, which should be included, would be vital for the 1865 period.

I will take chiefs' names, tribal names, locations etc. and check them out in event I turn up a good Oregon source.

When I finish up there, say around Aug. 26, I plan to work up the coast and if the hearings are still continuing at Seattle, will drop in and attempt to see Mr. Yost, but I may wander far afield from Seattle.

I have written in detail so Dr. V. will know there is some "time saver" coming up, and so the Department will know that it is my opinion there is good material for No. 160 in that so far covered...good that is to the extent that it is exactly the claim as always made by the "anapums, that it places the war responsibility in my estimation on the Yakimas, and it isolates the Yakimas, definitely, to the north side of the river!

Clip is enclosed of another "historical" piece.

Sincerely

Cliff Relander

1212 N. 32nd Ave.