

March 7, 1956

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Dear George:

Thank you for your letter. I do plan to attend the conference. I have had a bit of experience, nothing to brag about, on the claims front, and perhaps enough contact and benefit of discussions on the subject with tribal attorneys, Indians involved etc. that I would have some background material.

I feel sure that Dr. Haines' paper would be properly prepared and presented, paving the way for addendum remarks correlating with the summation.

I will have my "claims" material in such a form that perhaps by consultation with you, the chairman, I could have a better prespective of the approach.

Your special committee assignment sounds much like something that should have been undertaken long before. I'm interested of course because it is starting to dig down into the ultimate, the combination of writing with research.

Incidentally I had quite a decision to make a couple of weeks ago, and haven't yet recovered. Maybe I guessed wrong, after being offered a very high civil service rating with the Department of the Interior and a press and publications assignment that would have covered mining, timber, reclamation, Indians, land management, national parks and others under the Department. It would have entailed quite a bit of travelling, even to Washington. But it is my guess that the "controversial" period is fast approaching, including that in the Indian Bureau and they wanted a smoother-outer. The pay would have been excellent, but I would have been working for the Collector of Internal Revenue and can't see a relaxation on that front to any degree within my time.

Also I just completed participating in the hearings, conducted by the Department of the Interior into the Yakima election. I was chairman of a non-partial election board of observers, so what with the Indian and the Department contacts, as well as with the enrolled Yakimas who are only part bloods, I really gained an insight. I can't see much else in store for the Indians but that some of their cases will be carried up to the Supreme Court itself. We are still just nibbling at the edges in the matter of Indian research.

Kind Personal Regards

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