

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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Mr. Johnny Tomalawash,
Box 89,
Wapato, Washington.

Oct. 24, 1954

Dear Johnny, brother:

I send you a clipping about Priest Rapids Dam. You will see where it is marked that the ~~Re~~ FPC, Federal Power Commission, that grants the permit and is the boss of ~~hxxx~~ those who build the dam, say that they have to do like we asked and like I wrote to them.

This means that men, like engineers, will come to try and find where they will build a dam. No one can build a dam, even if they get a license, for two years and I don't think they can raise the money to build it.

But if we keep on working as we have, being honest and fair, they will treat us that way when they build a dam and they will protect the graveyard and they will see you have a place, a home near your old home, that will always be safe. And they will move what rocks we want moved off the island, the sacred rocks, to put them on the shore near your home or let some of them go up to Vantage, so everyone will know about the Wanapums.

If they find that the place where they have to build the dam interferes with your graveyard, which I don't think it will, I think they will meet with you and work something out so everyone will be happy.

We should all be glad they are treating us like this. The Yakimas could not get the government to do things like this when they argued about The Dalles Dam. So they are friends now. If we keep on as we have and I can continue working as I have, honestly and right, they will treat us ~~the same~~ the same way.

I have written to Buck Hyahoot and I will also write to George Schappy.

Puck Hyah Toot and Rex tells me that some man down by Richland wants to visit the old graveyards with them and help them. That is alright if he is the right kind of man. We have to know first. I have to know who he is and why. If he is our friend we will accept him.

If others want to know the names of the places, above all they should be told nothing now. And if the government people come to look you people up, you should do nothing until I get to talk with all of you because we can lose what ground we have finally gained. If this is not done this way they might misunderstand many things and we will be back where we started. Then I can do nothing.

If you and the others visit the old places with someone and they ask about the names, don't tell them the true names. Maybe tell them other names. Then when they try to "steal" things that belong to the Wanapums later, we will be able to prove that they don't know and that they are thieves.

In a few months I will need things from Johnny like a drum, more fans, gambling bones, things like the Wanapums used made out of hemp, ropes, a ball that you threw up and caught on a sharp stick, twisted floor or sleeping mats (not too large) It was those things he was to make me when I made him a one third partner in the book. If he does not make them, how can he expect to be made a third partner. I have put it down on a paper that he is, but so he will have to do it, or lose the partnership. But I had another reason to do it. When the book comes out we will use that part toward making him a house, a Wanapum house, where they pick for us, if they decide to do so, and then many people will buy the book maybe so there will be enough to make a good house. It takes lots of work to do things like this. Now is the time for others to help. I have been doing most of it.

I am very happy that things are working out now, after so long, as we asked. I think they will work out much better as time goes on.

Now Tow Look