

Feb. 12, 1953

Congressman Hal Holmes,
4th District, Washington.

Dear Hal:

Thanks for the two letters, your last of February 6 just received, informing "us Wanapums" that you have communicated with Dillon S. Myer, Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Your speed is amazing and appreciated, but certain things are occurring to me

I-I know now Mr. Myer's answer, because the government has not been in a position to know that the Wanapums are separate people, as I can now prove, by linguistics, types of houses, culture, legends and everything that would stand in court.

He will send you copies of letters to "us Wanapums," and the late L.V. McWhorter (by a former commissioner.) Or, maybe there will be a new observation now. Hence, my letter at this time. Frankly, just so the situation is cooking now, is fine but here is a thought:

The Wanapums would obstruct no progress along the river, nor seek to excepting to bring their own case into the public light.

The Celilo Falls and The Dalles Dam, blowing like it is now, and a wave of righteous indignation sweeping or starting to sweep over the country, on top of possible "economy" shouts etc. etc., while I might write some Indian yarns etc., I think it better that you just quietly probe around until the proper time comes.

The Wanapums are ripe now. So are the other Indian cases.

I am enclosing, for your files, two (sets) of clippings covering the Wanapums and the Celilo situation. And, are we getting the mail! It shows what can happen when the proper time comes. I'll give you a few excerpts:

Wapato..Dear editor: The Story of Casaseca in the Yakima Sun. Herald was very touching. I am sending you a poem....."By the Falls of the Columbia,
By the Sparkling Celilo

July 12, 1963

Dear Robert:

I think you and Alex and others might be more than a bit interested in a release coming up from Sens. Magnuson and Jackson for Sunday. Tried to contact you today, and Hovis tonight.

They are announcing an archaeological project at Lyons Ferry "...a joint agreement with the National Park Service, the Corps of Engineers, and the Nez Perce Tribe would be the basis or plan for presentation to the Federal Court for an order to perform the work at the Lyons Ferry burial site. Under this agreement it is believed the work can be scheduled for the summer of 1964...The search will center in a one acre fenced area near the mouth of the Palouse River. It contains the marked graves of Old Chief Jones of the Nez Perce Tribe, his wife and two children..."

If these people were Nez Perce they might be right. If these were Palouse, where does that leave the Yakimas...does it give the NP a foothold in country not theirs (like Celilo)? Have they the right to sign an agreement? I have plenty of records concerning this band at Lyons Ferry, Palouse which Erwin, Wilbur etc. went out at instructions from govt. to get on Yakima Reservation because they were Palouse. Thought you would want to know about this, but probably you already know.

traditional procedure in the reservation's history.

Tollefson, with the help of silent and openly working disgruntled tribesmen on the Yakima Reservation, a small group, 30 to 50, has constantly warred on the hard core of the tribe, tribalism, etc. This has been through letters scattered in official channels and in papers. Most are financially independent as Yakimas go. But they are enrolled.

I am sure their long persistence helped bring about state jurisdiction and at least set off the fire to spread to business, farm and other groups.

Tollefson has introduced several "anti bills." Last year it was a timber selloff. Success this time depends upon 1-Success of jurisdiction; 2-court tests on jurisdiction; the Indian climate in areas of predominate non-Indian population.

The "termination" bill was clearly introduced through Wilton-Tollefson timing to time with the general council for which the agenda was revocation of resolutions of past years. This would have shorn the tribal council of power, even the power to send a delegation to Washington until a 30-day notification of an emergency meeting (?) little unsure about the emergency period in procedure. And with way forces seem to be cooperating, the Yakima termination bill could have gone out, unopposed etc.

The Colville bill of last year provides 5 years, but is bogging down on advance programming although a Stanford Economics survey has been made. The Yakimas I know best are not too greatly worried about "another" Tollefson bill, although I tell them there are many forces now combining, Indians "are looked upon differently" etc. and that it is my understanding Wilton did "some work" in the Klamath country or at least patterns his program after Wade Crawford.

March 23, 1963

Mr. Charles E. Minton,
Box 2195,
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Minton:

Thanks for your letter of March 18 and 'revealing' information.

Due to business (?) interests , a solid legislative bloc in the Valley which has , with various town leaders fomented "unsettled conditions," our newspaper climate, very friendly until two years ago, has become very much like the legislators. (explanatory due to stories inclosed for information). I am ~~making~~ marking two stories which I wrote.

No one, Indians and others except perhaps a special writer on the morning paper knew of the filing of the Tollefson Yakima bill, H.R. 4917. The story explains it was "requested" by E.J. Wilton of Tacoma, an enrolled Yakima, not of Yakima blood but as I understand one of those enrolled under the 1946 act providing compulsory enrollment for those earlier allotted, ~~xxxx~~ although He is a retired railway conductor, apparently has money from some source, has organized off the reservation Yakimas, mainly half bloods and has long campaigned for amendment of the enrollment act and opening to those of less than one-fourth degree of one of the 14 original Yakima tribes or bands. There are some inequalities, chiefly through inheritance that should have been remedied, although the Yakimas for some reason have stood firm against a relaxation. The full blood, half blood controversy is of long standing.

Tollefson a few years ago , through telegrams, letter campaign etc. sought to bring about a Secretarial election, which he did. Representatives of the solicitor general's office were sent out and hearings were held, another election was held and was accepted. This was during the reign of Glenn L. Emmons as I recall. It was the first time "outside interference" has been injected into the Yakima

I believe the Yakima tribal membership wants to retain tribalism and the Reservation. It is big for development, not large compared with the N . but there's 8 billion feet of timber, lots of farm land etc. and industries are poppi g up and programs are being worked out . And they like their 'freedom ' on the Reservation , even though crowded by the non- Indian communities.

No talk yet, to my ~~maxims~~ knowledge of incorporation, f eling seems to be "termination" will be here one of these days, we'll take it when it comes and is forced , would rather let development of resources take care of things while we wait for the inevitable.

Thanks for the copy of the talk. Sounds like a top one with a very good many pointed appeal worthy of capturing lots of interest. There are some possibilities for youth "council" here and I'll pass the information along to Alex Saluskin, the TC chairman or Stanley Smartlowit, youth , recreation, etc. leader or committeeman for the 14 member council.

Thanks for sending the information. It is appreciated from the informative side, like your bulletin. I follow a very neutral policy but the Yaks know I am willing to help if they want me. Mostly they are pretty enterprising.

And thanks again, very much for the much appreciated remarks about "Strangers on the Land." The Yakimas noticed it in the tribal office and were grateful.

Got a note from ~~Arizona~~ New Mexico Highways. It's not available up here but in case a short reference or comment shows there and you see it (the card indicated one would be forthcoming) I'd appreciate a copy if an extra one shows around.

Again, sincerely

October 30, 1963

Mr. Charles E. Minton,
Executive Director,
Commission on Indian Affairs,
Santa Fe, New Mexico (Box 2195)

Dear Mr. Minton:

My only "poor" excuse for not writing you before has been that things have been moving too rapidly in our Northwest, a volume of my own work, including research on Samuel Hill, good roads founder, railroad magnate (son-in-law also of James J. Hill of the Great Northern Ry.), and such excuses of little bearing.

But perhaps some notes will help acquaint you on situations, and a few somewhat "prejudiced" written articles will be of interest.

Seven of the 14 member Yakima Tribal Council come up for election at a General Council or tribal-wise meeting late in November. The increasing part-blood attack, demanding termination etc. has come out into the open after a somewhat bloodless victory on certain phases of state legislation. But the pattern, somewhat akin to the Klamath and even with earmarks of some advice from that quarter is more evident. And similar activities are under way on the Colville and Umatilla Reservations.

First let me note that your Newsletters have been waste rpieces of writing and objectivity and worded in such a manner I could not. I could not be as impartial. Your way no doubt is more effective. Of especial interest was the section re: the late commissioner who hails from the Southwest. And I wish also to add that the members of the Yakima Tribal Council, Robert Jim, secretary, Alex Saluskin and others who have read the Newsletter eagerly, are highly favorable to the Newsletter and its messages, clearly put and based on the evidence, without show of "sentiment" as I find myself indulging in.

Two of these gentlemen at least have felt a letter from me to you would not be amiss.

Your attention is called to the article headed "Dissident Indians Nominate" and your attention is called to remarks by Mr. Wilton. He has now moved from Tacoma to Wapato. None of the "dissident" nominated candidates are more than the bare one-fourth blood of Yakima blood. Perhaps some are not even that, there being doubt as to their enrollment or the enrollment of relatives in past years. This may show up in the Yakima Claim of Erroneous Enrollment now pending before the Claims Court.

I understand Mr. Gyorud is somewhat of a professional with some background on insular affairs, representing this type of quasi Indian throughout the U.S. Their interests are, it is my assumption and growing clearer, to obtain