

October 26, 1956

Dear friend Tim:

Thank you for the very nice letter you wrote about our trip to Tacoma and your very good expression of Indian sentiment. The two who were with me, join me in extending good luck wishes to you on your project of studying and gathering material.

There is not a lot of material in publication about the Yakimas. But under separate cover I am mailing you the treaty centennial book, which I was asked to edit for the Yakimas and to which I contributed several of the chapters, including the history of the treaty, the history of the reservation and other chapters like that. I think it will give you considerable background. It might be a little difficult reading for you, but if you keep it a while, and your interest continues as it is now, you will enjoy it someday.

The same is true of the book, Drummers and Dreamers. I think your teacher will enjoy it, and I will be writing to her and the class before long--I have so very much work to do now that I am home--and as they grow older--your classmates--they too will enjoy it. It is a true story but not really a story, it is real history that is in the making right now as the result of things shown in the book. And it is the story of many Indians in the future, when you will be in college and seeing how they will be forced to go on their own. Of course this will be right for many of them, who are entirely capable of doing that, like the Shawanays, and many others, and they should not be deprived of their rights.

You should remember there are two sides of every question. The Indian one is very complex. So don't reach any conclusion about a strict yes or no answer as to the whole thing. Each case, each tribe and each group of people have different problems that require different solutions. A lot of all of this is their culture, and that is what you are interested in. The history of America is the history of the Indian people, and you will learn that as you continue with your studies.

Thanks again for writing and good luck to you. Write me when you receive the treaty centennial booklet and if your teacher does not have one, and wishes one, it is possible I can locate another and send to her.

Sincerely

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