

2^d. I respectfully reply

As to ^{some of} the statements in your letter of the 9th ult. I reply as follows. As to "the long statement," which you mention as "contained in the letter" of the 24th of Sept. "of what Captain M^cMurray is said to have told the Indians" and which "long statement" you ^{had} discovered to be false and a "series of misrepresentations and absurd statements" from "the statement of one of your (my) own men, made in the presence of the Indians at the Council held near Yakima Gap, Sept. 23^d in which he told them that he heard Maj^r M^cMurray himself say that the Agent was the proper authority on the reservation." I too heard Capt. M^cMurray make said statement to the wild gang who collected here on the morning after his arrival here, in his short talk to them. Seeing by the eager looks of said gang that they were expecting some thrilling event - either my immediate displacement

or perhaps decapitation by the
Mighty Capt. Before he commenced
his talk I stated to them through
my Interpreter, ^{that} I alone represented the
authority of the Gov. over the Indians
of this Agency. & therefore I must be ^{respected}
obeyed by them. That if I did wrong
the Gov. or Washington would call
me to account for it, and would soon
find out the wrong through Inspectors
of Indian Affairs who were frequently here.
That Capt. McMurray had ^{lawful} no authority
or right to investigate my conduct, or to
hold a council with them or even to
stop on the reservation except through
my permission & courtesy. But as I
had done no wrong I had nothing to
conceal & would permit Capt. McMurray
(whom I then supposed to be a gentleman)
to make all inquiries he wished about
me & my employes. ^{to} Capt. McMurray
in his short talk ^{before me} assented to all I
had said. I have no knowledge, except
through Indians & newspaper reports,
of what he said to the Indians in his
long ^{conversations} ^{with them} soon afterward.

If you will reread "the Long Statement
contained in the letter" of Sept 24.
you will discern that nothing therein was
stated or vouched for as truth, but only
as the statements of Indians. But it
is a truth & a fact that said
Indians do believe & act upon all the
matters therein stated. and it appears
plain from the determined opposition
of said Indians to permit their children
to return to school in accordance with
my orders, that Capt. McMurray
either stated to them the matters
contained in said "Long Statement,"
or a mistaken or false interpretation
of his talk to them near Yakima Gap
was made ^{to them} by Chapman your Interpreter.

Mej. Dorn in the Council with
said Indians ^{while on the reservation}
informed them ^{the Agent was the only proper authority on the matter} that they would be allowed
two weeks to decide whether they would
obey the Agent in returning their
children to school or not. ^{+ at the end of that time they must be} SD on
Friday the 3rd ult. two of the leading
men & contents of said Indians came to
inform ^{me} that they had fully considered
the matter & had decided not to bring their

Children back to school - That they had
been informed by the Military officer
(Soldier Iyer) that they could do as they
pleased about sending their
Children to school, and they had
chosen the Soldier Iyer as their
Iyer + would not obey me - I told
them inter alia that they + their people
were on a bad road that road
led to trouble &c. + they left.

In proof of the fact that these
Indians believe they can look to the
Military to uphold ^{in their} ~~their~~ ^{opposi-}
sition to the authority of the U.S.
Ed. Agent here, permit me but
to call your attention to a little
discovery I have made in your
letter now under consideration.

You say that the same
man that brought you the
letter of Sept. 24. brought you a
complaint from said Indians, &c.
Who taught these Indians, Govt. to
complain to military officers and
to look to them for protection in opposing
the Agent? It is plain that some
one or more of your officers, either by design
or mistake, has thus misled these Indians -

As to the last clause of your letter relative to the "serious trouble" that the agent is likely to create by efforts to take children away from their parents without their consent, which you say "would not be attempted, or if so tolerated by any white family in the United States." Permit me, General, to call your attention to the fact, ^{that} every "white family" in Washington Territory is under the dominion of a compulsory education law which is tolerated *notius volens*, and which is fully as stringent as the ^{law} I am trying to enforce among these ignorant Indians. See Code Wash. Terr. - p. 18. of the appendix the law relative to "Children of certain age to be sent to school" sec. 3. - Similar ^{compulsory} laws of more or less stringency is in force in about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states & have been for many years without "serious trouble" with any "white family" of said states. As our Govt. is anxious to go out of the business of raising ignorant costly savages to give occasional employment

or amusement to the military - and as
speedily as possible to civilize and
citizenize her Ind. Tribes & terminate
the services of her Ind. Bureau - I am
conscientiously trying to carry out the
wishes & policy of the Gov. in this
respect, and have met with no
opposition among the Indians of this
Agency except from that wild vicious
class with whom Capt. McMurray had
council - If you will do the Ind.
Service & myself the favor to cooperate
with me so far as to send a
non Commissioned officer & a few
soldiers to be under my directions
for a week to show said wild
vicious class that the military
are in harmony with & not opposed
to the laws of the Gov. & compulsory
educational policy which I am trying
to enforce among the Indians of
this Agency, in accordance with said laws;
You will do a valuable service to the
cause of Ind. civilization - Clear away the
clouds of misunderstanding occasioned by the
visit of Capt. McMurray and relieve me
from much annoyance occasioned thereby -

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I trust, General, that this 2^d "Long
statement" which I have deemed it
necessary to make, will not be by
you deemed by ~~you~~ more prolix
than a clear understanding of the
matters require - and that you
will see the necessity for sending up
a few of your soldiers to report to me
not to use their arms or to fire a shot
but simply to show the vicious portion
of the Indians of this agency that they
cannot rely on the military to uphold
them against my authority as U.S. Ind
Agent -

Very Respectfully
R. H. Wilcox,

U.S. Ind. Agent.

Draft of a letter to
Gen. N. A. Miles
Nov. 7/84