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3701 Commonwealth,

Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mr. Robert Jim, chairman,

Yakima Indian Nation
Tribal Council

Dec. 29, 1968

Mr. Watson Totus, chairman
burial committee,
Yakima Tribal Council

Dear Friends:

Mr. Dave Rice stopped to see me on his way to Seattle and was unable, I presume due to the holidays, to contact either of you. He left his car at my place because of the storm and went on by train to Seattle.

I told him I would write you and he apologized for not being able to contact you personally.

I assume Watson is chairman of the burial committee.

Mr. Rice said he has recovered fragmentary bones from the Indian graveyard site near Richland and has these preserved in a safe place. This site had apparently been gone over with a bulldozer.

He said the real estate department of the Atomic Energy Commission appears to think you people are interested in acquiring the cemetery site as a cemetery.

I do not understand this, since in years past this was known as an Indian Cemetery. I recall that John Tomalawash wanted to go there and have a talk with the AEC. I contacted him twice and he was too ill to go, and then he died without gaining strength enough to make the trip. I don't know what I can find in way of communications with the AEC regarding this matter, not much if anything I fear, although I have been looking. Most of my contacts were with Mr. Milton Cydell, now retired I presume and were by telephone. But if I can find something in writing, I will see you get a copy of it.

Mr. Rice wants to know what plans you have in mind for disposition of the bones he has saved for you.

If some graveyard site can be determined, it may be you will wish to have a little religious ceremony there next spring, if nothing more than

let the AEC and others know you regarded this as a cemetery.

If that is to be done, you would want Bobby Tomalawash to be there with you. Johnny Tomalawash told me that both his mother and father were buried at that place.

Mr. Rice gave me an address to give you, so you can write him about the disposition of the bones he recovered after the bulldozer came in. I suppose someone bought it or something and again, I am mystified why the AEC should have disposed of this property. They were to have preserved it and in fact fenced it off years ago. But it looks like the same old story. The land became valuable because it was near a town and they sold it off. And I am not sure that it has been sold.

Meanwhile I will keep looking. I spent two hours today looking through my files and have some more looking to do.

The addresses Mr. Rice gave me were:

1-Dave Rice, Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 99163

2-Dave Rice, 4009 W. Irving, Pasco, Washington, 99301.

I understand he is teaching a class at Pasco some of the time, so I would write to him at the Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, Wash. 99163.

When he returns, about Jan. 2 to pick up his car, I intend to have another talk with him about some other things, and you will hear from me about that, if I learn anything.

Meanwhile I think it would be a good idea if you can locate any relatives of persons who might have been buried there at the old Richland Cemetery, and also around White Bluffs. But you will know best.

Sincerely

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