



## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

May 4, 1962

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 N. 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

We are distressed to learn of your illness, and we hope you are now on the way to a rapid and satisfactory recovery. Had we known you were at home, we should have been glad to send the newsletter to you there. Not knowing, we sent it to the address that Dr. Elizabeth Hoyt gave us.

If you have not received the May issue, which we mailed to the office, we shall be glad to send it to your home. We shall send future issues to the house until we receive instructions to again send them to the office.

We started the newsletter because nobody we knew was doing it, and we thought it important to give the Indian people some idea of what was happening. So many of them are in the dark.

We shall be glad to know something of the Yakimas' situation, when you are able to write us about it. While we are a New Mexico agency, we are interested in the affairs of Indians in other parts of the country. The States must absorb the Indian problem eventually. What is your guess as to when this will come about?

Good luck with your Yakima publication and best wishes for the best of health from now on.

Sincerely,

*Charles E. Minton*

Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director



Please Return



## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

May 10, 1962

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 North 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

We have placed Ginny Derby on our mailing list and shall send all issues since November, when we started.

Thank you for the information about the series of articles in the Congressional Record. I know exactly what you mean--and so do the Menominees and others.

Our Governor, who will be up for re-election this fall, has been a great help to us. He is in complete sympathy with our program and helps in any way he can. He does not exploit the Indians, never takes public credit for the things he does for them. For example, he succeeded in having returned in trust status a tract of 4.5 acres right in the middle of one of the pueblo reservations, which had been used for a Bureau school and which had been declared surplus. Glenn Emmons told them the land would have to go on the tax rolls. If it had, a trader on the edge of the reservation would have gotten hold of it and there would be a white man squatting right in the heart of the area.

Recently, one of the pueblos complained that the Highway Department was locating an interchange right through its small area of irrigable land. With Federal highways, as you know, the straightest possible line is the route demanded. However, the road was "bent" slightly around this area, by-passing the "irrigable land," which actually was traditional ground and sacred to the pueblo. (This is for your confidential information.) The Governor realized the situation and, although the Highway Department, under New Mexico law, is independent of the Governor's Office, he was successful in interceding for the Indians.

Dr. Elozabeth Hoyt is in the Department of Economics and Sociology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Sincerely,

*Charles E. Minton*  
Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director





## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

June 2, 1962

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 N. 32d Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

The newsletter is in the mail, as of yesterday, so I took the first opportunity to read your excellent and very interesting account of the Yakimas. Congratulations on a concise and fascinating presentation.

How much is the amount of the scholarship grant which the Tribe gives for college study? Is this a loan or an outright grant? Are there any strings tied to it, such as working for the Tribe for the same number of years as help was given by the Tribe? How do they do in college? And do you know how many are in college? (I am wondering if they have any better preparation for college than the Indian schools generally afford, or whether there is a language handicap such as Southwestern Indian students have.)

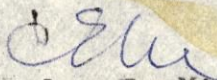
Are the healers, the Shakers, "hand tremblers" and diviners, such as one finds on the Navajo Reservation? Are the Yakimas peyote users? If so, how long have they used it?

The Yakimas have interested me ever since I saw a group at the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial, and I wish it were possible for me to visit the reservation.

The Supplement on the Institute of American Indian Art which accompanied the June newsletter of the Commission was difficult to do, and I fear it will make some people unhappy. I would appreciate having your reaction to it, as one who is remote from the scene.

Thank you again for sending the Yakima material.

Sincerely,

  
Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director





## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

August 23, 1962

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 N. 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

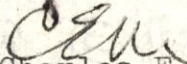
I have read the first portion of your manuscript with a good deal of interest. The story is such a familiar one, that I seem to know what development is next.

I hesitate to return it, since I am under the impression that you will be gone until September 1, until you are home again. But let me know when you want it back, and I'll send it immediately. I should like Dr. Roessel, Director of the Indian Education Center, Arizona State University, to look at it, if he has an opportunity during his brief stay here next week. He expects to be here on August 29th. If you want it before then, let me know.

We are witnessing the beginning of the end; in fact, it began quite some time ago; but until the big blow falls, things will go along pretty much as they are, with the Indian religion and culture crumbling, the Bureau becoming more and more insular and withdrawn, in an effort to save its skin, until it, too, gets the news, non-Indian politicians of the venal type becoming more restive and impatient, confusion increasing among Indians of the middle and older generations, and the politicians who see in the Bureau a source of patronage reluctant to dispense with it.

The older ones will make a show of retaining the old values, but they are not instructing the young, who resent lack of faith in them, because they fear the young will tell the secrets. The young know, however, that they can read all about the secrets in anthropological publications, and all any white man need do is to read the books. The old ones are trembling in their moccasins behind an insubstantial barricade of contrived isolationism, lost in a no-man's land between two worlds, a familiar world that is dying and a new world that is not yet in clear outline. It is heartbreaking, but the story will unravel to the bitter end.

Sincerely,

  
Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director





## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

September 15, 1962

Dear Mr. Relander:

We had the pleasure of a visit from Stanley Smartlowit earlier in the week and enjoyed meeting and talking with him. We were sorry he could not stay longer.

of September 5th

The Albuquerque Journal/carried a blast from the Democrat candidate for Governor, attacking this Commission for its negative attitude in Indian affairs and for failing to perform the function for which it was created.

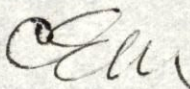
It was the very first time there has been even the slightest taint of politics injected into Indian affairs. The Commission has served under Governors from both parties and there has never been any effort to exploit the Indians for political purposes, so this blast came as quite a shock.

The Commission decided to issue a blast of its own, and wrote to the Albuquerque Journal answering the charges. On the chance that you might find it of interest, we are enclosing the Commission's statement, along with comment on it by Will Harrison, local columnist.



This is not for publication. I am just wondering whether a similar incident has occurred there. Please return the enclosures at your leisure.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director



## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

February 15, 1963

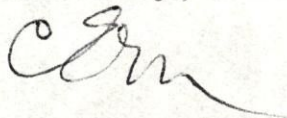
Dear Mr. Relander:

I want to mention your book in the next newsletter and have made the enclosed first draft, which I thought I would submit to you first, to see whether there are any mistakes.

Please make any corrections or suggestions right on the script and shoot it back to me as soon as possible, since February is a short month and I'll have to start on the newsletter before many more days.

You have done a good job, and I hope it gains the audience it merits.

Sincerely,







## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

March 18, 1963

Dear Mr. Relander:

What's this H.R. 4917 and 4918 that Tollefson has introduced, providing members of the Yakima and Colville Tribes with full citizenship rights "by extinguishing the tribal entity," etc.

When did this termination project get under way? Tollefson introduced the bills "by request." Who requested them? Is this reprisal for objecting to the State assuming jurisdiction, or is it just a phase of the attack on tribal entity, so the white man can move in?

How does the tribal membership stand on the question? Will they incorporate, if the legislation is enacted? How are they meeting the prospect of termination?

I am sending a copy of a talk I am to make to a joint session of the Conference on Indian Education and the Indian Youth Council. If there is an Indian Youth Council there, you might pass it along, or do as you like with it. It conceivably could stiffen some spines in this crisis, if that is desirable.

Regards,





## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

March 25, 1963

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 N. 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

Thank you very much for the clippings, which are indicative of what is happening.

While in Tempe, I talked with Commissioner Nash about the Yakima and Colville termination bills. He said that the Colvilles were in a different situation because 75% of them live off the reservation. He also said, in confidence, that there seemed to be a very determined effort in the Washington State Legislature and among certain interests to terminate the Yakimas. The expression he used was "hard nosed".

I have been away for a week. On my return, I found a letter from Stanley Smartlowit asking for a dozen or more extra copies of the March newsletter to be sent to the members of the Legislature. I was distressed to learn that he had just received the March issue, which was mailed out on February 28. I am sorry it did not arrive earlier so he could have made more effective use of it.

When ever a crisis arises, I find myself wishing that more Indians voted. It is the last weapon left to them, and while in a state as populous as Washington, they may not decide a state-wide election, they can bring pressure to bear upon their representatives in various communities in the State.

The Conference went very well. There were Indian leaders from Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, that I know about, and there were Indian students from eleven colleges and universities. Commissioner Nash made the address at the banquet and was present also at the Friday luncheon. He was going on to Parker, Arizona, from there, before returning to the office.



What is happening to the Yakimas and the Colvilles will be happening to other tribes. I have been saying for many years that by 1970, the picture will be vastly changed. I look for more action of this kind from Congress, and I am awaiting with much interest the investigation into Indian Affairs authorized under Senate Resolution No. 16.

The problem is that there are so many angles that are not clear, so many mixed elements, as in the Yakima situation, and those who are working for termination find this to their advantage. I suppose it is a sign of the times and a forecast of the tribal dissolution which is coming. Against this time, I do everything I can to show the Indians I know the importance of registering and voting. In the absence of this, they are just "sitting ducks".

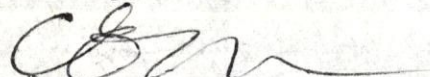
Emmons did his best to make it easier for termination legislation, I think, and I suppose he has had a good deal of effect upon Congressmen who want to buy his plan for disposition of the Indian problem--\$50 a month for every enrolled Indian until his death with no more added after the date set for the plan to go into effect.

I have been trying to buy time, but there is a limit to this too; and it was with this in mind that I organized the Indian Youth Councils some ten years ago, hoping to get as many Indians through college as possible against the day when they would have to help in the process of dissolution, and then establish themselves as self-reliant members of society.

I shall be glad if you will let me know how things are going and if there are any elements in the Yakima situation that would be of help to our people here in the Southwest.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,



Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director

CEM:gh

P. S. I have just seen the April issue of New Mexico Magazine, and Strangers on the Land is not included in the book reviews. Perhaps it will be in the May issue. I will send you an extra copy of the April issue which I have on hand.

C. E. M.





## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX ~~2195~~ 29  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

February 26, 1965

Mr. Click Relander  
3701 Commonwealth Road  
Yakima, Washington 98901

Dear Mr. Relander:

It was good to hear from you after so long a silence. I have been wondering how you were and how the Yakima termination legislation is doing. I hope they are presenting a united front, or at least a majority are looking after the Tribe's interests. It looks as if the Colville Tribe is galloping towards termination. What do you hear of this?

If you will send your ring to me I will ask one of the Indian silversmiths to put a new stone in it. Please let me know your idea of what is a reasonable price.

It is against the law to take, possess, sell or buy eagle feathers, so I cannot get any for you. The law also embraces certain song bird feathers.

As for the rug, I could ask one of the Indians who come in from time to time to send a rug to you, but it is better if I know the dimensions of the rug and colors. Even the cotton warp rugs are very high now, but since this is not the tourist season, it would be possible to buy them for less now than three months from now. Rugs that I could have bought for \$20 when I came out here now sell for \$150 to \$200, but that was in the early 30's during the depression. In any case, it is well to have specific information as to size and color, so I will know better what you want.

I hope you will write again when you can. We continue the same general type of work that we have been doing. Right now we are fighting a move on the part of the Bureau to build a segregated Indian high school in Albuquerque. Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent to the members of the Subcommittees on Indian Affairs of the House and Senate. If there is anything you can do to discourage the Bureau's plan for segregated Indian high schools, we will appreciate it.

With warmest good wishes,

Sincerely,

*Charlie Minton*

Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director

CEM:gh  
Enc.



[Enclosure, 1965, Feb. 26]



## COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
POST OFFICE BOX 29  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

February 22, 1965

### TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS:

We are informed that the Bureau of Indian Affairs plans to build a segregated Indian high school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at a cost of \$13,017,000, despite its announced policy of public schools for Indian children. A thousand students will be added each year.

It is a step backward to build any segregated Indian school except under circumstances where no other course is feasible. The present arrangement at the Albuquerque Indian School, in which Indian children are sent by bus to public high schools in Albuquerque, is much fairer to the children, and this could be continued.

Plans for the proposed high school include a vocational educational program. This is greatly needed, but it, too, should be integrated. So should the Santa Fe Indian School, which should send children by bus to Santa Fe schools, instead of maintaining a segregated school within the city limits of Santa Fe.

I have worked with Indian students for several years and I know how handicapped those are who have had to go to Bureau schools, for the reason that by not mingling with non-Indian students they lack experience in English, which is essential to success in college. Some 50 per cent or more Indian students are now in public schools and this should be greatly increased.

Indian students in segregated high schools are not adequately prepared for college or for post-high school courses because they lack fluency in English. According to Bureau researchers, they are one year or more retarded in junior high school and two years or more retarded in senior high school. This is tantamount to sending tenth graders to college, and it is no wonder the great majority of them fail. It is not fair to them.

Indian students need all the experience in the English language they can get, but attendance at a segregated Indian school reduces this greatly and prevents adequate preparation for the future.



Segregated Indian schools violate at least the spirit of the civil rights laws and encourage discrimination against the Indian people. Moreover, according to news dispatches from Washington, "the government is seeking steps toward racial integration of every federally aided school by the time classes open in September."

Perhaps if the Bureau's education program, along with all federally aided school programs, were coordinated under the U. S. Office of Education, greater progress in general would be made as well as in integrated education. But it is not just the idea of nondiscrimination; the fact is that unless Indian children are given the opportunity to mingle with non-Indians in public school, they do not acquire the fluency in English which is so essential to success in higher education.

It is of the utmost importance in preparing for the future that the Indian be equipped to meet the non-Indian as an equal, and this is impossible unless he is not only fluent in English but has mingled with non-Indians and has learned their ways.

It is usually admitted by Indians who have attended only Indian segregated schools that they are at a great disadvantage in their relations with non-Indians and believe that they would have been better served educationally by attendance at public schools. Any one who is not at home in the language of the dominant culture is always at a disadvantage, as everyone knows.

It is time that the same enlightened attitude that makes possible integrated education for Negro youth is applied to Indian youth. Indians who have served in the Armed Forces will tell you that without that four-year experience in learning English and having to learn to speak it fluently, they would be at a great disadvantage today. Not many of them went to college, but those who did found it a great advantage.

Can't we have an end to segregated Indian education once and for all time? There are circumstances under which, due to the vast distances on some of the reservations, it makes sense to have a high school on the reservation, but these should be part of the public school system, and unless they are absolutely necessary, they should not exist. This does not refer to the Bureau's day schools on the reservations. These should remain.

A close scrutiny of the Bureau's education program should be made, all segregated Indian high schools off the reservations should be integrated without delay, and high schools on the reservations should be made part of the public school system.

Respectfully,

  
Charles E. Minton  
Executive Director

CEM:gh



CHARLES E. MINTON

CONSULTANT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

PHONE 983-5712

~~227 WASHINGTON AVENUE~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

P. O. BOX 306

129 East De Vargas Street, Apt. 1  
December 20, 1966

Dear Click Relander:

So glad to have news of you and the Yakimas! I have moved, too, but while I have one more room than at the other place, I have less space. I am not yet settled, or I should say, not yet "straightened out." Moves are such a chore and so much mislaying of things.

Looks as if the Yakimas are going in for industry. I am glad to see that.

What will be the outcome of the case contesting State jurisdiction? I forget the name of the Congressman who was so strong for State jurisdiction, but it should be a matter of tribal consent.

What is being done to alert the Yakimas and other tribes up there on the Indian Omnibus Bill (I call it the "Ominous Bill"). And was the regional meeting with Bennett satisfactory?

The Omnibus Bill is based on the assumption that the Indians are capable of managing their own properties. Perhaps some are; but none of them around here are. It looks to me like the first attempt since the 83d Congress to pull the rug out from under the Indians. That was 12 years ago, when we fought so hard to defeat the Competency Bill. And this Omnibus Bill sounds pretty much like it, along with other features, of course.

I'll enclose an editorial from the Southwesterner which has to do with the Omnibus Bill. Please return it when you have finished with it. If I had a Xerox machine, I'd make some photocopies, but I don't have one.

How has your book, Strangers on the Land done? I was sorry the New Mexico Magazine didn't review it. At least, I did not see a review of it.

Give my regards to my Yakima friends. Warmest good wishes to you all.

*Charlie*  
Charles E. Minton



CHARLES E. MINTON

POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

May 12

Mr. Relander:

Thanks very much  
for the material on the Galkinas,  
which has just come. I am  
looking forward to reading



it with much interest.

More later. I am snowed  
under with a very meaty (150pp.)  
script of a two-day Commission  
meeting I last June - just getting  
to it - which I am trying to  
compress into half its length.

C Eler