

Mr. Joseph R. Garry, president,
National Congress of the American Indians,
Box 5,
Plumber, Idaho

August 15, 1956

Dear friend Joe:

I thought I would meet you at one of the recent General Councils and talk to you there, but failing in that, I thought I should drop you a note.

I don't know exactly what is the matter with the rebels among the Yakimas. They know how the Congress helped them stave off a secretarial election etc. yet when it is put right up to them, they balk at taking out their membership. And I think you have worked very nicely with them. These "rebels" still stand up and shout Communism.

I know exactly how you feel, because I've been berated by the same people. And I feel it my duty to keep plugging along for the good of the cause.

So I thought I should write and ask your assistance in connection with my forthcoming Drummers and Dreamers. I've requested the publisher to send out review copies to various of the outlets such as Smoke Signals, the Ameriand, and the own NCAI headquarters, and have been advised that these will be out about September 15. The book itself does not go into the stores for distribution until Oct. 6.

If you will remember, this is the story about the little band of wanapums or River people at Priest Rapids, who no one would pay any attention to. Now, thanks to the book on the horizon, and the kindness and understanding of the PUD, although they know these people have nothing but a moral right, they will be permitted to live there and continue their old culture, as long as there are any of them, and their long house will be moved, their graveyard protected for all time, their other housing needs will be attended to and rock paintings on an island at that place will be removed and preserved near their long house. The old man Puck Hyah Toot has designated one of these for his monument in the graveyard.

But in the same manner that I was writing things for the "preservation" of the Yakimas and others I am acquainted with, several years ago, and these things have come to pass, I saw something else in the story of Drummers and Dreamers. Of course if you come into Yakima and elsewhere within our readership you will find, and I think it is due to some extent to my writing and numerous talks all over, that the people have an understanding attitude and this acts as a strong restraint upon some of those in "high places."

"While Drummers and Dreamers is a story of Priest Rapids and Chief Moses, of the Palouse and elsewhere, it is more than that but is perhaps too obvious for the reader to see unless it is pointed out to him.

dedicated.

So I made the ~~introduction~~ something like this: Dedicated to those who are real chiefs because they have big hearts, because if they do not insist on the "reaties" being kept etc. etc., there may yet be other "Last Manapums".

To me, the story of these people is the story of the future of many Indians of many tribes throughout the whole country in the years ahead when the government no longer has a responsibility for them.

Of course the book will speak for itself. But I am wondering if the timing of the National Congress is proper for you or if Kay Northover goes there and would care to do so, pass around a few of the "circulars" like attached.

There isn't a lot of money I believe in a book of this kind. Its value is in its widespread distribution in proper places to act as a restraint. It is not a campaign book, and therein I think lies much of its potency.

And to show my brothers there is not a lot of money in this and that the suyapo doesn't in this case make himself wealthy at the extend of the Indian, I have made Puck Hyahoot a partner in the book sales through the normal channels of trade, the book stores and outlets etc. In other words the regular royalties will be split two thirds for me and one third for him, and they do not run large. What it has cost me to gather and present this material, hire typing of manuscript, photos, long field trips etc. etc. is more than will probably be turned over by the book. But I still have a principal to fight for, as you do.

Look the enclosed material over, the circular and the announcement, and see what you think. And if upon reading the book when you encounter it later, you deem it worthy of recognition, feel as I do, please in a matter like that, that giving the recognition due helps the cause along rather than the individual. I've stuck my neck out now for several years and people have been whacking at it, just as in your case.

I've tried to keep clippings coming your way but realize that I've been doing mighty poorly on that score. I have quite a mailing list and it's hard to get papers together, get the clippings and mail them out. But I do think they have been helpful in the proper places. The support in that manner is something that cannot be purchased; the extra time and long hours necessary outside of the office to keep abreast of the situation is also something you could not hire someone to do. And although it is just a letter, one of my proudest possessions is a letter of appreciation from the executives of the General Council, passed upon in General Council meeting, thanking me for my work in connection with the hearing.

Hope things have been going well with you.

Sincerely

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