



ARTHUR B. LANGLEIE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Department of Conservation and Development

W. A. GALBRAITH, DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING
OLYMPIA

July 1, 1954

DIVISIONS:
FORESTRY
RECLAMATION
FLOOD CONTROL
WATER RESOURCES
MINES AND GEOLOGY
COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT
PROGRESS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Click Relander,
1212 No. 32nd Avenue,
Yakima, Washington.

Dear Mr. Relander:

Your letter of June 22 addressed to Governor Langlie and relating to the position of the Wanapum Indians and the Priest Rapids Dam site, has been directed to me for reply. According to your request the letter will be sent to the State Power Commission. I would, however, like to comment on the questions you raise.

As you know the proposed Priest Rapids Dam has been authorized by Congress to be constructed by the Army Engineers. A bill which recently passed the House and is now in the Senate would de-authorize this as an Army Engineers' project and allow it to be built by Washington State Public Utility Districts or the State Power Commission.

I know of no instance where the construction of a dam has moved people from the area without just compensation for the property. If the Indians you refer to would rather have land somewhere instead of money for their present land it seems that it could be arranged. In instances where graveyards have been covered by reservoirs the graves have been moved to new sites and it certainly seems reasonable to suppose that this would be done no matter who builds Priest Rapids. The most important thing, it seems to me, is that just because these dozen people are the remnant of a tribe of Indians should make them no different from any other citizen in these matters.

As a newspaper man in Yakima you, no doubt, hear the constant clamor for more power in the Northwest. Priest Rapids is one of the best remaining projects and someone will built it sometime. I can understand your interest in the plight of the Wanapum and it is certainly commendable that you would serve them as you are. It is quite likely that you are the only one doing anything for them. Likewise their attitude is good.

2. - Mr. Click Relander
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As the efforts to get Priest Rapids Dam develop I would appreciate knowing if these Indians are not getting a fair deal and I am sure that Governor Langlie would also appreciate being informed.

Thank you for making us aware of this situation.

Sincerely yours,

W.A. Galbraith

W.A. Galbraith
Director

WAG:C
cc Governor's Office