

1212 N.32nd Ave.
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June 30, 1954

Mr. Kenneth Gilbert,
Secretary of State's Office,
Olympia, Washington.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

You may recall that I visited Olympia last summer for some research of your Indian War archives, and you showed me very good courtesy in making repositories available for scanning.

I mentioned at that time that it was my intention to do a good deal of work among the Indians to encourage them to register to vote, and vote.

Now in furtherance of that campaign, and perhaps with the view of giving the situation some publicity in the line of stories, I am writing for your assistance or advice:

Do you have a work kit of voting registration material, full requirements as would pertain to Indians. I suspect one of the problems will be that a percentage of these people cannot read or write. I see no way that this handicap can be overcome, other than to be sure education is being properly directed to instruct reading and writing so this, will be removed in the future.

Would "work kits" be available in proper number through request made by say the county auditor?

Would the procedure be to secure appointment say of responsible Indian leaders, who could receive a certain fee for registering their tribesmen?

Have you any statistics, facts and figures--concerning Indian voting in the state of Washington, a copy of laws permitting them to vote etc. that would permit me to write some intelligent articles on the subject.

If the Yakima Tribal Council approved, would it be possible to staff the Agency for a certain period of days, two or three, for concentration of registration? (This is not imminent.)

There are over 4,000 Yakima registered or enrolled rather.

Much advancement has been made on the problem since I was in Olympia, but, much remains to be done. I have yet to overcome a silent opposition. I intend to find out why this prevails and suspect it is because certain leaders fear they will eventually be voted out of jobs if their tribesmen acquire voting knowledge.

I will confer with Harold Purdin and receive full information from him as to his knowledge and go from there. Any suggestions, material

you have to offer will be appreciated, and it will be for newspaper purposes.

I myself have in mind getting out some sort of windshield sticker, a proper Indian head against the background of an American Flag, provided the project gets rolling. I have many exploratory lines out now, the culmination of considerable spadework

I enclose a couple of clippings for your general information.

Sincere regards

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