

1212 W. 32nd Ave  
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Dec. 30, 1954

The Department of Justice,  
Room 2129 Department of Justice Building,  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Re: Yakima Claims Case No. 161

In furtherance of a previous communication in which I indicated the possibility of the enrollment of some of the Wanapum or Priest Rapids Indians as Yakimas or members of the Yakima Tribe, I report the following:

I understand that two ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Wanapum men and one woman have enrolled.

These I understand to be Johnny Tomanawash or Tomalewash, his brother, Harry Tomanawash and the latter's wife.

The enrollment I believe resulted from two reasons: Death of a "stepbrother" who owned land off the reservation which would revert to the Yakima Tribe unless claimed by an enrolled man, and an intensified effort of the Yakima enrollment committee to enroll all the Wanapums.

I have remained neutral in this, even to the extent of now inquiring just what the score was.

I mentioned only that in view of the Priest Rapids dam, I should be kept posted as to any changes of status of the men and women; that it was not for me to advise them in any way, that was their business, but just keep me posted. Then they would say, maybe so and so has enrolled, I don't know, you will have to ask him. So of course I would not run the man down and ask him.

I mention this because the number remaining is now reduced from say eight or nine to say five or six.

At the proper time and armed with a proper request, I shall be most happy to visit the Yakima Agency, confer with the Yakima Agent and check the record for enrollment of those believed to be enrolled, and would provide complete data as to date, recommendation, application etc.

This should be done at the proper time to include it in Wanapum Notes, previously transmitted, for the benefit of the ethnologist.

Also, I hear reports that the same effort is being made around Celilo, to enroll all thenon-enrolled people. I have heard that Chief Tommy Thompson of the Wapum is regarded as 3/4 Yakima, which is possible.

I suspect that he is playing a lone hand. If he can negotiate a successful personal cash settlement with the Army Engineers, it would be preferable to enrollment on Yakima, and a per capita, because he obviously has only a few more years of life.

How this affects the other Mid-Columbias I don't know. I estimate there may be anywhere from 40 to 60 in the category of unenrolled, but perhaps all eligible for enrollment at Yakima or Warm Springs, although I am not familiar with the enrollment procedure on both reservations.

Please understand I am not suggesting any legal aspects, but am presenting matters only as they develop.

I have never seen such a small group stand up under such an intense effort to get them enrolled as the Wanapums.

Another of the Wanapums, a Henry White, may be this time have been enrolled on the Umatilla Reservation.

To offset these, I get inklings dropped of a Wanapum woman living at Despelem who has never been enrolled, and there is one of the babies, half Warm Springs and Half Wanapum, who was not accepted for enrollment at Warm Springs, would be eligible for enrollment at Yakima, but upon whom time is being marked. These two I do not suspect the Yakima Enrollment committee know about. Add them to Johnny Buck, Frank Buck, ex Buck and Bobby Tomanawash or Tomalawash, and with the benefit of perhaps Henry White, would leave say seven.

It's a quiet, waiting "game" if you want to call it that, with the choice being left up strictly to the Wanapums.

As the Priest Rapids dam develops they may see a bigger opportunity there. How they see it is ~~thru~~ their business. And I would suspect that in the final analysis, this strenuous effort would react against the claimant.

Moreover, how does this relate to the claim of erroneous enrollment? Here a claimant presses a suit for settlement of the Dalles Fishery at some \$15,000,000 plus on the basis of an increased figure for enrollment, and turns around and continues pressing erroneous enrollment claim. Seems like he is throwing himself open to something or other, but I'm not of a legal mind and am not familiar with the claim nor do I do more than suggest my own ~~baffled~~ bewilderment.

Sincerely

Click Relander



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The Department of Justice,  
Room 2129 Department of Justice Building,  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dec. 30, 1954

Re: Yakima Claims 161

I am writing to inquire if you are familiar with the contingent transfer of old records, including Wilbur papers, from the Yakima Agency.

It is my understanding they are wanted by the General Services Administration for the records Center (Archives) at Seattle.

This material, of the type customarily discarded and destroyed at other agencies such as the Dalles, Vancouver etc., were, by farsightedness and stroke of fortune, preserved to some extent at Yakima. Although in long years past much of this material was disseminated, since presumably all originals etc. were sent to Washington or at least through proper channels. In fact Yale University has had some for many years, and it is scattered many places.

Months ago in search of certain records through contacts at the archives in Washington, D.C. I learned that Agent Wilbur's reports for 1874-9, the originals together with accompanying papers appear to have been lost. The understanding there is that the printer claims he returned them to the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Interior Claims they were never received, and this argument has been going on at various times, for some 75 years.

It would be helpful to know if the Department has been interested in transferring the records. And it would I believe be helpful if this is not construed as a "protest."

The reason:

I do not understand how their repository at Seattle would be of aid to the Department, unless they go on up through channels to Washington, D.C. And I did not know that there was an Archives in Seattle, more than a 9999 storage repository.

I believe Dr. Ray is working on the case for the Yakima Tribe. Inasmuch as he lives at Seattle now, whether or not having connection with the University I do not know, it seems ~~illegible~~ amiss that he could obtain this material for convenient and easy access. If it is to be consigned to a repository, why shouldn't it be in ~~Wash~~ Washington?

This material represents typescript material the most of which has been provided to The Department by myself in past months.

The problem now presents itself, if certified copies, photostats etc.

are needed, it will not be possible for me to obtain them [as in the case of a few Piauete items]

It is also possible that the State Parks and Recreation Commission has "commandeered them."

If that is the case, and as a member of the Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society, in fact chairman of the research committee, it will behoove us to encourage their forwarding to Washington so that microfilm can be obtainable for the society's archives.

I am presenting these ideas concerning the fragmentary material for what they are worth.

The Wilbur Letters are "pressed copies" and ~~xxxxx~~ according to system the originals were sent to Washington.

Sincerely

Cliff Relander