

1212 N.32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mr. Paul M. Niebell,
Yakima Tribal Attorney,
1201 19th St. N.W.,
Washington 6, D.C.

June 30, 1954

Dear Paul:

I've been intending to write you, but have been pressed with other matters. I suspect you'll be heading out for the Coast before long in connection with the claims cases, so hope this catches up with you, and you have a bit of time to give due consideration to the contents.

I've been implanting the idea of registering and voting in the minds of some of the tribal leaders, but you know how it is.

It appears to me that with matters in legislation moving as they are--the trend being from government to state--it is vital that my Indian friends realize the grave importance of voting.

I do not know if this prejudices you in any way or not, but cannot see that it will.

I wish to give due publicity, when it is lined up properly, to this voting situation.

If the Yakimas are laboring under any misapprehension that they will lose rights, by registering and voting, I think it should be cleared up, and appeal to you to help along that line.

If registering and voting would jeopardize Indian rights, you should certainly know and I would appreciate your viewpoint, because I do not wish to do anything that would do that.

I mean to get into this situation, if I can do some good, and will devote much time and energy to pursuing the matter. Besides some editorials and stories, I would provide material to the press associations, take pictures to use in connection with the stories, carry this matter directly before officials whose responsibility it is to appoint registration clerks, etc.

I think some industrious Yakimas could earn themselves a bit of spending money by accepting the responsibility of registering their fellow tribesmen and would assist in getting them sworn in, etc. And, as I suspect you represent other tribes elsewhere, and this sounds like a worthwhile public service project, can I line out some material and by correspondence with leaders get this going other places?

However as I said, if this jeopardizes you or the Yakimas in any way, please let me know. and I will see if some other approach cannot be made.

I've been pegging along for some time on another matter: viz-- competition in the farm labor field. And on that score so far I've gone unscathed by any of the big farmers who were responsible for the Mexican National program.

Clips, attached, are recent specimens of my approach. I intend to continue along that line, interview the immigration men on their "etback roundup trips into this area and give full publicity to the situation. Every job we can save for one of the Yakimas, the native sons, is a big point won as far as I am concerned.

The ~~Next~~ Rev. Joseph P. Dougherty, bishop of the Catholic Diocese who is on the national labor committee (migrants) is returning shortly and I am going to take up the matter ~~with~~ with him. He has been active in localizing Mexican settlements in the Yakima Valley, providing them with priests etc. I wish to explore the possibilities that he is able to get this idea over to the Mexicans and by word of mouth, many of the illegal workers will skiddadle.

The matter of just picking them up and transporting them home doesn't appear to be a good enough remedy. And editorially and otherwise, I think the time is coming when more stringent measures will be advocated.

Haven't seen Perry for several weeks but talked to him over the phone. He hasn't received his assignment as yet.

I'm open to any suggestions you, as the attorney for the Yakimas, may have to offer. Not long ago I addressed a letter to Eagle Seelatsee, as Tribal Council chairman, enclosing clippings and stating that I hoped it met with the approval of the Council. Haven't heard from them yet, but I know how they feel, or at least, many of the Indian workers.

Our weather here continues cool, rather windy and a bit of rain now and then. Summer? Not yet.

Sincere regards

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