

Could you please print this in your paper at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sept. 21, 1962

The Yakima Herald,

Yakima, Wash.

Through treaties and grants, we have what we have as American Indians, how ever some privileges are lost through shady deals or false premises.

Among the Coeur d'Alene tribe, the "bone-sport" or "stick game" is due to be terminated. The case will be processed through a legal hearing in this state, but in another county, why? The "bone game" is a sport of fascination during an inter-tribal get to-gather, as a friendly game of exchange, carried from generation to generation.

In earlier times, trinkets, curies, cayuses, blankets were peeled for the exchange, the winners of the "stick game" are awarded from the pool.

Of now on a nearby reservation, prize money for the "bone game" is granted from tribal funds. But in the case of the Coeur d'Alene tribe, it had been peeled, by the local people and visitors, and when the last scoring stick was down, a visiting Indian police and a local declared, "held it! this is a raid", took the bundle of prize money, hauled various members to a night council in Werley, Idaho, and requested a statement. Of what? (the pow wew been held, was east of Werley).

Tribal members, local Indian police, judge and associates, are in turmoil over the situation.

One of our state congressman granted the privilege to play the "stick game" as an occasional event. Who ammended the grant? We have our reservation police. For help and protection?, or as a shadow to carry off reservation orders? Discriminate? Humilate? Create suspense and hestility? As American Indians, must we hastily, deal off, and lose our tribal heritages and Indian rights, on the reservation?

There were deputies from Keetenai county seat to keep peace and order, for the week-end of this inter-tribal pow wew, but why, the other authorities?

Who has had the pleasure of spending that "stick game" prize money? The heldup was uncalled for.

The reservation members have been humilated. We owe sincere apeologies to all the northwest tribes invelved.

The tribal appeal is for justice on Indian sports held on Indian reserve, for protection, not discrimination.

Let us hear from others who have had more civil protection, then the Coeur d'Alene tribe.

Blanche LaSarte  
Plummer, Idaho.

Bex 186



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