

Mr. Jimmie James,
3331 NE 61st Avenue,
Portland, 13, Oregon.

[Voting]
1212 N. 32nd Ave.,

Yakima, Wash.

Nov. 6, 1954

Dear Jimmie:

I thought I should drop you a note now that I've a little breathing spell, and so perhaps have you.

First, I see T. was defeated. However while his letter was sincere, from what I have since found out I am not sure that he is of a proper "political" ideology to affiliate with for the sincere good of the Indians. He has too many strikes against him on that score, or perhaps I am misinformed.

Knowing how the people thought of Sen. Gordon, because of his disregard of various rights, I am wondering what their voting record was for Neuberger.

You will recall and I am sure that Wilson Charley and others will recall my earlier views on voting. This is one example. Think what a powerful help they would now have, had they a solid block ahead of time and Neuberger knew it. They would have meant the difference between his election and his defeat.

Now I don't believe in going around waving blocks of voters or such at candidates or others to intimidate them, but in a sincere approach and a sincere cooperation between ~~and~~ all concerned and that brings results.

This close vote is an example to the people that they must register to vote, that they must carry on an out and out public campaign that they are registering to vote; that they must start bringing up some men of their own for state offices--legislators--because unless they do this, they will be unrepresented in the future.

Think how important a solid block of votes will be two years from now!

There can be no criticism from any source over a vigorous voting campaign. As far as the Yakimas are concerned, and they know it, I will provide the publicity for them, working with their educational committee; the county auditor will provide special registration clerks if any special day is set aside for registration etc.

But there could be criticism, and perhaps justifiably, if the voting power is misused and used as a threat to any candidate or office holder. That I would oppose. Yet there would be no need of that with sincere men and with sincere Indians.

However, I know how hard you have worked on this. Now I am interested in your estimation of the number of those who voted in Oregon, etc. and of the general trend of their voting.

There is this one thing they should ~~remember~~ remember, and not be misled. It has been during the Democratic administration that they have suffered their reverses as far as recognition of their rights etc. have been concerned. It originated there, regardless of the individual who proposed the legislation. The Democrats have been in control so long, that it was not until two years ago that this trend was changed. This was all originated before then, with full power in the legislature, left to the Democrats. It will be regrettable if the Republicans fall into the same policy regarding Indian affairs.

Hope other things are going well with you. Drop me a line when you get a chance. And with kind regards