

Feb. 18, 1963

Mr. Charles E. Minton,
Executive Director,
Commission on Indian Affairs
PO Box 2195, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Minton:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 15 and your kind words, much more than expected and more strongly said. It is very fine except two minor points.

1st graph, "authorized" by the Yakima Indian Nation would mean a vote by the entire tribe, a plebiscite. This was handled by the council officers. While the entire tribe is unified opposed to state jurisdiction, and all but a few part-bloods, barely qualified to enroll, there is always the possibility some red haired, or blonde who is enrolled because his father or mother were allotted years ago and he is entitled to "enrollment," would write some Senator or Congressman "I am an enrolled Yakima and I did not vote for this so and so forth..."

Second from last graph, there are one or two legislators who have carried the fight for jurisdiction. They are attorneys and are closely and state-wide identified with the movement and could be linked to the term or application of it, "shyster," and raise a little trouble.

Alex Paluskin, tribal council chairman, Robert Jim, secretary and others will be grateful for your remarks.

I am very much afraid the Yakimas will lose their unequal fight on "state law" and this will of course lead into state and U.S. Supreme Court tests (some are already cooking) hence footnotes in "Strangers."

The state legislators from the area have done a year-long job of contacting their co-legislators, vote trading etc.

The bill passed the State Senate, about 2 to 3 to 1. It goes into hearing before the judiciary committee tomorrow, then either into ways or means and then onto the house floor where the vote will be closer. And if the judiciary or ways and means see the litigation coming or the big cost to the state through assumption, it has an outside chance of dying there.

Letters from outside sources are good. Sales in bookstores etc. libraries, museums, universities are good and widespread on the basis of samplings or spot checks.

Too early yet for magazine (historical journal etc.) reviews and also some newspapers, but every little will help. And your remarks will be most helpful. I shall make sure tribal authorities see them when your publication returns.

I am hopeful that anthropologists, linguists etc. will recognize a vast amount of ethnic material conveyed through the medium of the character, Joe Leather, and tracing of lines of descent etc. of tribal leaders from treaty signers.

"Strangers" will document much for some later writing, a year or so from now, as "proof". I shall keep you posted. Meanwhile I'm working to get "Strangers" launched, tribal officers are too busy of course. So again, many thanks. After you read it and if there is another person or so who should have a copy, or you have use for another let me know and I am sure the tribal officers will want them sent.

Sincerely