

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Nov. 17, 1954

Mr. D. Broughton, program chairman,  
Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce,  
Ellensburg, Washington.

Dear Mr. Broughton:

Thank you for the invitation to address the Ellensburg  
Chamber of Commerce.

I have checked out my calendar, and at the office, and I am in the  
clear for the next luncheon date, December 16 [third Thursday of the month],  
my understanding of your meeting date.

I could give a not-too dry talk concerning the history of the Priest  
Rapids area and its original occupants, giving some insights on the very  
unusual Wanapum Indians, the original "Free Enterprise" advocates in the  
Yakima Valley. The talk I judge should run around 30 to 35 minutes.

It is possible that one or perhaps two of these people could accompany  
me, and it is also possible that they would or could be prevailed upon to  
bring their drums and sing one of the songs for which Priest Rapids was  
famous in the origin of the Indian religion before the advent of the  
white men. Nothing like this has been done in public or outside of the  
long house before, but I do not believe they have any reasons why it could  
not be done.

Even in the event of snow and ice on the Yakima River Canyon Highway  
by that date, I find that it is possible to travel by bus and reach  
Ellensburg by 11:30.

If the date is still open, that's fine with me, or if you have some  
other program lined up available for that date only, or in prospect of  
being arranged, that is fine too and perhaps you could suggest a post-  
holiday date.

The Indians will keep. They've been around plenty long. And perhaps  
I also will improve with a little age.

I am indeed thankful for the invitation. Your Congressman Hal Holmes  
has shown an interest in wishing to hear the story of these people and  
it is possible that if the date is satisfactory, he may wish to attend.  
Having occasion for other correspondence with him, I'd tell him what was  
afoot.

If you care to, you may confirm, time, place and length of meeting  
and I will make my plans accordingly. And please feel free that if some  
top speaker shows up later, you may "sidetrack" me on long or short  
notice.

Sincerely

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