



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING



# Washington State Historical Society

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING  
315 NORTH STADIUM WAY

TACOMA 3, WASHINGTON

January 18, 1956

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Mr. Click Relander  
1212 North 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

Not having seen the dispatch to which you refer, I'm not certain as to how far off it is. I suspect it says the Board took action requesting the Corps of Army Engineers to purchase the paintings.

The Board took no action. It felt that a bad precedent might be set although members hoped that the paintings might be held as a unit and in some way shown at the dam. I was to write Mrs. Alcorn a letter to that effect. I did not do this as I had an opportunity to tell her in person. I also went with them to the Engineer office in Seattle but made it very plain to Col. Mathias that the Board had not taken any formal action, that members hoped a way might be found to hold them as a unit but did not want to take any action that might look like an effort to exert pressure.

Dr. Thompson was in Washington, was to get together with Cong. Tollefson and Reps. Horan and Holmes if possible and talk to Gen Itchner in behalf of the paintings. I don't think that Dr. Thompson would say the Board had taken action. He could have said he was a member of the Board and from this someone may have picked up the idea that the Board had acted.

The minutes are very clear that we took no action so an error can be charged to Washington, D. C. if I am right in assuming that the Board was credited with an action it didn't take.

Tomorrow I'll write you about the Ritzville matter, but I wanted to get this letter into the mail this afternoon without fail. I wonder if many people saw the story, I didn't see it here or hear of it. Possibly my guess as to how it originated may be fairly close. I'd be interested in knowing the story or seeing a clip if you have one.

Hastily

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, Director

A SUGGESTION—SPELL OUT THE NAME "WASHINGTON" WHENEVER USED.