

CIA

Colville Indian Association

Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Washington

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NEWS RELEASE -----MARCH 15, 1965

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND USE IN REPORTING THE NEWS THE COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION ENCLOSSES A COPY OF ITS PETITION FORMALLY FILED MARCH 4, 1965, IN WASHINGTON D.C. WITH THE CLERKS OF THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND TO FORMALLY BE HEARD ON MARCH 15, 1965, AT A SCHEDULED HEARING OF THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION.

COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION



Thomas E. Edwards, President
951 North 42nd Street (apt 306)
Seattle, Washington; 98103
(Phone: ME 3-1034 or 655-0405)

BEFORE THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

THE YAKIMA TRIBE,

Petitioners

v.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Defendant,

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
Colville RESERVATION et al.,

Intervenor,

Docket No. 161

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
COLVILLE RESERVATION AS THE
Representatives of the Palouse Band,
et al.,

Docket No. 222

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
COLVILLE RESERVATION as the
Representatives of the Moses Band
et al.,

Petitioners,

v.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant

Docket No. 224

OBJECTION TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASS MEET-
ING HELD AND CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 14, 1964,
AT NESPELEM, WASHINGTON, PURSUANT TO A NOTICE
BY THE COLVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE
OF APPROVING OR REJECTING A PROPOSED COMPROMISE
SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS INVOLVED IN
Dockets Nos. 161, 222 and 224.

The Colville Indian Association is organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Washington, which Association, in this petition, represents the opinion of a vast majority of the enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

The so-called "Colville Reservation" is not a closed reservation, in 1892 the north-half of which was opened to settlement and entry, and in 1906 the south-half was likewise opened to settlement and entry. The so-called "Colville Reservation" is checkered with Indian and non-Indian residents. There are now many times the number of non-Indians living within the boundaries of the former closed Colville Indian Reservation than there are Indians.

There are now only 25% of the Indian population living within the diminished boundaries of the former closed "Colville Indian Reservation", the other 75% of the Indian population are living off the diminished Reservation, scattered in at least 35 different states.

The largest Indian population within the diminished Reservation live in and about the village of Nespelem, which population includes Indian Bureau employees, and which Indian population is generally referred to as the Tribal Council "Clique", who can readily be summoned to meetings and support matters which the Tribal Council dictates, while members not living at or near Nespelem, but long distances from Nespelem find it difficult and times impossible to attend such meetings, such was the situation which confronted the November 14th meeting wherein the Indians were hampered both by short notice and the seasons first snow fall. Out of the 107 members who voted for the Resolution consisted mostly of the so-called "Tribal Council Clique", which situation is one of the reasons why Mr. Lyle Keith and the Tribal Council did not want to risk giving the members an ample opportunity to study and consider the matter. So the meeting was rushed and stampeded through, disregarding all usual parliamentary procedure. We asked for a delay and that there should be a ballot vote by mail so that all of the members be given an opportunity to study and consider the matter, but such request was met with Mr. Lyle Keith's rude treatment in a most derisive manner, a Kangaroo style with loud shouting causing a very disgraceful and unfitting performance in a gathering which was supposed to give each respectable and serious minded citizen an opportunity to be heard without being belittled and jeered. When it became apparent that a vote was going to be forced on a resolution approving the stipulated agreement, in spite of our plea to have the question put to a mailing

vote, Mrs. Mary Hall Wong, an enrolled Indian, made a motion to table the resolution. Mrs. Helen Toulou, also an enrolled Indian, seconded the tabling motion. In the face of all this a vote was forced on the aforementioned resolution without the tabling motion either being voted on or withdrawn by the person making the motion.

We object to the proceedings and the result of a "standing vote" by a group which consisted of a small part of the enrolled members (most of whom live in and about Nespelem) of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation, which group also included minors who were counted as voting, which meeting was called by the Colville Tribal Council at the request of the Claims Attorneys and Mr. Lyle Keith who claims to represent the said Tribes and who we assert has not been legally selected by said Tribes, but has wrongfully injected himself into said position and is being paid from the Tribes' funds, also the said Lyle Keith was in complete charge and manipulated, conducted and dictated all procedures of the said meeting, on November 14, 1964.

We respectfully ask that the proceedings of the said meeting held at Nespelem, Washington, on November 14, 1964, be considered null and void and of no effect, for the reasons and on the following grounds:

1. That there was and has been no attempt to make it clear by illustrations, diagrams, maps or legal descriptions as to exactly what land is in question; nor have any of the enrolled Indians been given copies, for study, of the said Dockets 161, 222 and 224 which purportedly set forth overlapping claims.
2. That notice of said meeting was inadequate because it did not give proper notice to all the enrolled and voting members of the said Tribes.
3. That a majority of the membership, nor a substantial number of the voting members of the said Tribes, did not vote nor were given the opportunity to vote for the approval or disapproval of the Resolution submitted for a vote or approval of said stipulation of settlement.
4. That out of 2200 members eligible to vote, only

124 votes were cast from those present at said meeting, and the eligibility of some of said 124 votes should be questioned.

5. That the said 124 members who voted, 107 voted for approval and 17 adults voted against approval.

6. That the proceedings of said meeting were conducted and stampeded through by those in charge of said meeting in such a manner so that the majority of the Indians present did not know or understand what they were voting for.

7. That the said Resolution, as printed and set forth in the December 1964 issue of The Tribal Tribune (official organ of the Colville Tribal Council) and pretended to have been duly and officially adopted at the said November 14th meeting, a copy of which was not furnished the members prior to, or at the said meeting for study and discussion.

8. That the antiquated "Standing vote", which antiquated way of voting is always insisted upon by the Tribal Council so that they (the members of the Council) may know how each individual voted, there were no deviations from such practice at the meeting on November 14, 1964. Certain members of the Tribes who are timid and may have matters pending for decision by the Tribal Council, and because of their fear of reprisal they voted for the Resolution, but they did not know what they were voting for, but they voted because of certain members of the Tribal Council had motioned for them to stand up and vote for the Resolution, and so they did.

9. That the tabling motion was ignored even though said motion was made in accordance with parliamentary procedures which would be considered reasonable under any meeting purporting to have any semblance of democratic purpose.

10. That the Claims Attorneys, including Mr. Lyle Keith, pleaded with the Indians to accept the proposed compromise settlement for the reason, among other things, that it may take 10 years or longer to proceed with the cases pursuant to the orderly Indian Claims Commission procedure, and that by the proposed compromise settlement, the amount of the award would promptly or within a reasonable time be paid and covered into the Treasury of the United States, drawing interest at the rate of 4% per annum.

11. That the Claims Attorneys, including Mr. Lyle Keith, did not correctly, or failed to inform the Indians that the Attorneys' share of the award will be paid to them as soon as the final determination or judgment is by the Indian Claims Commission rendered and the amount of the award is appropriated by the Congress, covered into the Treasury of the United States, and the amount of the attorney fees having been declared to be due the attorneys, which attorney fees will be deducted from the amount of the award and promptly paid to the Claims Attorneys, which attorneys' share of the award will not remain in the Treasury until the controversy between the Yakimas and the Colvilles has been settled.

12. That it would seem to us that the Claims Attorneys and the Tribal Council, including Mr. Lyle Keith, are employing such scarecrow utterances and tactics in their fervent anxiety to convince the Indians that if such a compromise settlement is not now agreed to, it will cause serious delays, perhaps 10 years or more.

13. That we do not now, challenge Mr. Lyle Keith's authority to represent the Colvilles as one of the attorneys of the Claims attorneys, but we now, and have for many years charged and asserted that he is not a legally selected attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

We also believe that if the said Tribes would have had an attorney of their own selection and who would honestly represent them, among other things he would have informed them that the Claims Attorney fees will be paid soon after the final determination or judgment has been rendered and appropriated by the Congress.

14. That if the said meeting held on November 14, 1964, was a duly called "General Council", which they (the Claims Attorneys, the Tribal Council and Mr. Lyle Keith) may now claim, why then cannot the Tribal Council call "General Council" meetings for the purpose of submitting to the members important matters affecting all the members of the Tribes, such as the question of "Termination", the question of amending the present archaic and obsolete constitution of the Tribes, the question of expending large sums of money belonging to the Tribes for unnecessary junkets and investigations concerning questionable and worthless projects, etc.?

BY REASON OF THE FOREGOING, we respectfully ask that the proceedings of said meeting held on November 14, 1964, be revoked and that before any such proposed compromise settlement be submitted to the adults of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for consideration and vote, the following actions be taken:

1. That after sufficient time has been given for the purpose of studying said petitions contained in Dockets No. 161, 222, and 224, then if the Colville Indians desire the Claims Attorneys to affect an agreement for settlement, that said agreement shall include an agreement between the Yakimas and Colvilles.

2. That the price per acre be increased from \$.50 per acre to a more realistic value.

3. That a copy of the proposed Findings of Fact by the Indian Claims Commission, and a copy of the proposed Final Determination or Judgment by the Indian Claims Commission, be furnished each enrolled member.

4. That all of the enrolled members of said Confederated Tribes are in agreement, including members of the Tribal Council, that such an award or the judgment fund should be distributed per capita, which expression of the members of the Tribes was demonstrated by a unanimous vote (including the members of the Tribal Council) at a mass meeting recently held when more than 300 members participated, likewise at field hearings held recently in the State of Washington by the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, the witnesses who testified for and on behalf of the Tribes, before said Subcommittee made similar request that moneys derived from judgments should not be covered into the Treasury of the United States, to be distributed by the Tribal Council with the approval of the Secretary for questionable projects and for any other purposes which the Tribal Council may invent for its contrivance and expediency. Therefore we respectfully ask that a provision be made a part of the determination or judgment, that the award be distributed per capita.

5. That the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation be now fully informed and advised as to the present status of their claim for the damages to their fishing rights on the Columbia River, which damages were caused by reason of the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, which fishing rights were comparable in value to that of the fishing rights on the Columbia River, at Celilo Falls, near the city of The Dalles, Oregon, which fishing rights were damaged and destroyed by the construction of "The Dalles Dam", for which the Indians were compensated and awarded many millions of dollars.

6. That after the above requests have been complied with, we respectfully pray that a reasonable time be given for a vote, by ballot, by mail, as to

whether or not a proposed compromise settlement be formally drawn up and be formally approved or rejected by a majority of the voting members of the Tribes.

Respectfully Submitted,

COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION

BY: (SIGNED) THOMAS E. EDWARDS

Thomas E. Edwards,
President and Trustee

(SIGNED) NORMA K. INKS

Norma K. Inks,
Vice President and Trustee

(SIGNED) VIOLET ASSING

Violet Assing,
Secretary and Trustee

(SIGNED) MARY H. WONG

Mary H. Wong,
Treasurer and Trustee

(SIGNED) ALYCE P. HALLENIUS

Alyce P. Hallenius,
Trustee

(SIGNED) ALBERT A. GRORUD

Albert A. Grorud, Attorney for the
Colville Indian Association

CERTIFICATION

I, Thomas E. Edwards, duly elected President of the COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION, certify that the above petition was on March 4, 1965, filed with the Indian Claims Commission and the Department of Justice and hearing for this petition was set for March 15th before the Indian Claims Commission in Washington, D.C..

COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Thomas E. Edwards

Thomas E. Edwards, President

NEWS RELEASE -- May 6, 1964 -- COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION(Tacoma)
The complete Printed Hearings on the bills S.1442 and S.1169 are now available at no charge through Senator Henry M. Jackson's Office.

You may obtain a copy by writing to:	Hon. Henry M. Jackson, Chairman Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs U.S. Senate, Washington D.C.
You should ask for a copy of:	The printed Hearings on the Colville Indian Legislation (S.1442 & S.1169) which were held October 24, 25, and 26, 1963 in the State of Washington.

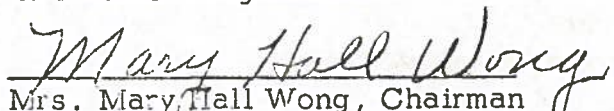
The printed hearings is a document about three quarters of an inch thick. This document contains all the testimony of the Indian people who either came to the hearings or submitted written statements. The documented testimony clearly shows that the Indians want to end Bureau Control over their Indian estate being held in Trust by the U.S. Government and that the Indian people want their equity from their Indian estate and not some Bureau conceived plan which will keep them from receiving their equity. The document also reflects the majority opinion that they want their judgment money already awarded by settled claims against the U.S. Government to be distributed by per capita as provided by S.1169, a bill implemented by the Colville Indian Association and opposed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Thus far the Bureau, through its supervised fourteenman tribal entity, the Business Council, has implemented its plan to perpetuate an entity known as a tribe which will control the Indian estate. The Bureau plan is contained in the bill S.1442.

Unless the Indians are able to muster the much needed support of his fellow citizens, he will be unable to head off the Bureau's blind, idiotic policy of trying to mold people of Indian ancestry into a tribal entity for perpetuation into eternity. It is hopeless to think the Bureau will ever consider that the Indian just might want to be an individual like anybody else.

The Colvilles will be deprived of inheriting their rightful share of their Indian estate (held from them so many years already) if they are unable to stop S.1442. The only bill before Congress that will give the Colvilles what they want is H.R. 4918, a bill sponsored by the Colville Indian Association.

In order to get a better understanding of what the Colvilles want, it is recommended that interested persons obtain a copy of the Printed Hearing Document and read the statement of Mr. Thomas E. Edwards, Trustee of the Colville Indian Association, which appears on page 253. His statement summarizes and embodies the Colville's whole case and solution to their problem inflicted on them by the Federal Policy, "a policy for persons of Indian Ancestry," which is being implemented thru the Bureau. Interested persons who are sympathetic to the desires of the Colville Indians are urged to write letters to their Congressmen and Senators of their State and urge their legislators to defeat S.1442 and to do all that is possible to insure enactment of the Colville Indian Association bills, H.R. 4918 and S.1169 or identical legislation.


Mrs. Mary Hall Wong, Chairman
Tacoma Chapter, Colville Indian Association
1616 East 30th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98404

RELEASED BY: The COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION — NOVEMBER 27, 1964
SUBJECT: Mass Meeting of the Colville Indians, Called by the Colville Business Council, November 14, 1964, at Nespelem, Washington.

Once again the right of the individual enrolled Indian of the Colville Indian Reservation to take part in decisions affecting his affairs has been openly disregarded by the Tribal Business Council. In their latest attempt to see that things go their way, the Business Council has denied each enrolled Indian the right to voice his approval or disapproval of a settlement drawn up by the Claims Attorneys, by refusing to put the question on a mail-in ballot. Close examination of the "settlement" shows that the Colville Indians again are picking up the tab for prosecuting claims which concern them only incidentally, and in this particular case (claims under Docket Nos. 161, 222 and 224) claims which may never be paid, even if awarded.

One thing is certain, the Claims Attorneys will be paid, if and when the judgment is awarded---but the Colville Indians will not receive any payment until a further agreement is reached with the Tribes of the Yakima Reservation. There is no evidence that any such agreement can be definitely counted upon.

At the meeting it was pointed out that the so-called stipulation agreement could be considered to be an out-of-court agreement which would close the door to appealing the decision of the Indian Claims Court, if there is any such thing as appealing an Indian Claims Court decision. If accepted, the proposed stipulation agreement sets forth that the Colvilles agree with the Yakimas to have land which was lost in our early history settled for 50 cents an acre, without consideration of lost use of the land in question, or the lost use of the dollar value of the land in question from the date of the loss to the present time. Further, the stipulation agreement asks the Colvilles not to try to decide on the allocation of the award between the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Tribes of the Yakima Reservation until the total award is made jointly. Another way to look at this stipulation agreement is that it allows an award to be made so that the Claims Attorneys can first get paid then the Yakima Indians and the Colville Indians must decide who gets what, a decision which is not so simple as it appears on the surface.

Representatives of the Colville Indian Association and others present at the November 14, 1964, "mass" meeting requested that all adult eligible voters be given an opportunity to cast a ballot by mail in deciding whether to accept or reject the aforementioned settlement stipulations. It was pointed out by the Colville Indian Association that only a small percentage of the adult population was present--about 5%--and that many Colville Indians living in some 35 states were just as interested and just as concerned with tribal affairs as those living on and around the reservation. Balloting by mail would assure an accurate vote and a fair one which was not the case with the traditional and questionable "standing vote" which took place on November 14, 1964. This haphazard method of voting and the results of same were brought into sharp focus when some persons were overheard to admit that they did not know what they were voting for but that their councilmen had motioned for them to stand and that's what they were doing.

The Business Council refused to consider balloting the entire adult membership. Mr. Steve Cleveland, a former councilman, stated that it was too bad that people lived so far away but that he felt all were given ample notice and would have been in attendance if interested. In further rejecting the balloting by mail proposal, Mr. Pascal Sherman stated that the Colvilles must reach a decision in a manner which would be agreeable with the Indian Claims Commission--intimating that the Indian Claims

STATEMENT OF Mr. THOMAS EDWARDS, PRESIDENT
COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION
GIVEN AT A TRIBAL MEETING CALLED BY THE BUSINESS COUNCIL
AT NESPELEM, WASHINGTON * NOVEMBER 14, 1964

I am Thomas Edwards, the President of the COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION. I want to tell you what the Association is. The ASSOCIATION is organized for the sole purpose of protecting the rights and interests of the individual Colville Indians. The ASSOCIATION is doing all it can to see to it that each Colville Indian is treated equally and equitably, under any proposed legislation concerning Indians enrolled on the Colville Indian Reservation.

The Reservation is held in trust for us, the heirs of the Indians of the Colville Indian Reservation. The COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION recognizes that each one of us has an equity in all of the assets of the unallotted portion of the Colville Indian Reservation and allotments held in the name of the Colville Confederated Tribes. Under the present trust set-up we do not have any economic bargaining power as a result of our equity in the Reservation. For example, if one of us wanted to go into business or buy a new home we could not sell our equity nor could we go to the bank and borrow money on our equity, which would make it possible for us to implement our personal plans. In fact, legally we could be or might even be prevented from using our own resources which are completely outside of our Reservation. What do I mean when I say "we could be or might be prevented from doing what we wanted to do?" Well, in order to answer this question, I will first ask two other questions and will attempt to answer these. We have all been told from the time that we were born, that we are wards of the Government, and the Secretary of Interior is our legal guardian. What does it mean, "the Secretary of Interior is our legal guardian" and "we are wards of the Government"? I will tell you what I think it means.

It means that as long as you and I have a guardian, then no matter what our age is, we are as minors before the eyes of the law. In other words, as long as you and I have a guardian, we do not reach legal maturity and, therefore, we cannot be legally responsible. We cannot legally enter into any contracts such as, for example, buying a car on installments; nor can we legally make any legally binding agreements like any other adult. If we have a legal guardian, then to be legally proper all that we do is subject to the approval of our guardian who is legally responsible for us as our guardian. Although I can, almost with certainty, say that none of us has been faced with these problems, I will on the other hand say, these laws are on the books and can be used at any time against us, just like the so-called Indian liquor law, repealed in 1956, was used and arbitrarily enforced against members of our race by establishments that did not like Indians. In short, there are laws on the books which would allow us Indians to be legally discriminated against based on race and law.

The COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION is working toward the solution of both the problem of legal discrimination and the problem of owners equity without bargaining power of the equity. We are doing this by implementing and supporting legislation which will prevent legal discrimination and which will provide the highest cash value or title to each Colville Indian for his equity in his Reservation held in trust. We know it is right that each Colville should have the economic bargaining power which goes with ownership of his equity in his Reservation.

The ASSOCIATION's identical bills H.R. 4918 and H.R. 12072 introduced in the 88th Congress were proposed for the purpose of solving the two problems which I have just mentioned.

THE ASSOCIATION has brought over here today copies of its correspondence with the Congress of the United States and they are available for your information. The information is for you to take, to read, and to keep.

You should take special note of the letter, CIA-1964-0023, from Congressman Haley to the ASSOCIATION, and note that Congressman Haley said that the ASSOCIATION's letter outlining its objections to the provisions of the amended bill S1442 was exactly what he wanted to hear. You will note that Congressman Haley did not threaten us, ^{by saying} "if you do not take the amended bill S1442 you will get nothing," yet this is what the Council has been trying to tell us. You must read Haley's letter for yourself and know he is not threatening us. Congress will listen to what we want.

We would have been glad to mail the information to all of you if we had had the funds to do so, but as you all know, we do not have tribal funds available as does the Council. The COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION does have an information mailing service which is available, but it is limited to ASSOCIATION members who contribute to the mailing service fund. The mailing service fund is designed to be self financing. I think you will understand that the ASSOCIATION must furnish information first of all to its members who are the ones who are financing the fight for the rights and interests of the individual Colville Indians.

The information distributed here today will show you how much work is being done by the ASSOCIATION to protect the rights and interests of each Colville Indian. One of the things the material distributed today does is to uncover the truth about the Klamath Indians in Oregon who actually were segregated by their termination Act into two groups which were both dealt with so unjustly that both groups are now involved in court action against the United States Government for losses as a result of the Klamath Termination Act.

Read this material and do your own research to see for yourself what happened to the Klamath Indians who had an Act like the amended bill S1442.

In an effort to provide you with a means to protect your individual rights and interests the proposed AGENDA which each of you have was distributed to you today.

In "Exhibit A" of the AGENDA there is offered a resolution for your approval which would, if the legislation it calls for were passed by the Congress, pay us 4½% on the "lost use" of either the lost asset or the dollar value of the "lost asset", which the Indian Claims Court recognized as being an Indian loss. Do you know what this would amount to on each \$350 per capita which was distributed? At 4½ per cent interest compounded quarterly, if the loss occurred one hundred years ago, would be a factor of 88 or \$30,450.00 interest for each person who has already received the \$350 principal in their \$350 per capita payment. I know of no other group of people who would have stood as long and as quietly as we have up to this date.

For your information the COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION will not disclose to the Council who the Indians are that make up the membership of the ASSOCIATION as long as the Council has the authority to interfere in your affairs such as red-tape and disapproving of such things as the renting and the selling of your allotments. The Council wants to know which one of you are ASSOCIATION members, but we will not give you away and put you at the mercy of the Council.

Thomas E. Edwards

Thomas E. Edwards, President
COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION

-CIA

Colville Indian Association

Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Washington

COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION-----KELLER, WASHINGTON

N E W S R E L E A S E -----J u l y 17, 1965

The Colville Indian Association conducted its annual election meeting at Keller, Washington on July 17, 1965. All of the incumbent trustees were re-elected to the board of trustees. The board then promptly re-elected all the officers to their former positions.

Thomas E. Edwards, President
Seattle, Washington

Norma K. Inks, Vice-president
Greenacres, Washington

Violet Assing, Secretary
Spokane, Washington

Mary Hall Wong, Treasurer
Tacoma, Washington

Alyce P. Hallenius, Trustee
Omak, Washington

The membership also elected Helen Toulou (Kewa, Wash.), and Florence Quill (Seattle) as Ambassadors-at-Large.

The main business of the meeting was discussion of legislation concerning the termination of federal supervision over the Colville Reservation, which is presently pending before the Congress. Thomas E. Edwards, president discussed the provisions of the legislation and the Association reaffirmed their full support to the bill H.R. 6331 which is sponsored by the Colville Indian Association.

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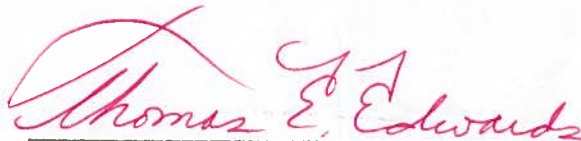
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CIA

Colville Indian Association

Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Washington

COLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION —Seattle, Washington

NEWS RELEASE

August 2, 1965

The language on the ballot "What is your opinion of the proposed contract"—which is being circulated by Mr. Oliver Pooler; Chairman, Legislative Committee; Colville Business Council—relegates it to the category of an opinion poll. Properly the so-called ballot should have been entitled "Opinion Poll" rather than "Secret Ballot Vote".

Although the opinion poll, as such, cannot be binding upon either the council or those filling out the poll; it will, depending on its outcome, no doubt be used to show official approval or disapproval.

An attorney contract, like a termination act, cannot and will not protect the interests of the individual Indian heirs in their Indian estate, being held in trust for them by their guardian, the Federal Government, except to the extent they are spelled out in the legal language of the contract or termination act.

The remarks contained herein are not meant to be derogatory, but simply to point out the facts. Just as we can expect the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a termination Act to the letter of the law, as defined in the Act, we can expect no more or less than for an attorney to simply carry out his duties to the extent that they are defined in his contract.

The proposed attorney contract is essentially no different than contracts of the past. These contracts do not make it incumbent upon the attorney to be responsible for the protection of the individual's equity in the Indian estate from losses which occur from the actions of the fourteen-man Colville Business Council. These contracts simply provide the fourteen-man council with an attorney, not the individuals making up the tribe. Under this type of contract, the attorney is bound only to the council, and, as such, is bound only to advise the council as to what it can and cannot do without asking the approval of the individual enrolled members, or what it can do without bringing itself under danger of legal action of outside agencies or from tribal members.

In this day and age, in order for a tribal attorney contract to be adequate to the individual's rights, it should have a section which causes it to act as a mandate to the attorney to protect (even from council action) the equity, rights, and interests of the individual enrolled member in the undivided Indian estate, to see that these rights and interests are not relinquished or exchanged except with just compensation.

PRESIDENT

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CCLVILLE INDIAN ASSOCIATION-----Seattle, Washington

NEWS RELEASE

May 2, 1967

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, whose total membership number nearly 5000, will meet at the Seattle Indian Center, 1900 Boren Ave. at 7:30 pm on Saturday, May 6, 1967. The more than 200 tribal members residing in the coastal area of Washington will be addressed by Mrs. Mary Hall Wong who is a full blood Colville Indian and who is also President of the Colville Indian Association Republican Women's Club of Tacoma. Mrs. Wong is also a direct descendant of Chief James Bernard.

Mrs. Wong will report on the results of the meeting of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation which was convened March 17, 1967 on the Reservation at the Nespelem School House, she will urge adoption of amendments to a Colville Termination bill, S. 282, which was introduced January 12, 1967 by Senator Henry M. Jackson, and she will urge reorganization of the Colville Indian Association.

The purpose of the amendments to the bill, S. 282, are to vest each tribal member with an equal entitlement in each category of tribal assets before the forced liquidation sale of tribal property and to change the appraisal criteria on timber to protect the tribal members from market impact consideration on timber lands which are to be taken by the United States Federal Government to be made into a National Forest. If tribal members can be vested with their entitlements in tribal property before it is sold, they will have the rights to sue for just compensation if they feel they are not receiving the full value of their entitlements. So far the Department of Justice has been against tribal members being vested with entitlements since it would cause much litigation to result. The Justice Department has recommended that property should continue to have the status of tribal property until title is conveyed or transferred.



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