

of trying to straighten out some of the present misunderstandings that are hurting the Yakima people. My suggestions are as follows:

1. You have announced an election for November 28, 29, and 30. It is my understanding that you have many other items to take up besides purely election affairs. In order that all members of the Tribe who are eligible to vote may participate, I suggest that you pick a specific time during which the actual balloting will be held. Since you have announced a three-day meeting it would seem desirable to set, for example, the afternoon of the second day from two to six for the actual balloting time. In this way all members will know that they must be there by two o'clock if their voice is to be heard.

2. Since you do not have a constitution, rules, or regulations to govern your operations, your elections have been conducted by custom and there appears to be some question as to the actual rules of custom under which you are operating. I understand that you are putting these rules of custom, under which the election will be operated, down in writing. This is a very good idea and I hope that a copy of these rules and regulations plus an announcement of the exact balloting time will be sent to each eligible voter of the Tribe.

3. Since the election is to be held during the latter part of November and the weather might be inclement, I suggest that you hold it at a place that is most easily accessible to the majority of the members and that it be at a meeting hall that has adequate seating space to hold all of the members present. If the attendance is greater than the capacity of the hall, provision should be made for counting the votes of those people in adjoining rooms or outside.

4. Since this is a tribal election, all Bureau personnel have been advised not to participate in the election nor to take any part in its supervision. I understand that the Tribe has selected a committee of disinterested persons to assist with elections. I believe this is a step in the right direction and a very wise move and I congratulate you for taking such a step.

If the above suggestions are followed I am sure that the Yakima people will elect a representative council at the November meeting and, further, that the Yakima people will respect and support that choice during their term of office. If for any reason a representative election is not held at the time announced then I believe it would greatly damage the prestige and the operating efficiency of the Yakima Tribe. In such an event in order to protect the interest of the entire Tribe it would no doubt be necessary for me to recommend to the Secretary that he withhold his recognition and to call a Secretarial election under rules and regulations which he would prescribe. I am confident, however, that Secretarial action will not be necessary and that there will be no difficulty in getting the required quorum in November and choosing a truly representative council.

I believe that the difficulties that have arisen over the July meeting should be avoided in the future at all costs. I strongly urge that you in cooperation with the Tribal Council and other Yakima members work out some written procedures that can be formally adopted for all future elections after the election in November. It seems to me that such election procedures should provide for established polling places throughout the reservation with absentee balloting or providing for voting entirely by mail. The election for councilmen should be open to all adult members of the Yakima Tribe whose names appear on the Yakima Tribal roll regardless of the place of residence.

In order that you may have some information as to how other tribal elections have been and are being conducted, there are enclosed copies of regulations governing the Osage, Navajo, and Fort Peck elections. Aside from the Navajo regulations the other regulations enclosed were issued pursuant to specific statutes passed by Congress. The Osage Tribe, however, drafted its regulations and patterned them after the Oklahoma State Election Regulations. The Yakima Tribe might desire to pattern its regulations after the Washington State Election Regulations. This would have real advantages in that the tribal members would have to acquaint themselves with only one set of election procedures.

It will be noted that in some of the enclosed regulations, employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs take a part in conducting the elections. This Bureau does not look with favor on Bureau employees participating in tribal elections even when asked to do so by the tribal governing bodies. In recent years we have prohibited such participation. It is requested, therefore, that in drafting regulations to govern Yakima tribal elections, no provision be made for employees of the Bureau to participate in the conduct of the election. Any member of the Yakima Tribe who is employed by the Bureau will, of course, be free to vote in tribal elections.