

great leader and his men in the fight the day before, and we should let the rest go home. Sitting Bull gave this order. He said: 'This is not my doings nor these men's. They are fighting because they were commanded to fight. We have killed their leader, let them go'. I call on the Great Spirit to witness what I say. We did not want to fight. Long Hair sent us word that he was coming to fight us, and we had to defend ourselves and our wives and children. If this command had not been given we could have cut Reno's command to pieces, as we did Custer's. No warrior knew Custer in the fight. We did not know him, dead or alive. When the fight was over the chiefs gave orders to look for the long-haired chief among the dead, but no chief with long hair could be found." (Custer had his hair cut short before starting on this march.)

Crow King said that if Reno had held out until Terry and Gibbon came and then fought as Custer did, they would have whipped the Indians. The Indians would then have been compelled to divide to protect their women and children, and the whites would have had the advantage. He expressed great admiration for the bravery of Custer and his men, and said that the fight impressed the Indians that the whites were their superiors, and it would be destruction to keep on fighting them. Both he and Low Dog said they did not feel that they would be blamed for the Custer fight or its results. It was war; they were attacked; he had two brothers killed in the fight; from 30 to 50 Indians were killed, and a much larger number who were wounded died afterward./page 103.