

D-11

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE  
Nixon, Nevada

Temporary address: P.O.Box 1352, Washington 13, D. C.

November 12, 1951

Dear Friend:

We need more help in our fight for proper legal representation and to enforce our rights to enough land for a decent living. You have already read in the papers how our delegation came here to Washington about a month ago to insist that the Department of Interior stop preventing us from using our own money to hire our own lawyers on our own terms - James E. Curry of Washington D.C. and former U.S. Senator E. P. Carville of Reno, Nevada. We are making progress here and we expect to win our fight. We are writing you because we know you will be interested in what we have done and we hope you will want to help.

The New York Times has helped us with an editorial and a series of news stories. We are sending you copies. We appeared before the American Bar Association and they have come out with a strong condemnation of the policies of the Indian Bureau. We are sending you a copy of some quotations from their report. The Secretary of Interior has announced that he will hold hearings on the whole Indian attorney contract question "in about six weeks."

Meanwhile, Senator Clinton Anderson has joined forces with Senator Pat McCarran to block our attempts to get our rights. He has asked Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman not to overrule Commissioner Dillon Myer's nullification of our attorney contract till he has time to investigate "in December or January." Attorney Curry asks Senator Anderson to disqualify himself from participating in the Committee hearings because his confidential assistant has been working with the Indian Bureau to force Indians to get rid of Curry and consent to have their claims handled by her husband's firm which works closely with Indian Bureau officials. You will recall that Senator Anderson was formerly Secretary of Agriculture and as such was mainly responsible for the Tongass Timber Act under which an attempt was made to grab Alaskan Indian lands and fishing rights for the benefit of the paper-pulp and food monopolies. Please write Oscar Chapman now and insist that he overrule Myer immediately and not permit Anderson to interfere. Also please write Anderson and ask him to stop interfering. In writing Chapman, address him, "Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C." In writing Anderson, address him, "Clinton P. Anderson, U. S. Senate, Washington 25, D. C." We would appreciate receiving a copy of whatever you send to them. Send it to us at our temporary address (P.O.Box 1352, Washington 13, D. C.).

It costs money to keep this delegation here in Washington. In 30 days we have spent all the tribal money that the Government permitted us to have, and all the money that was contributed to help us. We need some financial help if we are to stay on here and continue this fight. Will you send us a check for whatever you can afford?

Very truly yours

*Avery Winnemucca*  
Avery Winnemucca  
Chairman of the Tribal Council