

COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
 NESPELEM, WASHINGTON

May 4, 1967

MAY 1 1967

April 23, 1967

Mr. Oliver R. Pooler
 Chairman, Legislative Committee
 Colville Business Council
 Nespelem, Washington 99155

Dear Mr. Pooler:

Thank you for your letter of April 25 advising me of the recent meetings between the Legislative Committee of the Business Council and various tribal groups to discuss proposed amendments to S. 282, the Colville termination bill.

I am pleased to know that the various factions within the tribe are discussing the legislation and making suggestions for improvements in it. I look forward to receiving these suggestions in writing so that they may be considered by my Committee when the hearing is held June 8th on S. 282.

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Jackson

Chairman

Mr. Frank George and Mrs. Lucy F. Covington, council members, have requested that they not be identified with any compromise group. Mrs. Covington stated that she is firmly opposed to the enactment of S. 282.

HMJ:gbs

While the membership represented by Mr. Charley is opposed to termination in any form, the membership represented by Mr. Cleveland are opposed to termination but take the position that if the present Senate Bill 282 is enacted into law, they would recommend Section 6, sub paragraph "g" be amended so the remaining group and their property would remain under the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in trust status. With this amendment they would not oppose S. 282.

COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
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April 25, 1967

Senator Henry M. Jackson
New Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

In compliance with Commissioner Bennett's suggestions we called meetings inviting the various tribal groups to appear before the Legislative Committee of the Business Council and present their views concerning the provisions of the legislation now before the Congress for termination of the Colville Indian Reservation. Each organized group was notified of the time and place of these meetings. These meetings were held at the Subagency, Nespelem, Washington, on March 28th, April 4th and April 11th. The minutes of these meetings and other data are attached hereto and made a part of this report.

It will be observed these Tribes are divided into several factions. We would evaluate these factions as follows: First, there is a faction that define themselves as the "Petitioners Party." A portion of this faction is headed by Mr. T. B. Charley of Malott, Washington. Mr. Charley states this faction was formed in 1954 for the purpose of opposing provisions in Public Law 772 passed by Congress in 1956 with a provision these Tribes would present to Congress a plan for termination of the Colville Indian Reservation. He further states that this faction, in 1961, adopted a Constitution and had a membership of some 460 members; that he still speaks for this faction that oppose termination. He concedes, however, there may be those of the original group who have been inactive or possibly joined other groups of the Tribes. He is now certain as to the numerical strength of this group at the present time.

Mr. Frank George and Mrs. Lucy F. Covington, minority council members, have requested that they not be identified with any compromise group. Mrs. Covington stated that she is firmly opposed to the enactment of S.282.

While the membership represented by Mr. Charley is opposed to termination in any form, the membership represented by Mr. Cleveland are opposed to termination but take the position that if the present Senate Bill 282 is enacted into law, they would recommend Section 6, sub paragraph "g" be amended so the remaining group and their property would remain under the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in trust status. With this amendment they would not oppose S.282.

While those favoring termination represent between 70 and 80 percent of the tribal membership, there is a portion of these who designate themselves as the Colville Indian Association, headed by Mr. Ronald Nelson of Kettle Falls, who expressed an opinion of a different method of evaluating the tribal assets than the plan of the larger group designated as the "Liquidation Promoters", headed by Mrs. Alice Huber of Omak, Washington, which supports S.282. The Colville Indian Association has not appeared before this Committee to suggest any amendments to S.282 and the Committee therefore presumes that the group will continue to support their plan as set forth in H.R.7566. This Committee has examined H.R.7566 and is of the opinion its provisions are not realistic.

Mr. Cleveland, as representative and spokesman for the "Compromise Party", has presented to this Committee the following proposal and amendment to S.282:

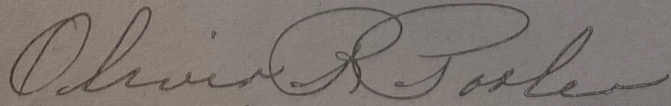
"That this pro rata share of the assets of the Reservation as determined under the provisions of S.282 be set aside and designated as the diminished Colville Indian Reservation; that these assets, their allotments or interests in allotments now held by them in trust status so remain, and said tribal assets and lands remain under the supervision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs with all the benefits and services now provided under the laws, rules and regulations of the Department of the Interior."

Mr. Cleveland further stated to this Committee that he has circulated petitions expressing this proposal among the tribal membership since the 17th of March and has in excess of two hundred signatures on the petitions. He further states that if S.282 is amended as he has proposed, this would voice no opposition to its enactment. He also stated that this petition would be forwarded to Commissioner Bennett through Mr. Miller, Superintendent, Colville Indian Agency.

This Committee has supported the provisions as set forth in S.282 for several years and in its present form has been passed twice by the Senate. We therefore do not feel that we can in good conscience recommend the amendment proposed by Mr. Cleveland. We do feel, however, that it would be presumptuous on our part to take an adamant position on insisting that the group represented by Mr. Cleveland should be given the status as now provided in S.282 and therefore if Congress in its wisdom should see fit to amend S.282, as proposed by Mr. Cleveland, we would voice no opposition to such an amendment.

We received the impression from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs during a recent visit in his office that the Bureau and/or Secretary might have certain proposed amendments to this legislation in order to clarify the mechanics involved in the carrying out of the Congressional act. We expect to receive any such proposal from him at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,


Oliver R. Pooler
Chairman, Legislative Committee
Colville Business Council