

Wells WW II

October 29, 1940

RESOLUTIONS

OCTOBER 24, 1940, ABOVE MEETING OF THE NORTHWESTERN BAND OF SHOSHONE INDIANS HAVE ASSEMBLED AT WELLS, ELKO COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

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1. For our Government to keep out of war,
2. In the event of any foreign power invading our land, we, the members of Northwestern Band of Shoshone Indians, individually and collectively, pledge our full and loyal support to our native land—America.
3. That our attitude be given to the public press and be broadcast so that all may know how we stand. And the Indians pledge aid if war comes to Nevada. The Shoshone Tribes outline stand to Tribal Council Meeting hopes to avert conflict, but will fight for native land but not for in Europe. We haven't warred with the White Man or with one another for decades. Their weapons are meager and their ranks few, but the Indians are widely scattered in the state of Nevada, that is the Shoshone Nation. Indian tribesmen of Nevada whose forebears made up a great American nation centuries before there were things such as Nazism and Fascism stand ready to do battle against invasion.

That was the message the confident of the Nevada tribes was asked to put into white man's tongue—the sentiments of Redman regarding foreign affairs and express loyalty. Lots of resolutions have been adopted regarding American foreign policy, but none more sincere than that presented to Nevada and Utah. Their tribes are part of the Shoshone Nation. The Chief told their friends how they sat in Tribal Council at Wells, Nevada, and how they wished to express their attitude toward war in Europe. The Tribes believe the United States should keep out of war, but if there is invasion the descendants of some of the toughest fighting men the world has known will give their support to our beloved America.

Treaty of peace and friendship made at Box Elder in the territory of Utah, this 30th day of July, A.D., one thousand eight hundred sixty-three, by and between the United States of America, represented by Brigadier General P. Edward Connor, James Duane Doty, Gov. and acting superintendent of Indian Affairs in Utah Territory. P. Edward Connor, Brigadier General, United States Volunteers commanding district of Utah.

Pocatello his X mark, chief
Toconotes his X mark, chief
Serpitz his X mark, chief
Tosowitz his X mark, chief
Tahnawey his X mark, chief
Nearsheop his X mark, chief
Pahmoposahs his X mark, chief
Tahnawoonah his X mark, chief
Omskec, John Pocatello's brother, his X mark

Witnesses:

Robert Pollack, 3d Infantry, C. V.
E. G. Lewis, 3d Infantry, C. V.
S. E. Jockey, first Lieutenant, 3d Infantry C. V.
John Bernard his X mark, special interpreter
Jas. A. Dehona, Indian interpreter

Articles of agreement made at Box Elder in Utah Territory, this thirtieth day of July, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, by and between the United States of America, represented by its commissioners and the Shoshone Nation of Indians, represented by its Chief and principal men and warriors of

the Northwestern Band as follows:

We are all chiefs to let you know fact, conditions, Treaty of peace, and friendship made at Suty Valley in the Territory of Nevada, this first day of October, A. D., One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three between the United States of America, represented by the undersigned commissioners and the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians, represented by their Chiefs and principal men and warriors as follows:

Done at Suty Valley the day and year above written.

Imock his mark
Meboc his mark
Kirk Seedgan his mark
Young his mark
Toso-wessop his mark
Sow-ere-yah his mark
Poop-poon his mark
Car-a-wootse his mark
Ga-ra-dier his mark
Ko-ro-koe-tse his mark
Pom-ge-mah his mark
Buck his mark

Witnesses:

J. E. Moore, Lieutenant Colonel, 3d Infantry,
California volunteers,
Jacob T. Lockhart, Indian agent of Nevada Territory
Henry Butterfield, interpreter Shoshone Goship Treaty.

Treaty of peace and friendship made at Tuilla Valley in the Territory of Utah this twelfth day of October, A. D., One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, between the United States of America, represented by the undersigned commissioners and the Shoshone Goship Bands of Indians, represented by their Chief, principal men, and warriors, as follows:

James Duane Doty, commissioner
C. Edward Connor, Brigadier General United States
Volunteers Commanding District United States
Volunteers.

Yabley his mark
Idassin his mark
Tintas-pa-pin his mark
Barry-mup his mark

The route travelled through Shoshone country and the route travelled by the White Man by the formation of agricultural and mining settlement are willing to pay fairly compensation to them for the same, therefore, and consideration of the preceding stipulation and of their faithful observance by the bands, the United States promises and agrees to pay the said Bands of Shoshone Tribes, parties hereto, annually for the term of 20 years, the sum of ten thousand Dollars in each article, and the said Shoshone Bands hereby acknowledge the receipt of the said stipulated annuities as full compensation and equivalent for the lost game, privilege hereby conceded for the losses of game and their water rights. The United States Government hasn't paid to Shoshone Tribes and they still owe to the Shoshone Indians for what time Germany was at war in the world war in 1917. The President of the United States, he say these boys go to war, then he come back from war, then I will give land or money. They he will say that never will he do it. Never give any of land or money to boys. They have never received any of land or money. Just died for nothing, because they haven't got no interest, just been to Germany to world war over the ocean, who ever our boys were that have been in the World War of 1917. Some of our boys died off and never received what they were promised of any land or money. Now we are not satisfied for that. Why didn't the United States Government see us Indians. When there is war troubles, the Government look upon us Indians,

so you Government just want our boys to go to the war. You don't see your debts to the Indians are not paid yet. Why did not you make settlement for the Reservation before, then it would be all right to us Indians. Why didn't you United States do investigation before with any of principal chiefs of any of tribes in the United States. Now about this registration of 1940, our boys again should be no register in our boys the event of any foreign power invading our land. It is not right to us Shoshone Indians. We were here before white people discovered this American continent. There was an agreement made between the United States at the time the treaty was made in 1863. They told the Chief to sign treaty and the principal Chief and warriors. You buried your bows and arrows and war paint, and we also do the same. Said soldiers buried our guns too, but no more war hereafter upon this land. There is freedom in the land forever and we already had peace and friendship. Then later on White Man handle their guns the same today and we do not handle our bows and arrows, they are still buried yet. We still obey treaty and laws of 1863, as read, you white men disobey treaty and laws. The Treaty law said: No men break laws. The laws be observed and infraction of any treaty or laws of the United States disturb peace and friendship and tranquility of the United States is liable to penalty of two thousand dollars.

Witnesses:

Amos Reed

Charles H. Hempstead, captain and chief commissary, district of Utah

William Lee, interpreter

Joseph A. Gebon, interpreter

These three treaty associates, one as a whole, now on that way be controlled together, now we present all our tribes. About this old treaty of 1863, President of United States, George Washington he say this agreement made between first American Indians, you Red men have first title to this American continent, you are my Boss not any white man. You Red men got most land claims before any white foreigner whosoever discovered this American continent. I've got to take care of you Red men. Any money that comes to us here in the United States belongs to you Red men. George Washington to the Red men: You any time ask for it, I give it to you. This money belongs to you, not any white man.

Billy Myers, Wells, Nevada, west

Jim Charley, Death, Nevada, west

Chief Arnie Tony Ibapah, Utah, goalute

George Paharagosan, Washakie, Utah, northwest

Thomas J. Pabawens, Wells, Nevada, northwest

Albert Stanton, Ely, Nevada, northwest

Charles Brigham, Wells, Nevada, tribal councilmen.

WW II

HEADQUARTERS NINTH CORPS AREA
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO

November 12, 1940

327.02

The Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Three members of the Shoshone Tribe of Indians, located on reservations in Nevada and Utah, called on the Commanding Officer, Fort Douglas, November 5, 1940, reference certain affairs of national interest pertaining to their tribe. Mr. Tom Sabawona, their spokesman, produced a resolution recently adopted by his tribe (copy of which is inclosed).

The purpose of their visit, gathered from their conversation, pertained primarily to the Selective Service Act, and as near as could be gathered, it was quite evident that they were somewhat agitated over the situation. The Indians, through their interpreter, made several remarks which gave the impression that they were not in accord with the Act.

This is furnished for your information.

Yours sincerely,

For the Commanding General:

Horace F. Sykes
HORACE F. SYKES
Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant General

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Mr. Carl A. Beak,

NOV 26 1940

Supt., Western Shoshone Agency.

Dear Mr. Beak:

By reference of the Adjutant General for the Commanding Officer of the Ninth Corps Area, at Presidio, California, we are in receipt of certain resolutions said to have been adopted by the Shoshone Indians of Nevada and Utah. The resolution refers to the treaty of 1863 with the Shoshones; alleges that the Government in 1918 promised land and money to the Indians who would serve their country; that these promises have not been fulfilled; and that settlement has not yet been made for the promises contained in the treaty of 1863. The resolution also says,

"1. For our Government to keep out of war.

"2. In the event of any foreign power invading our land, we, the members of Northwestern Band of Shoshone Indians, individually and collectively, pledge our full and loyal support to our native land--America.

"3. That our attributes be given to the public press and be broadcast so that all may know how we stand. And the Indians pledge aid if war comes to Nevada. The Shoshone Tribes outline stand to Tribal Council Meeting hopes to avert conflict, but will fight for native land but not for in Europe. We haven't warred with the White Man or with one another for decades. Their weapons are meager and their ranks few, but the Indians are widely scattered in the state of Nevada, that is the Shoshone Nation. Indian tribesmen of Nevada whose forbears made up a great American nation centuries before there were things such as Nazism and Fascism stand ready to do battle against invasion.

"That was the message the confidant of the Nevada Tribes was asked to put into White Man's tongue--the sentiments of Redman regarding foreign affairs and express loyalty. Lots of resolutions have been adopted regarding American foreign policy, but none more sincere than that presented to Nevada and Utah. Their tribes are part of the Shoshone Nation. The Chief told their Friend how they sat in Tribal Council at Wells, Nevada, and how they wished to express their attitude toward war in Europe. The Tribes believe the

Carbon for Indian Office

United States should keep out of war, but if there is invasion the descendants of some of the toughest fighting men the world has known will give their support to our beloved America."

The Adjutant General says,

"Three members of the Shoshone Tribe of Indians, located on reservations in Nevada and Utah, called on the Commanding Officer, Fort Douglas, November 5, 1940, reference certain affairs of national interest pertaining to their tribe. Mr. Tom Sabawena, their spokesman, produced a resolution recently adopted by his tribe (copy of which is enclosed).

"The purpose of their visit, gathered from their conversation, pertained primarily to the Selective Service Act, and as near as could be gathered, it was quite evident that they were somewhat agitated over the situation. The Indians, through their interpreter, made several remarks which gave the impression that they were not in accord with the Act.

"This is furnished for your information."

We should like to have you comment on the situation and state whether in your opinion this Office should write to these Indians endeavoring to explain the purpose of the Selective Service Act; that the Government is not at war, but that the training is purely a preparedness measure for defensive purposes. It is possible that a personal visit from you with the leaders to explain the situation might be preferable. Please advise whether there was any trouble about registering the eligible men and whether there are any delinquents, and, if so, how many, and what has been done about those cases.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed.) FRED H. DAKER
ASSISTANT TO THE
Commissioner.

cc - Carson Agency.
 Utah & Curay Agency.

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Colonel Horace F. Sykes, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General,
Headquarters Ninth Corps Area,
Presidio of San Francisco, California.

NOV 26 1940

Dear Colonel Sykes:

I have received your letter of November 12 advising that three members of the Shoshone Tribe of Indians, representing that tribe located on reservations in Utah and Nevada, called on the Commanding Officer, Fort Douglas, on November 5, at which time they presented a resolution expressing their opposition to taking their men for training in the military service.

Your courtesy in furnishing us this information is appreciated, and we are writing to our superintendents about it with a view to determining the situation, what should be done, and whether there was any problem in connection with registering these Indians under the Selective Training and Service Act.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRED H. DAIKER
ASSISTANT TO THE

Commissioner.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

Western Shoshone Agency
Owyhee, Nevada
December 3, 1940

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Fred E. Deiker

Sir:

This is in answer to Office letter of November 26 regarding the resolution passed by the members of the north-western band of Shoshone Indians, which was brought to the attention of the Commanding Officer of the Ninth Corps Area at Presidio, California.

The small group of Indians which adopted this resolution are the leaders of the minority group of the Western Shoshone Indians, including the Goshute group. These leaders are Annie's Tommy of Goshute, Muchach Temook of Ruby Valley and Tom Pabawena of the Wells Indian Colony.

The spirit of the resolution in declaring allegiance to the United States Government is very commendable. The promises referred to by the government in 1918 for Indians who served in the first world war is not understood. I doubt very much whether there is any foundation of such promises.

In so far as the Selective Service Act and the registration of Indians from different Western Shoshone Bands, there was only one Indian who refused at first to register. After the provisions of the act were explained, this individual registered without further complaint. Inasmuch as our Indians are scattered over such a tremendous area, great care was exercised to see that all eligibles were registered. In spite of all care taken, two Indian boys did not register, not because they refused, but because there whereabouts was not certain. One of them was supposedly somewhere in southern Idaho, the other in south-eastern Nevada or south-western Utah. It is hoped that these two boys registered wherever they may have been on registration day. Generally speaking the attitude was very commendable, in so far as all of our Indians under the jurisdiction of this agency regarding the Selective Service Act. Since registration day three of our Indian boys have enlisted for voluntary service with the Army, and many others are willing to go whenever called upon to do so.



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Commissioner

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Decem. 3, 1940

From all available evidence, the action of the above mentioned members of the Shoshone Tribe of Indians, who were instrumental in adopting the resolution was just an indication of their small group, and was certainly not an official act on the part of the regular governing bodies of the different groups.

Respectfully,


Carl W. Beck,
Superintendent

cwb/ga

November 13, 1939

Hon. J. M. Stewart, Director
U. S. General Land Office
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, represent the Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, and particularly in the vicinity of Wells, Nevada, and we have a grievance in this: That about ten miles south of Wells there is a section of land comprising about one mile square, (we are unable to give you the section, township and range) which was originally owned by the Indians and subsequently leased, but no rent was ever received, and now a white man by the name of Charley Sowyea occupies the land and claims to be the owner.

We desire that your office investigate and advise us what his status is. He certainly did not buy it from the Indians and we cannot understand how he is entitled to occupy it and ask that you make an investigation and advise us as quickly as you can.

We are asking for this information for and on behalf of our people and await your early answer.

Respectfully yours,

Chief Billy Meyers

Chief Jim Charley

Chief Johnny Long

Chief Billey Moss

Chief Jimmy Bird

Chief Albert Stanton

Address us

Wells, Nevada

