

Mr. Roy Nash, Supt.
Sacramento Indian Agency,
Sacramento, Cal.

Subject _____
H-Rec'd _____
SACRAMENTO IND AGCY

Dear Mr. Nash:

I am writing to explain a meeting that took place here at my home last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock. I was in bed reading when a car came to the house, and a few minutes later a knock came to the door and I told them to come in. They sat down and ~~as~~ said that I might just remain in bed while they explained the reason for their coming, - so late at night. It was a delegation from the Geyserville group of Indians.

First they wanted to know how come Bert Steel, a total stranger to their band, was living on the Lytton place that was bought for the Geyserville Indians. And had not the Geyserville Indians been consulted before anything was done on the Lytton place. Said that Steel was a trouble maker whenever he came in contact with Indians. They further said that Bert Steel had made the brag that he, Bert Steel, out smarted the Geyserville Indians when he got himself onto the place. Also, they said, Bert had gone to the sheriff of Sonoma County and asked for a deputy's badge, in the hope that he might the law on the other Indians in case they make any violent moves to get him off the place. ---- some trouble brewing there.

My un-official position is that of peace-maker, whether I like it or not. This comes from the fact that I, for many years, in times gone by, acted the role of leader for them. I have been backing away from this role for the past few years, chiefly to my being in the service, and partly to a desire to get away from all the fuss and ruckor that is met with in the Indian groups. But, I suppose, I will never be able to get away from it entirely. In the last few months, a strong pressure has been brought bear to get me to consent to being drafted as a delegate to Washington. So far I have been successful in resisting this pressure. So it goes: - such is life.

Tell, this delegation from Geyserville is composed of very fine Indians, despite that some of them are ardent Collett followers. One thing is obvious, to me, from their talk, and that is that Collett will be appealed to in the event that their wishes are ignored in the premises. They didn't ~~make~~ this threat, but it is not hard to discern this thought in their talk. No harsh language was used on their part at no point in the discussion, but one could see the outcroppings of a deep seated determination in their demeanor; noble Indian manifesting itself.

Tell, they stayed till twelve o'clock, midnight. I had nothing to offer them in the way of satisfaction; this despite the fact that I personall am not Bert Steel's friend. I did, however, tell them that the whole thing was intirely in your hands, that neither Bligh nor Space could help them without authority from yourself.

I am acquainted with the history of the Lytton ranch, - for whom purchased and why it was never occupied. I pretend to make no suggestions in this matter; - just am giving, briefly, my impressions of the talk they put up. After all, I am not losing sight of the fact that I am only a policeman,

Yours respectfully,

Stephen Knight

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