

United States Indian Service,

Yakama Agency,

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1885.

Hon H Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
Washington D.C.

Sir

The receipt of Department letter no 22445 dated the 13<sup>th</sup> ultimo<sup>nd</sup> enclosing communication from one Jonah B Turner, complaining of the lawless action of certain Indians, is hereby respectfully acknowledged. My own personal observation, and the host of similar complaints which have been made to me, satisfies me that Mr Turner's statements are true, and his complaints entirely just, and reasonable; though I have no personal knowledge of this particular case - Still, I am unable to see how, under Department instructions - I can interfere in the matter, or how his complaints



can interest me. Under date of July 10<sup>th</sup> 1884, the Department informs me that "Your jurisdiction, and that of your" "police, does not extend beyond the res-" "ervation" (See letter marked Land 11.983)

Again Department letter no. 14.378 dated August 16<sup>th</sup> 1884, written in reply to my remonstrance against the instructions above quoted, confirms the same, and informs me that the laws of Washington Territory, executed through the Courts and Civil Officers, are the only restraints <sup>upon</sup> Indians when off the Reservation - to prevent misapprehension I quote - "if" "the offence is one against the laws of" "the Territory, the offender is liable to" "apprehension and punishment, any" "where in the Territory, as before pointed" "out. If the offence is one against the rules" "and regulations of the Agency - one against" "discipline, you can apprehend the offender" "upon his return &c". 1884 Again, under



date of Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 1884, marked C<sup>3</sup> & E  
 18.913/1884, I am told that - "In accordance"  
 "with instructions from the Hon Secretary"  
 "of the Interior, you are directed, not"  
 "to interfere with Indians who are off"  
 "the reservation for the purpose of taking"  
 "homesteads, or who are earning their own"  
 "support by labor, fishing &c,"

The letter of Mr Turner states, that the  
 Indians complained of, are pretending to  
 take homesteads - They do not live on  
 the reservation, and though belonging  
here, and parties to this treaty, the  
 Department itself, has withdrawn them  
 entirely from the control of their Agent.

My letters on file with the Department,  
 will bear witness, how earnestly and per-  
 sistently, - ever since I have occupied  
 this position - I have urged the im-  
 policy of permitting these Indians, to  
 break their solemn covenant, - whereby  
 in the treaty they agreed to come to the



reservation, and make this their home — and instead of making homes for themselves, and giving their children the opportunity of learning in time to become useful members of Society, they are allowed to lead the lives of vagabonds, a curse to every community where they may be, training their children in their own vicious ways — the girls to become prostitutes, and the boys to become thieves = I have tried to point out that if the Indians ever do become useful members of Society, there must be some definite, recognized authority, to instruct, and control them. The instructions I have quoted are the <sup>result</sup>.

The Department has removed them from the only authority, so situated as to properly restrain them — their Agent — and the inevitable consequences are now beginning to manifest themselves.

As the Indians in question do



not live on the reservation and hence, under the instructions I have quoted, are entirely beyond my jurisdiction, I return the letter of Mr Turner as directed in Department letter.

Very Respectfully.

R. H. Mitroy.

U.S. Indian Agent.

P.S. Mr Turner states that Chapman, the military interpreter, who has occasioned so much trouble, on this reservation, is advising those Indians, and directing <sup>them</sup> in acquiring homesteads. Notices have lately appeared in several newspapers stating that he has taken different bands of Indians to the Land Offices, where they have filed on unoccupied fractions of the public lands, ranging from ten to 160 acres, a large proportion of which is said to be absolutely worthless. Under his



teaching, the Indians, have declared that they utterly repudiate the authority of the Agent, and defy him to interfere with them.

The Department will see therefore, how utterly impossible it would be for me to take any steps in the matter, even if my instructions did not positively forbid it.

The Indians, have so long been upheld by the military, in their defiance; that they would treat my advice with open contempt, and thus weaken my authority over those who do acknowledge it.

Very Respectfully -

R. A. Milroy

U. S. Indian Agent.

Gakama Agency W.T.  
Fort Sineve Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1885  
R H Mulroy  
US Indian Agent

Acknowledge receipt of letter  
22445 of Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1884 = Under  
Dept instructions, I cannot <sup>interfere</sup>  
with Indians in question, as they  
do not live on Reservation and  
are taking homesteads - Have  
expressed my views on impolicy  
of withdrawing outside Indians  
from jurisdiction of Agent &c &c  
- These Indians would treat my  
advice with contempt &c