

## Appendix

Statement of Watson Totus, Yakima Tribal Council, Before Senate Subcommittee on Civil Functions for the Army, May 12, 1952, quoted in Statement of the Yakima Indians in Defense of Their Vested Fishing and Property Rights at Celilo Falls in the Columbia River that will be Destroyed by the Construction of The Dalles Lock and Dam (1953):

"MR. TOTUS. My name is Watson Totus, member of the Yakima Tribal Council. I am a direct descendant of the Columbia River tribes and chiefs who signed the Yakima Treaty of 1855.

I am protesting the construction of the Dalles Dam. It never should have been authorized by the United States Congress in 1950 and the 82nd Congress never should have appropriated \$4,000,000 and let the contract for construction in 1952.

### Destruction of Celilo Falls Fisheries

I make this statement because this proposed dam violates the Yakima Treaty and threatens to abolish and destroy one of the most historical and scenic natural monuments in the United States. The dam would do irreparable damage to Celilo Falls fisheries, tribal traditions, and religion.

My people fished at Celilo and many other tribal fishing places, both above and below the falls. Even yet many Indians fish here to supplement their subsistence and livelihood. Many white people from all over America and many foreign countries come to our area to view our great natural monument.

Our tribal legends are there. Up to now no one has written about them, but at various places our history is written on boulders and bluffs. These stories tell how our people caught the first salmon; of our

great ceremonies; and our prayers of thanks to the Great Spirit and Maker who provided happiness and food.

The religion of Washeat was the tribal religion. The spiritual teacher told the people that salmon was blessed by the Great Maker who made the sky, divided the waters, made the earth, and from it created man who breathed wind from the sky. The Great Maker blessed the water he drank and that which went to the animals and plant life.

The salmon was then made a sacred food second to water in the Yakima tribal "Washeat" religion. All of the tribes along the Columbia Basin worshipped in the same "Washeat" religion.

Up to this day the white people call it the "Pom-Pom religion" and I am one of the leaders of that original religion. I teach my people that (1) water is blessed by God; (2) salmon is blessed by God, and it is the first food that we partake of in the "Washeat" church ceremonies on Sunday, fresh-root festivals, and "first salmon-catch" festivals.

I am now asking Congress to change its mind and not construct The Dalles Dam. It will make the spirits of my dead chief of long past rejoice and will build confidence in my present and future people that our treaties of 1855 are sacred and shall not be abrogated by Congress of the strongest and most religious country of the world, the United States of America.

The spirits of my past chiefs cannot plead for justice. I can only pray, Save Celilo Falls and all it represents. May the Great Spirit bless you all. I have spoken for my people."

A federal official puts a positive "spin" on the loss of Celilo Falls:

Samuel J. Hutchinson, regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1951, quoted in *The Northwest Salmon Crisis: A Documentary History* 206 (Joseph Cone & Sandy Ridlington eds. 1996, Oregon State Un. Press, Corvallis):

the beneficial effects [of the Dalles dam] would compensate for the detrimental conditions that exist there at present. [It] would be easier for the fish to go over a ladder in the dam than to fight their way