National Society of Colonial Descendants.
Georgia T. Ray Perkins. President.

Dear Senator Johnson,

Our Government tells the Army to negotiate with the Three Affiliated Tribes, the Crow Tribe, Mananu and Arikara for the purchase of their land for the needed Garrison Dam, as it would cost much more if bought from white people.

The Army is anxious to do the best it can for the Indians. Our Government considers the Northwest Treaty of 1789 and the Sac and Fox Treaty of 1857 "scraps of paper." They Indians are forced to sell "or else." So as the Indians are terror stricken, they agree to sell for the small sum of five million dollars and the Government takes all their fertile land which has supported them for hundreds of years. However, the Army's terms allow them fishing and grazing privileges and mineral deposits.

When the Government hears this, it has such quantities of billions, it wants to spend on foreigners, that it does not want to spend even five million dollars on Indians, who will have left only barren land on which even an expert white farmer could not earn a living. However, they can fish which will help some. The Government says No. It might help to keep the Indians alive. Cattle and sheep can find sustenance and they could be killed...
and help to keep the Indians alive. The Government says "no fishing, no praying."
Possibly some minerals might be discovered which the Indians could sell or use and so maintain life longer, but the Government says no minerals. We want them all.
The Indians want to engage their own lawyer, but the Government says we cannot grant you the same privileges we grant murderers, criminals, traitors and communists who would destroy us. You are Indian citizens. You have fought and many have died for this country, but you cannot chose your own lawyer.
Is this just or fair or American?
Can the United States engage the Army to negotiate terms with the Indians and then repudiate these terms?

April 6th, 1900
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Senator Edward Carl Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.