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FABER FERRY IS SAFE ENOUGH SAYS OFFICIAL

FERRY INSPECTOR MAKES TRIP HERE TO SETTLE ARGUMENT – FERRY NEVER CONDEMNED

W. M. Craft, marine safety inspector for the state department of safety, set at rest all argument and misunderstanding about the Faber ferry this week by stating that the Ferry had never been condemned for school buses and that it has been maintained compliance with all state requirements, as well as his personal recommendations.

Through some misunderstanding the people across the ferry had been refusing to send their pupils across the ferry on the school bus, and for the past month have been bombarding officials with protests and argument supposedly based on Mr. Craft's previous routine inspection at which he suggested that the bow plates be strengthened and a small leak repaired. This was done but parents still refused to allow the children to cross.

Finally the county commissioners requested Mr. Craft to make another inspection. He did so Wednesday morning and found the ferry in "safe operating condition".

In an interview with the Herald Mr. Craft stated that the maintenance and operation of the ferry is entirely in the hands of the Skagit county engineers who have full instructions as to safety precautions and full responsibility in keeping the ferry in a safe operating condition. He stated that he had complete confidence in their ability to do this and had found no negligence on their part.

His own inspections, he pointed out, are merely routine twice or three times a year

to see if all state requirements are being met. His suggestions for improvement have always been promptly followed out, he said.

In the recent trouble, he believed the misunderstanding arose from idle conversation as he makes his official report only to the county engineers and to the state office. He did not order the ferry closed to school traffic as he found the ferry in good operating condition. His recommendations of re-planking and repair were not of an emergency nature.

He expressed an appreciation of interest and concern shown here over the safety of the ferry, but closed his interview by stating that other than the county engineers and his department there are no persons here qualified to judge whether or not the equipment should be operated. The school's right to withhold bus operation is unquestioned, yet they have no authority to declare the ferry unsafe.