OBJECTIONS TO AVON BYPASS PROJECT AND RELATED PHASES THEREOF
BY
SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITY
LaConner, Washington

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This statement is submitted on behalf of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and members of the Swinomish Reservation to the Corps of Army Engineers in connection with the public hearing held at the Elks Lodge, Mount Vernon, Washington, November 22, 1963, at 1:30 p.m.

It is the position of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the members of the Swinomish Reservation, Skagit County, Washington, that the Avon Bypass Project and other projects related to dredging, widening or changing the natural channels and water flow of the Skagit River may well affect the salmon runs. If such occurs, then the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the members of the Swinomish Reservation will consider this as a violation and deprivation of the rights granted under the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855.

Adequate information is not presently available to determine the effect such projects would have on the salmon population in the Skagit River. Such information will be accumulated and furnished at a later time.

In conclusion, objection is made to these projects insofar as they, or any of them, may interfere with or affect the salmon population. Salmon fishing is the major source of livelihood for the Swinomish Indians, and denial or deprivation thereof would cause great hardship.

SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITY

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