Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

A constituent of mine has expressed an interest in the establishment of a national monument at Fort Wright, Washington.

It is my understanding that some of the Washington delegation has expressed an interest in this project, and I would appreciate it if you would advise me as to the status at the present time.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Carl T. Curtis, USS

CTC:mf
JUN 27 1962

LSS-GHA

Hon. Carl T. Curtis,
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Curtis:

We are glad to comment on Fort Wright, in the State of Washington, as requested in your letter of June 19.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings being conducted by this Service covered western military posts in the subtheme study entitled, "Indian and Military Affairs," in Phase IV, Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1890-1898. The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments in reviewing and evaluating the sites included in that study did not find that Fort Wright possessed outstanding significance for the purpose of illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States. The Secretary has approved the Board's findings.

Fort Wright was named for Colonel George Wright who achieved success in his 1858 campaign against the Palouse Indians in the battle of Spokane Plains, and who subsequently encamped on the site of the later Fort Wright. This post was not established until 1894, after the pacification of the western Indians, and it never was involved in any important historical events.

There is no proposal to our knowledge to establish the site of Fort Wright as a national monument, and if there should be such a proposal in the future we would feel obliged to recommend against it on historical grounds.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE
Assistant Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four w/c of inc. History
REAppleman dj: 6/26/62
Mr. President of the United States
From: John F. Kennedy
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

May I take the liberty to ask you to acquire Fort Wright in Spokane, Washington, for the future generations?

I am in receipt of a letter from the Department of the Interior to Senator Curtis, who happens to be a friend of our families.

The Senator is a Democrat, but he has always supported my requests.

I fully understand the views of the U.S. Interior Dept. regarding Fort Wright as a National shrine, but there are emotions far deeper than words can express, for local patriotic strength makes for a strong National strength and it lays in our youth.

The old buildings at Fort Wright are
Still in good repair, built in a semicircle with a court of many acres planted to trees in the center. It would be fine and proper to set part of Fort Wright aside for the American Legion—The Boy Scouts of America, The Girl Scouts of America. That they may feel and perpetuate the spirit of their early forefathers.

Colonel John Allen states feeling clearly, speaking before Congress, he said (When I see the American flag go by it does something with me) that same feeling we hope will be created in the youth that will occupy a part of Fort Wright.

Fort Wright has many potential for that patriotic territory.

The local feeling for Fort Wright is deep, to them it is part of the early United States of American history and may that history and patriotism be preserved.

I have been a resident of Ipswich.
3.

For the past 15 years, I, born in the State of Nebraska, have a deep feeling for the people of the State of Washington. As to myself, I was born of Danish parents in 1884, in Fremont, Nebraska. My father came to America as a young man with his brother who was the secretary to the ambassador from Denmark. This uncle of mine passed away soon after coming to America, but I was named after him.

My father loved America, decided to stay and live in America. I grew up in the teaching of the great heritage I had received from being born in America. He also said, America will never go down from within or if she ever goes down it will be from within.

I knew the father of your assistant, Theodore Sorenson from Davenport and Lincoln, Nebraska. I feel sure that Theodore Sorenson is of as sound philosophy as his father, for the good of all the people.
Here in Nebraska they are restoring Fort Atkinson which has been farm land for many years; this shows how people value the early history of America. I am sending you Mr. President a gold coin paid for, so you to may feel you are a part of what people are doing in Nebraska to preserve our great heritage.

May this effort by the people here in Nebraska take root all over America.

Mr. President if you in any way can help that Fort Wmft becomes the property of all the people in Washington State I feel the memory will live on and on for generations to come.

May the Good Lord bestow his blessings upon you from day to day.

Sincerely

Christian Jensen Dorgard
L38-CIA

Mr. Christian Jensen Dougard
1229 Phillip Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Dougard:

President Kennedy has asked us to reply to your letter of August 9 about Fort George Wright in the State of Washington, and your suggestion that it be preserved by the Federal Government as an historic site for patriotic purposes. You enclosed a copy of a letter of June 27 which the National Park Service sent to Senator Curtis of Nebraska on the subject and accordingly are familiar with its contents and the viewpoint of the Service as expressed therein.

It is our understanding that Fort George Wright has been declared surplus to the needs of the using agency and that the General Services Administration expects to dispose of it in the near future. Under the law governing disposal of such surplus Federal property, certain Federal, State, and municipal agencies may request transfer of the property to them. It is our understanding that the State of Washington is considering requesting the transfer to it of about thirty-five acres, including the Parade Grounds and main buildings, at Fort George Wright. If this should be done and the request granted, the State would then undertake the preservation of these historic features of the Fort as a State historical park.

It is a pleasure to receive a letter such as yours which expresses such a deep and sincere patriotism. It is also comforting and uplifting to read such an expression of good citizenship.

The newspaper clipping, photograph, and gold-colored souvenir dollar which you enclosed are returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Enclosures

Copy to: Regional Director, Western Region w/e of inc. History Rogers Young

RE: Appleman; bj:9/4/52
Sept. 17, 1952

Mr. Jackson E. Price
United States Dept. of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Price:

Pleased to receive your letter of the 9/10/52.

As you well know, politics and patriotism go hand-in-hand, that is the way it should be.

Philosophy has many phases, but patriotism has the soul-rendering depth of duty, that no other philosophy of the human race has been able to equal.

I am deeply religious myself, I respect every man's religious theory he lives his faith proves his sincerity.

Father Flannigan of Boy's Town, Omaha, said, "There is no bad child born, environment and conditions made that child bad."

No truer words have ever been spoken regarding a child. Fort G. Wright, Wash.

I taught Sunday school for 7 years, had 18 to 20 boys in the class, my philosophy was...
to teach patriotism to the United States, to teach obedience to laws of the Constitution of these United States, for in that obedience to the law of their country, they would understand the laws of the Christian faith. The two laws compare.

The law of the Constitution and Bill of Rights is dedicated in spirit, and to my knowledge no jurist can define the depth of the law of the Constitution like the Christian teachings unless you live it and can feel it with your soul, otherwise you grasp it in a material sense.

Do not get me wrong for the Christian philosophy is spiritual but we deal literally in material things to and sometimes 7 days a week our thinking is cultivated in the material things of life, then for the material things of life is with us day and night, more then being we have in our great Nation, Constitutional laws that are dedicated to the spiritual as well as to the material it has a stronger influence upon the matter, than religion has over patriotism. The tug are inseparable. I know that many theologians do not agree with the law they have produced fruits to compensate for their objections.
3. In the nineteen thirties I was a member of the CCC for nearly 10 years. Financial crises and drought had taken their toll on the community. A community had been organized quietly, a doctor came to me and related what one of the members had told him: there would be an uprising.

I said doctor that is ridiculous, I know these people for 25 miles around, they have their houses, many are church people. That day, the doctor had been told they were in trucks and cars tied the city streets with people, a Watty Rains and Mr. Swift from Detroit. If the they did not attack the Constitution but said the Capitalistic system is responsible for your troubles, they attacked the Capitalistic Company, when met by a few guards they turned around and went back into the city, where the riot then started.

I stood in my father's law office who was clerk of the district court and looked them on those poor people, slapping one another not patriotic souls in the city gathering.

These things I have seen, my father had travelled in Russia, nearly 100 years ago and I know some things about Marx's commune philosophy.
Over the years the commyne philosophy will lose its value. In their view they deny the individual his freedom and the right to worship according to his conscience. Thus two rights were born too and some day the Russian people will demand these two rights; it may take 50 years but it is bound to come, unless war destroys us all and that is not improbable.

These are a few of the reasons I wrote to the President regarding Fort Wright in Spokane, Wash.

That is also the reason I thought the American Legion would be the best to carry out the training of the youth in patriotism.

In fact, I would like to see every Fort and historic place dedicated to the youth for patriotic ideals.

I can think of no greater contribution to our great nation than patriotism of the youth of our nation.

I spoke to the President and the Department of the Interior to inquire of patriotism.

Serious thought, it is pressing, you don't miss it till you see it.

Yours truly,

Christian J. Spreckel
Nov 3 - 62

Mr. Jackson / Price, Capt. Sec. / United States Dept. of the Interior / Washington, D.C.

I knew you were shocked by my last letter to you regarding Fort Wright and National patriotism as religion.

Now sending you a clipping of a talk by Mr. Kennedy, read it and come to your own conclusions.

I have talked for the last 30 years to the clergy, the close reft of the Constitution and the Christian philosophy. The Constitution and the Bible of Wright are a holy document.

Let's go back to the written word of the Constitution, they were different in opinions by the signers as to philosophy and wording, that continued for some time, when the time came to write into words that great document, from the imponderable of these men game, not for themselves nor groups, these hollow words for men kind of these United States.
2. of America the they said who so ever interpreted the Constitutional law, must be endowed with that inner spirit that the creators of the Constitution received at the formulation of those holy words.

That's why I said the church has fallen to what they now are beginning to realize.

Any one who will study the Constitution with their religious faith, will see that they are inseparable and should the time come when the Christian philosophy undertakes to bring the philosophy of the Constitution they will find the Churches deeper in faith of their Christian philosophy.

It is one reason that I feel the Federal Government should give close attention to the patriotic teaching of our youth and I feel this is no better place than the United States Dept of the Interior.

It was wonderful to see how the American people rallied behind the President in the affairs of Cuba.
that has been a tradition of the American people, when some outside force intrudes itself among the people, they come forth one hundred percent.

I have seen this in my lifetime when a debris within it's own borders arise, they go into confusion and they may go to extremes one way or the other, thus they can shun of no other American salvation then
Patriotism, the love of country.

That is why I am asking you to do what you can to prevent Wright is in the hands of the people for a Patriotic purpose, for the good of America, I am a democrat but I would hate to see politics enter into it, for to me America comes first and politics second. I have spent much of my life in politics I like it to be sure but my country comes first.

I feel we have a great President, he is tolerant, a great virtue, he is
sympathetic to all people, he has
proved himself firm in his
decisions, and just and fair to
our enemies. Ask for no more.
If I am misunderstood, Mr. Diet
let me know.

Sincerely,
Christian Jensen Omsgard
Kennedy Chides Both U.S., Russian Church

By BUDD GAUGER

A congenial churchman, who doesn't mind saying things which turn out to be unpopular, said some uncomplimentary things about modern Christianity and engaged in some clerical camaraderie with a pair of his preacher prodigies here last week.

Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy of Los Angeles said: "I am not at all impressed with the power of the church" in matters affecting international relations.

Church at Fault

He spoke in the context of developments in Cuba, adding: "The church is greatly at fault, in both Russia and the U.S. for not having lifted moral life higher."

The bishop said "There is something worse than war: It is slavery, tyranny and the destruction of human dignity."

A world traveler and a widely-published author in the religious field, the past president of the Methodist Council of Bishops observed: "The church has been too popular. Too many people belong — not that we don't want them."

But, with approximately 65% of the American population belonging to churches, we are no longer as sharp in our witness.

"This is the price of popularity. It destroys us."

"Yet, nobody else is doing the job. The church is the best hope we have."

Familiar Soil

Delivering the Wilson Lectures at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Bishop Kennedy was on familiar soil in the Capital City.

He was minister of St. Paul Methodist Church before his election to the episcopacy 14 years ago.

It was during his tenure at St. Paul that a pair of ministerial aspirants, now polished pulpits men back in Lincoln, met Dr. Kennedy to whom they attribute great influence on the course of their vocation.

One is the Rev. Clarence Engebretson, who now occupies the pulpit from which Dr. Kennedy preached at St. Paul Church.

The other is the Rev. Darrell E. Berg, minister of Trinity Church.

Both were on hand at the Wesleyan Campus Center to greet their former councillor and bishop and to banter with him.

They were among Dr. Kennedy's first pastoral appointees in the Pacific Northwest when he became bishop there.

Merger Reservation

Other things Bishop Kennedy said in conversation:

"I am definitely not against church mergers, but I think the Pike-Blake proposal (merger of Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians and others) is far-fetched."

"Catholics and Protestants can and should stand together on a great many things, especially in local communities."

"There is no reason why Catholics should become Protestants, and there is no reason why Protestants should become Catholics."

"The Ecumenical Council in the Vatican is a straw in the wind that the Catholic Church is under pressure from within, by some of the bishops and laymen, to modernize and draw closer to all Christendom."

Ong Methodists

Mark 90 Years

Ong—The Methodist Church here will observe its 90th anniversary next Sunday.

Services, to be conducted by the Rev. Delvin A. Reper, are scheduled at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The church was formed as "the Big Sandy Class of the Little Blue Mission" following revival meetings in a log school.
Mr. C. J. Donagard
1212 503rd Street
Norfolk, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Donagard,

Assistant Director Price has asked me to acknowledge your letter of November 3 in which you refer again to Fort George Wright.

There is nothing new or additional we can tell you concerning Fort George Wright unfortunately, so I shall not undertake to repeat our comments on that subject.

Certainly all of us here who have thought about the matter agree with you that our young people must be taught patriotism if they are to be patriotic as adults. Naturally, the National Park Service attempts to contribute what it can in that direction and we do hope that thru the numerous national historic sites in our jurisdiction that young people who visit them will receive enduring lessons in patriotism and gather some knowledge of many of the great men in our history.

Thank you very much for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

[signature]

WASH.

Herbert H. Kahler
Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

Copy to: Branch of History, w/c of inc.

REAappleman:neb 11/7/62
Mr. Herbert F. Hahler
United States Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hahler,

Your letter of the 11/8/62 received for which I thank you. The question still is: 'Was Fullerton the greatest of the people?'

I am not an allembracing, mean-spirited, self-centered, foot-rotty individualist, but I am a patriot, as I believe everyone is, that patriotism comes first, economics second. If economy comes to a desired state of all people, then are sound reasons for that. The question is not what I think, or any social group thinks, it is what the rest of the country thinks. How few people feel from within (guilt)

There lies again the responsibility rest heavy upon the different governmental officials.

There are few governmental officials when leaving office are respected by the people. It is all good because it is the re-recognition of the different people, officials. If all these are the only thing to make you think.

The former United States Sec. of the Interior Mr. Fred Stanton was the Republican running for Governor of Nebr. against incumbent Remy Macarson a Democrat.

Nebraska is traditionally a Republican state. The Democratic wing split the high rank of the Democratic party against Arnold.

The Democratic wing split the high rank of the Democratic party against Arnold.

The labor unions feel supporting Mr. Stanton, and only the people.

The question came up by the people, and only the people. The outstanding thing that Mr. Stanton has done (Mr. Stanton) was the outstanding thing did Mr. Stanton as United State Secretary of the Interior? No. With re-relationship leadership as publisher of this newspaper did he accomplish? None.
What can you expect of a man like this if he is elected President? (Nothing)

The consequences were Democratic. Horace Mann was elected by over 30,000 votes, while Mr. Johnson was defeated by thousands of votes.

Horace Mann was the only Democrat elected to office in the State, all State and Federal positions were filled by Republicans.

And Mr. Johnson served his country with leadership he would have been elected.

He was Secretary in name and not in service to his fellow-man, so the people thought.

To me it is a serious indictment of leadership.

Another thing came up, why these few powerful, independent voters, always told they were mostly of the unemployed generation. The fact in this age is easy to understand. I have not only in Nebraska, but in other States where I have been.

Have been in politics for a good many years, I have had the pleasure being land agent, supervisor of many people, dictator of town as it was called. To day is not leadership in industry, politics, business and philosophy that are sound and practical. Mass the endorsement of the people.

All of this my country comes first.

Sincerely

Christian Jorden Domrose
Jan 2, 62

Mr. Herbert Eksterling
United States Dept. of the Interior
Chief Div. of History and Records
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Eksterling,

I am in receipt of letters from fellow citizens from Spokane, Wash.

In these letters they tell me Fort Wright is proposed for industrial site.

Here we come to the point, where we think of what we can make an individual, both local and federal, if we have may God have mercy. I can understand when a few individuals can think in these terms, but I can not understand leaders of our government doing the same.

Selling the heritage of the generations of the past and the future for the thirty pieces of silver.

You are a student of history and nature yourself. We do not have to be communists, we can be (incoently) pro-communists.

What a select few think matters little, it is what the rank and file feel and think.

That rank and file will always be here, it is the minority that vanishes, that is history.

I have given a great deal of thought to the communist philosophy, it was not written by intellectuals.

It had its birth in hate against the ruling powers of Russia and the support of the Church to these powers.
from which the financial support came.

If we can look at that philosophy, in its true
life, the Constitution of these United States becomes
more significant and deeper in meaning.

The President and his cabinet; the Supreme Court;
the senators; the Congressmen; the different parts
of government can make errors; they are accepted
the not forgotten for we are all victims of errors.

But when they make errors in patriotism of our
land, that is unforgivable. Therefore, deep thought
should be given to the things that are material and
those inner feelings we live by daily.

Patriotism is the silver cord that ties the
National and the different philosophy in strength,
it seems like there is no other way.

The decision now is up to the rest of the rest
of these United States. (Shall Fort Wright be
sold for the thirty pieces of silver?)
Sectarian faith is the strength of the Church.
The political exercise of policies is not.
Religion of our country is its strength.
The political exercise of policies is not.

If you see Mr. Skeeler, I would like to
hear from you. The states of Fort Wright

Sincerely

E.J. Conway
January 14, 1963

Mr. C. J. Dvorak
1212 S. 33rd
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Dvorak:

Thank you for your letter of January 2 and your further comments about Fort Wright.

I believe there is nothing that we can tell you about this area, other than what I stated in my letter of November 8, 1962, to you on the same subject.

Fort George Wright will be handled, of course, under the procedures established by law and administered by the General Services Administration for the transfer or otherwise disposal of surplus Federal property.

Sincerely yours,

[SIGNED]

Herbert E. Kohler
Chief, Division of History and Archeology

cc:
Regional Director, Western w/inc.
History

RE: Appleman: bj: 1/14/63

WASH.