

L58 PT. 1
1-1-62 TO DEC 31 1965
CLOSED SHIT

SHAW-WALKER
#8502-1R

RECORDS SECTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CARL T. CURTIS
NEBRASKA

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

United States Senate

JUN 21 2 22 PM '62 WASHINGTON, D.C.

LEP
Appleman
RFB
LNP

June 19, 1962

REPLY DUE

JUN 27 1962

JUN 22 1962

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
Carl T. Curtis, USS

CTC:mf

JUN 27 1962

W. J. Hill
H. J. DeWitt
Porter 6/26
Kahler
6/26

✓
158-CHA

Hon. Carl T. Curtis
United States Senate
Washington 25, 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 Theme XV, Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898. 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 Vj:6/26/62

25

9/4 Aug 9 - 62

WIP
58

Interior
President of the United States
Hon. John F. Kennedy
Washington, D.C.

PLD
Kahler

Dear Mr. President

May I take the liberty Mr. President to ask your help to acquire Fort Wright in Spokane Washington for the future generations.

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

Tho I being a Democrat he has always executed 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

2.

Still in good repair, built in a semi circle with a court of many acres planted to trees in the center.

It would be fine and proper to see part of Fort Wright set aside for the American Region. - The Boy Scouts of America, The Girl Scouts of America.

That they may feel and perpetuate the spirit of their early fore fathers.

Colonel John Slen stated, feelings clearly speaking before Congress, he said (When I see the American Flag go by it does some thing with in me)

That same feeling we hope will be created in the youth that will occupy a part of Fort Wright.

Fort Wright has many potentials 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 Spokane Wash.

3. for the past 15 years, tho born in the state of Nebraska, I have a deep feeling for the people of the state of Washington. As to myself, I was born of Danish parents in 1887. Fremont Nebr, my father came to America as a young man with his brother who was the secretary to the Ambassadors from Denmark, this uncle of mine passed away soon after coming to America, was buried in America, who I was named after.

My Father loved America, decided to stay and live in America, but me up in the teaching of the great heritage I had received in being born in America.

He also said, America will never go down from with out, if she ever goes down it will be from within.

I knew the Father of your assistant Theodore Sorenson from Deep City and Lincoln Nebr. I feel sure that Theodore Sorenson is of as sound philosophy as his father, for the good of all the people.

4 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 Wright be comes 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 up on you from day to day.

Sincerely
Christian Jensen Doringard

SEP 10 1962

9/4
Appleman
Porter 9/7
Kahler 9/7

158-51A

Mr. Christian Jensen Dougard
1829 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/c of inc. History Rogers Young

REAppleman:bj:9/4/62

Sep 27-62 ✓

Mr. Jackson E. Price
United States Dept of the Interior L 58
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Price;

answ. you file
not reg.

Pleased to receive your letter of the 9/10/62

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 mans religion, the way 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 has 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

2. to teach patriotism to the United States of America
 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
 in your soul, otherwise you grasp it in
 a material sense.

Do not get me wrong for the Christian
 philosophy is spiritual but we deal daily
 in material things 6 and sometimes 7
 days a week, our thinking is cultivated
 in the material things of life, there for
 the material things of life is with us
 day and night now 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 masses, than religion
 has over patriotism, The two are inseparable
 I know that many theologians do not agree
 never the less they have produced fruits to
 compensate for their objections

3. In the nineteen thirties I was a member of the C. I. Council for nearly 10 years, financial crises and drought had taken their lands & holdings.

A committee had been organized secretly, 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, have been in their homes many are cheery people.

That day the doctor had been told they came in trucks and cars till the City was black with people, a Walter Bloor and a Mr. Smith from Detroit spoke, they did not attack the Constitution but said the Capitalistic system is responsible for your troubles, they lit torches to burn the Capitalistic Companies, when met by a few guys they turned around and went back into the City, where the riot then started neighbor slugged neighbor, friend slugged friend, darkness stopped it all.

I stood in my father in laws office who was clerk of the district court and looked down on those poor people, slugging one another, not a patriotic soul in the vast gathering who had come into our city.

These things I have seen, my father had travelled in Russia nearly 100 years ago and I know some thing about Marx & Lenin's commune philosophy.

#. Over the years the commynne philosophy will loose. It's value for in their h² they deprived the individual of his freedoms and the right to worship according to his conscience, these two rights man was 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~~ doubtfull.

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

That is also the reason I thought the American region 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 hope the President and the Department of the Interior can give patriotism a serious thought, it is precious, you don't miss it till you lose it.

Yours truly
Christian J. Dongard

Nov 3 - 62 ~~Kahle~~

Mr. Jackson T. Price, Asst. Sec.
 United States Dept. of the Interior
 Washington D.C.

File 11665 1962
 ned

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

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

I have talked for the last 20 years to
 the clergy, the class nit of the Constitution
 and the christian philosophy.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights
 are a holy document.

Let's go back to the written word of
 the Constitution, there were differences
 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
 inner soul of these men came, not for
 themselves nor groups, these hallowed
 words for man kind of these United States

2.

of America, that they I said who so ever interpret 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 to its true place, they will find the churches deeper in faith of their Christian philosophy's.

It is one reason that I feel the Federal Government should give close attention to the patriotic teaching of our youth and I feel there 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.

3

that has been a 'adition of the American people, when some outside force upsets peace in the world, they come forth one hundred per cent.

I have seen this in my life time when a crisis within its own borders arise, they go into confusion and they may go to extremes one way or the other, thru the years I know of no other American solution than Patriotism, the love of country.

It begins in our youth.

That is why I am asking you to do what you can to see that 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 for all people, he has
proved himself firm in his
decisions, and just and fair to
our enemies, I act for no money.
If I am misunderstood Mr. Rice
let me know.

Sincerely
Christian Jensen Omgard

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 Willson 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 pulpit men back in Lincoln, met Dr. Kennedy to whom they attribute great influence on the course of their vocation.

One is the Rev. Clarence Forsberg, who now occupies the pulpit from which Dr.

Kennedy preached at St. Paul Church.

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

Both were on hand at the Wesleyan Campus Center to greet their former counsellor 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 Roper, 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 dugout school.



A. M. Leman

NOV 8 - 1962

158-GHA

Mr. G. J. Donagard
1212 5023rd 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,

SIGNED

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

WASH.

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

REAppleman:ncb 11/7/62

J. W. Appleman Dec 5 - 62

Mr. Herbert E. Kehler
United States Dep. of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Box 458 - C.H.A.
Fate

Dear Mr. Kehler

Your letter of the 11/8/62 received for which I thank you.
The question still is - Will Fort Wright be given to the people?

I am not an alarmist, nor an extremist nor a pessimist,
I look at life and philosophy from a new point of cold facts.
Patriotism as well as economics.

Patriotism comes first, economics follows in accordance; there
are sound reasoning for that.

Patriotism comes first over, the different religious philosophy's
there are sound reasoning and facts to substantiate that.

It is not what I think or any social group think, it
is what the rank and file of people think from within.

I have traveled much and it is alarming how people feel
from within (quietly)

There I say again, the responsibility rest heavy upon the
different governmental officials.

There are few governmental officials when leaving office are
respected by the people as good leaders.

While here in Nebraska, I witnessed an election to me a sad
ending for a man who had held position of prominence in
political positions. - It makes you think.

The former United States Sec. of the Interior Mr. Fred Seaton
a Republican running for Governor of Neb. against incumbent
Lorance Morrison a Democrat.

Nebraska is traditionally a Republican state.
News papers in general heralded Mr. Seaton as a great and
promising leader.

The Democratic ^{party} was split, the high archy of the Democratic party
legion towards Mr. Seaton.

The labor unions heads supporting Mr. Seaton,
Money flowed freely in support of Mr. Seaton.

The question come up by the people, and only by people.

What outstanding thing did ^{Mr. Seaton} do as representative of the people (NONE)

What outstanding thing did Mr. Seaton as United State Secretary
of the Interior do? NONE

What outstanding leadership as publisher of his news
did he accomplish? NONE

What can you expect of a man like this if he is elected Governor? (Nothing)

The consequences were Democratic Gov. Morrison was elected by over 30,000 votes - where Mr. Seston was predicted to win by a ~~great~~ majority.

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

If Mr. Seston served his country with leadership - he would have been elected.

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

To me it is a serious indictment of leadership. A nother thing came up, why there were so many independent voters. I was told they were mostly of the younger generation the facts in this case is easy to understand. It is not only in Nebraska, but in other States where I have been.

I have been in politics for a good many years, I have had the pleasure being industrial supervisor of many people dictatorship or boss as it was called. To day is out.

Leadership in industry, politics, business and philosophy's that is sound and practical, has the endorsement of the people.

Of all of this my country comes first.

Sincerely
Christian Jensen Demogard

Jan 2 - 63

JAN 9 1963

Mr. Herbert E. Kohler
United States Dept of the Interior
Chief Div. of History and Archeology
Washington D.C.

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE
JAN 8 10 29 AM '63

~~Kohler~~
~~Apples~~
~~Ball~~

Dear Mr. Kohler,

L58 I am in receipt of letters from fellow citizens from Spokane, Wash.

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

Have we come to the point, where we think of what we can make as individuals, both local and federal, if we have, may God have mercy.

I can understand where 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 & nature yourself.

We do not have to be communists, we can be (innocently) 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.

There for I feel as many others do, an injustice is being performed by a few bad people and I hope not by the leaders of our government.

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

But when they make errors in Patriotism of our land, that is unforgivable, therefor 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 philosophys in strength, it seems like there is no other way.

The decision now is up to the Dept of the Int. of these United States. - (Shall Fort Wright be sold for the thirty pieces of silver.)

Spiritual faith is the strength of the Church. The political exercises & policies is not.

Patriotism of our country is its strength. The political exercises & policies is not.

If you can Mr. Kahler I would like to hear from you, the status of Fort Wright

Sincerely
C. J. Dornigard

1/14/63
H. D. ...
Bates 1114

January 14, 1963

ESS-CHAM

Mr. G. J. Dorgard
1212 E. 23rd
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Dorgard:

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. Kahler
Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

cc:
Regional Director, Western w/inc.
History

REAppleman:bj:1/14/63

WASH.