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## **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) records – Bellingham, WA: Proceedings, 1950**

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is from this area. He is a graduate of Washington State College, having majored in animal husbandry. Last winter when he was in Washington I saw him in action. I saw him go into different Congressional offices doing some lobbying for the people back home. At that time I wished that we had many more men of his caliber. He made good presentations to the Senators back there. He was fearless because he knew what he was talking about and because he was fighting for justice. I do not think that Indians could ask for better leadership in any organization than those who are willing to put in everything they have in order to fight for their rights. This gentleman belongs to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and will be reporting for active duty with the U.S. Army on September 14, to my keen regret, because while Uncle Sam will gain, we who are working in behalf of the Indians will lose much. I present to you Mr. Joseph Garry.

JOSEPH GARRY: Thank you, Mr. Rainer. I certainly appreciate the fine remarks that you have given here on my behalf. I assure you that while my time is short here, and I won't be with you for may be only a short period of time, my heart is out here with you. I will be back soon and working with you because we have many achievements to pursue. The speaker, Mr. George, has given you a wonderful demonstration of what you could accomplish with such a wonderful organization as NCAI, and I know that with the present leadership and officers, we will continue to grow in size and accomplish much. I am not going to take up much of your time. I heard that the speakers would be held responsible for what they say. Thank you very much.

JOHN RAINER: We enjoy various positions from which to view the Indian problem. Sometimes those of you who are out in the field can see it better than we who are in Washington. In Washington we see the problem mostly on paper and we become alarmed-- so alarmed that sometimes I think the Indians are in a bad way, which reminds me of the story of a golfer whose ball landed on an ant hill. He took a couple of healthy swings without hitting the ball but killing hundreds of ants. About the time he was ready to take a third swing, he heard an ant remark to another, "If we are going to come out of this thing alive, we better get on the ball."

The next speaker is the type of person who is always on the ball. He has been very active in the leadership of Indian organizations. I am sure almost all the Indians connected with any Indian organizations have heard of him. He received his training in Washington, D.C. and holds a law degree from a school there. He is a veteran of the Marine Corps which means that he is well qualified to assume responsibilities physically and mentally. I take pleasure in presenting to you Mr. Robert L. Bennett.

ROBERT L. BENNETT: We are happy to be calling this Convention among the good Indian people of the Northwest. It gives on a great deal of pride to be a member of a race whose contributions to society are immeasurable, whose loyalty and patriotism to this nation have never been in doubt, and whose response to this country's needs in time of danger [[?]] unsurpassed by any other group.

-6-

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-4-



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