

BEFORE THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

THE SUIATTLE-SAUK TRIBE
 OF INDIANS on relation
 of George Enick, Chairman
 of the General Council,

Claimant,

v.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

Docket No. 97

Decided: December 18, 1952

Appearances:

Frederick W. Post, with whom was
 Donald C. Gormley,
 Attorneys for Claimant.

Donald R. Marshall and Ralph A.
 Barney, with whom was Assistant
 Attorney General William Amory
 Underhill,
 Attorneys for Defendant.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Claimant Indians sue as "The Suiattle-Sauk Tribe of Indians," sometimes known as the "Suiattle Tribe."
2. There is no substantial evidence that claimant Indians are a tribe, band or identifiable group of American Indians.
3. There is no substantial evidence that claimant Indians are successors in interest of any particular aboriginal tribe, band, or

identifiable group of American Indians.

4. There is no substantial evidence that claimant Indians are the successors in interest of any Indians who, aboriginally and up to the year 1855, resided on the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers, and exclusively occupied and definable area.

5. There is no substantial evidence that the Indians, if any, who resided on the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers, aboriginally and up to the year 1855, constituted an identifiable historic Indian tribe, band or group.

6. Each village in the area involved was politically autonomous and each village had its own section of territory.

7. There is no evidence that aboriginally and prior to 1855 there was a merger of the autonomous villages in the area involved.

8. There is no substantial evidence that claimant Indians are members of, or descendants of members of, any particular aboriginal village.

9. Claimant Indians apparently are members of, or descendants of members of, more than one autonomous aboriginal village.

10. Claimant Indians are seeking to recover for the taking of land which was occupied by more than one autonomous village.

11. The Skagit Tribe of Indians filed, on January 29, 1951, with the Indian Claims Commission as Docket No. 92, a claim based on the cession of land made by it and other tribes on January 22, 1855, which cession includes the lands involved in the instant claim, alleging that it and the other tribes conveying said lands were the

aboriginal owners thereof and had received an unconscionable consideration therefor. Claimant Indians will be the beneficiaries of any award made in said Docket No. 92 if they are descendants of members of said tribe.