March 25, 1957

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE OF INDIANS, Petitioner,)
v.)
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Defendant.)

INTERLOCUTORY ORDER

Upon the findings of fact this day filed herein, which are hereby made a part of this order, the Commission concludes as a matter of law that the date, March 8, 1859, on which the defendant acquired the lands described in Finding 29, by virtue of the Treaty of January 22, 1855, 12 Stat. 927, the petitioners and their ancestors were in the exclusive use and possession of said lands and are entitled to recover the value thereof as of March 8, 1859, less the consideration defendant paid petitioners for the cession thereof should it be determined that such consideration was unconscionable; that the petitioners are entitled to maintain this action.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that petitioners and their ancestors, on March 8, 1859, and long prior thereto, had the exclusive use and possession of said lands and that petitioners are entitled to bring and maintain this action; that the parties hereto shall now proceed with proof relating to the consideration the defendant paid petitioners or their ancestors for said lands, the value thereof at the time of the cession, and relating to such other issues of fact raised by the pleadings which are not herein disposed of.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 25th day of March, 1957.

Edgar E. Witt, Chief Commissioner
Louis J. O'Marr, Associate Commissioner
Wm. M. Holt, Associate Commissioner