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Kettle Falls, Washington
December 30, 1950

U. S. Department of Interior
Geological Survey
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington

Dear Mr. Weissenborn:

I have as of this morning received forms to fill out in regards to my request for financial assistance in my mining activities. I read over the forms, and I am afraid that I cannot qualify for any sort of loan. If I was able to fill out the form to any degree of completion, I would be a first class C. P. A., a top rate geologist, a financial wizard, and an out-of-this world economist. If I was any of these, I would not be asking for any help on this enterprise of mine. However, since I am not any of these aforenamed specialists, the picture grows rather dim as to any war effort on my part in this line.

I can give you the figures on the amount of money I need, and what I plan to do with it, should such be allowed, as near as my own judgment will allow me to estimate such things; but if I have to fill out such a monstrosity as this form is, in order to get a loan of any kind, then I thereby prove that I do not need any help financially and so the whole thing is a waste of time. There have been too many brains used in making up this form, and accordingly it leaves me out in the cold, as to following proper procedure in answering the network of questions presented.

From my observation of this questionairre, I can readily see that there is no one concerned in making up of this form that has the least bit of understanding as to the problems that face a person that engages in this prospection business. Everything is based on a point as being in production, or ready to get into production after the next shot is fired. My understanding of this Mineral Defense Act, was that it was to provide assistance to (prospectors) in getting the prospects in production, where certain minerals in short supply, were involved. I supposed this was one point, as I have read about it.

Actually, this covers only producing mines and mines that have produced heretofore. Yet, every producing mine, and every has-been producing mine, has had to go thru a stage of early prospecting as I am going thru now with my property, adn without this effort on the part of some poor devil that does not know any better, there would be no mines of any form in this world today. 'Wha-hoppen' to this little guy, that he isn't given any consideration in this brain child form?

You must understand Mr. Weissenborn, that I am not frying you on this deal, in any way, but I am only making a clear statement of facts as they exist, and I hope, if it is in order, that you send this letter to the party or parties, in Washington, D. C., where it will do the most good.

As to my property again, I wanted to borrow $3500, to clear off overburden enough so that I might be able to get at the orebody that I have uncovered. It is quite a sizeable affair, and it contains minerals which are of necessity to this war business. About 60 years ago $22,000 was spent on this piece of property, just prospecting, but they could not find the lead, and so they quit. There are shafts, incline shafts, tunnels, testholes, open-cuts, and what have you, all of which were close to the orebody, but none contacted it. In my own wildhaired system of prospecting, I have found the orebody, and it is a large one, under about 16 feet of overburden, and I have cleared off about 140 cubic yards of this overburden, but there still remains in the neighborhood of 600 cubic yards to remove yet to clear off a face to tell exactly where production work should be started. Some drilling and shooting is necessary to loosen up some of the rock so that it can be moved with a bulldozer. My work is at a point close to where the orebody came out from the side of the hill. In 6 weeks time, I can have this property ready for production, and what I mean, I have a very large orebody to start on. From what I can judge, it lays out about 30 feet by 50 feet, and how deep it is, I do not know. I believe it is in the neighborhood of 14 to 16 feet thick though. So you can see that a 5 foot shovel and me, cannot move much rock in comparison to the size of the jub that is necessary, that this property might produce during this war preparation business.

Now then, I have the property; I have the orebody located; I have the ambition to try to do something with this property; and I am willing that my efforts should be directed along a line towards assisting our war effort. But I need some money, to spped up things.

I have two entirely different leads laying one atop the other. One contains antimony, gold, and silver; the other contains copper, silver, lead, and gold. Now then, I am going to leave it this way. If some plan can be devised, so that this property may be worked for our mutual gain, all well and good; but If paper work, such as I have heretofore berated, in this letter, must be the guiding star in such procedure, and you are not otherwise interested, then let us drop the whole thing right now, and not waste each others time.

Accordingly, I suggest that there be less strain put on the brains, anc considerably more stress placed on some real action.

Very truly yours,

Troy W. Miller