

this, feeling that the better procedure would be to repeal section 7 of the 1946 law.

Senator ANDERSON. You mean striking it entirely; do you not?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Has this been approved by the Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, sir; this is the Department's position.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you feel that this is protecting the Indians' rights better than originally?

Mr. BENNETT. This would put the Yakima Tribe in the same position as all of the rest of the tribes in connection with inheritance of allotted lands where the inheritance follows the State laws. This would be the only exception on allotted lands that there is in the United States.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you, yourself, have any interest in this?

Mr. BENNETT. No, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Who proposed it originally?

Mr. BENNETT. This was introduced by Senator Morse for himself and Senator Hatfield, and we were asked to make a report on it, and we reported favorably on it.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much. Are you going to remain a while?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Will the Yakima delegation come forward, please? Who is testifying?

Mr. James Hovis. They all wish to testify, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. Will you identify yourself for the record?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT B. JIM, CHAIRMAN, YAKIMA TRIBAL COUNCIL

Mr. JIM. Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert B. Jim. I am the chairman of the Yakima Tribal Council, and I have with me three delegates, and the fourth one is on his way from the Willard Hotel. Mr. Eagle Seelatsee, Mr. Watson Totus, and Mr. George Umtuch are here. They are council members selected to testify in opposition to this bill.

Mr. George Umtuch is chairman of the Yakima General Council for the whole tribe. We are the delegates selected to oppose this, along with Mr. James B. Hovis, the tribal attorney, who will present the official statement.

Senator ANDERSON. I understand that the Yakima Indians are opposed to this bill?

Mr. JIM. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. This is the bill——

Mr. JIM. Relating to the Yakima Indians.

Senator ANDERSON. And they object to it?

Mr. JIM. The Yakima Indians object to it. We intend to submit evidence to the fact that we are opposed to this bill, S. 1764, because our tribe voted this way. This bill has been law for 22 years, so we have prepared oral testimony on this to support our prepared statement in opposition to S. 1764 in behalf of the Yakima Tribe.

I have one other delegate who is coming. He is vice president of the National Congress of American Indians and will be here about 10:30. So, if you want us to proceed, we will do so.