

Senator ANDERSON. I think you should proceed. I am anxious to know why the Indians object, and why the Department likes it.

Mr. JIM. Yes, sir. Certainly, Senator Hatfield and Senator Fannin, we would want you to know that this is a privilege to appear before you today. We are the official delegation. I think it is only pertinent to note that two of our delegates, Mr. Seelatsee and Mr. Totus, were elected from our tribe, having been elected by acclamation of the whole tribe in a legal meeting.

We, of the Yakima Tribal Council, are selected here under authority of a resolution T-10-61, section 3(c) of this act. We are the standing delegates representing the Yakima Indian Tribes on all matters for a period of 2 years. We are under the additional authority of T-38-56, a resolution of the Yakima Indian Tribe that was approved on the 26th of November, 1956. We are elected for a term of 4 years, and, as I have stated, we have brought the general council chairman who is more or less a lifetime appointee, Mr. Umtuch. He was selected as a delegate to oppose this bill.

We are descendants of a treaty made and ratified by the U.S. Senate, and we are the descendants of people who have been there 14,000 years, and we believe that this is an internal matter.

As we go along, I would like to introduce the witnesses.

First, Mr. Eagle Seelatsee.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you wish to have these people appear and testify?

Mr. JIM. Yes, Mr. Chairman. They are here.

Senator ANDERSON. I would like to know why this tribe opposes this bill?

Mr. JIM. We have a delegation here.

All of these witnesses that we intend to use will try to put across our point, why the actual act was made in the first place. We believe it was made to protect our lands from going out of trust. It is the intention to have these delegates read short statements in support of our position on this bill. We will start with Mr. Seelatsee.

Senator ANDERSON. What about this situation: The Indians say that they are opposed to it, and you say you favor it?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Why the conflict of opinion?

Mr. BENNETT. This is the Yakima Tribe. There are other tribes, however, who favor the bill.

Senator ANDERSON. What about this bill?

We have the Yakima Indians here who are opposing it.

Mr. BENNETT. This is in the interest of other tribes whose members would be entitled to inheritance on the land of the Yakima Reservation if section 7 were repealed.

At the present time, for example, if there was a member of the Warm Springs Tribe, a lady, who married a member of the Yakima Tribe and her husband died, she cannot inherit land on the Yakima Reservation, but if the reverse were true, if she would die, her Yakima husband can inherit land on the Warm Springs Reservation. This is the issue. The Yakima Tribe wishes section 7 to remain as it is, and the members of the other tribes in that area, who have many members who would otherwise inherit land on the Yakima Reservation, wish section 7 repealed.