

Senator HATFIELD. So, it is all one way, Mr. Chairman. The Yakima gets it all coming his way, but they do not give out to any others. I can see why they are opposed to change.

Senator ANDERSON. Will you please proceed?

Mr. JIM. We have Mr. Umtuch who will touch on that within his own family. We have the situation that some of his children are Yakimas and some are Warm Springs.

Senator HATFIELD. I would like to ask one further question: How was the vote within the Yakima Tribe? Was it unanimous in support of this position?

Mr. JIM. Mr. Umtuch, I believe, has that. It was 137 to 3, I think that was the vote. It has been running that way—147 to 3.

Senator ANDERSON. 147 to 3.

Mr. UMTUCH. 137 to 4.

Mr. JIM. That was 137 that were opposed to repeal. This was on December 14, 1967.

Senator HATFIELD. What was the total vote?

Mr. JIM. I do not know the total. He is prepared to submit those minutes.

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. The Yakima Tribe is overwhelmingly in opposition to the bill, and the Commissioner favors it.

Senator HATFIELD. It is all coming in their direction. I do not think that is amazing. I would be opposed to it if I were a Yakima.

STATEMENT OF EAGLE SEELATSEE, CHAIRMAN, YAKIMA ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. SEELATSEE. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Eagle Seelatsee, and I am a member of the Yakima Tribe. This bill on the Yakimas has time and time again been before this committee and other committees to try to repeal the act of August 9, 1946. The people of the Yakima Nation have been living under the Enrollment Act since it became Public Law 706 on August 9, 1946.

There were reasons for proposing such an Enrollment Act. A survey was made by the tribe and it was recommended that the only solution to our problem was to seek legislation through Congress to govern enrollment with the Yakima Tribe. In the years from 1944 to 1946 the General Council and Tribal Council both held meetings and had discussions on the ownership of trust property on the Yakima Reservation changing to fee patent, being sold and, thereby, leaving Indian ownership. This was because many of those allotted on the Yakima Reservation were not of Yakima blood, consequently their first aim was to dispose of these lands in the fastest way possible, get the money and leave the reservation. There were even cases of non-Indian marrying into the Yakima Tribe and murdering his spouse for the sake of securing ownership of the property, only to get a fee patent on the property and sell it. It is the descendants of such allottees who are now proposing such bills to amend and/or repeal the Enrollment Act.

The majority of the members of the Yakima Tribe, through the action of the General Council, have voted to oppose any move to amend or repeal the Enrollment Act. The General Council has handed down