

instructions to the Tribal Council and on to the delegates to Washington, D.C., to oppose any bill to amend or repeal the Enrollment Act. It is the belief of this majority that this is an internal matter and should be handled by the tribe itself. We believe that it is our business to know who should be enrolled with the Yakima Tribe to enjoy the rights guaranteed to us by the Treaty of June 9, 1855.

I have worked with this proposed legislation until it became Public Law 706, on our reservation, the Yakima Reservation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs also worked with that, and the Secretary of the Interior's Office and their solicitors worked with us, and the representative from the Fourth District of our home State. It is a good law as far as the Yakimas are concerned.

I thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Fannin?

Senator FANNIN. Has this issue ever been submitted to the enrolled membership for expressions from them?

Mr. SEELATSEE. Yes, sir.

Senator FANNIN. When was that done?

Mr. SEELATSEE. That was in 1946, after the bill was drafted.

Senator FANNIN. And they voted in favor of the Enrollment Act at that time?

Mr. SEELATSEE. Yes.

Senator FANNIN. Do you recall, without trying to state specifically, how many there were for it? Was it a substantial number?

Mr. SEELATSEE. Yes, it was substantially in favor of the act.

Senator FANNIN. Would you state that they overwhelmingly endorsed it?

Mr. SEELATSEE. Yes.

Senator FANNIN. I presume that that action might be made available for the benefit of the committee.

That is the last time that this issue has been presented to the tribal membership, in 1946? Has it been presented since that time?

Mr. SEELATSEE. It has been presented a number of times, three or four times, and all proposed amendments were rejected overwhelmingly. The tribe voted all times to retain the act.

Senator FANNIN. To the overall membership, not just to the council?

Mr. SEELATSEE. Yes.

Senator FANNIN. Would you be able to respond to that?

Mr. JIM. Yes, I am sure that we could make the correspondence in regard to this available to the members of the committee, but the Yakima Tribe has continuously had this problem before it as Mr. Umtuch will tell you. This has been continuously before our tribe since, I think, 1949, before the General Council. The whole tribe meets once a year, in November, and the amendment has been overwhelmingly rejected by the majority that elected us. Mr. Seelatsee and Mr. Totus are the two elected by acclamation by these people, because that was part of their platform on which they were elected, to keep this act intact, because it is believed that if too much of these trust lands go by, there will be no reservation left for us to represent.

Senator FANNIN. Those are all of the questions I have.

Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hatfield, any questions?