

Mr. JIM. Mr. Chairman, the next witness I have is Mr. Totus, who is the chairman of the Land and Legislative Committee and Law and Order Committee of the Yakima Reservation. He has for over 24 years represented the tribe. He was one of the members of the tribe when they made this law. He was elected in 1957 by acclamation, so he truly represents the people in our tribe.

Mr. Totus?

Senator ANDERSON. We will be pleased to hear from you now.

STATEMENT OF WATSON TOTUS, MEMBER, YAKIMA TRIBAL COUNCIL

Mr. TOTUS. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee.

My name is Watson Totus, and I have been a member of the Yakima Tribal Council for 24 years. My father was a member of the same Council and a Chief of this tribe before me, as was my grandfather. All my life I have spent being interested in tribal affairs and doing the best that I can for my tribe.

I have followed this enrollment problem for many years. We got very disturbed about the problem some 25 years ago when it appeared that our land base was being broken up and tossed to the winds. We even found that there were many people that were marrying our women and our men just for the purpose of being able to inherit their allotment. We also found out, and were worried about the fact, that the allotments were being broken up into many, many interests. We have worked against this multiple heirship and the breakup of our land base in two ways.

First, we were advised and we counseled and talked and, with the aid of the Government, we thought that the best thing to do would be to provide that only Yakimas could inherit, and this was agreed upon by our people and by everybody so that section 7 of the Yakima Enrollment Act was enacted. This helped keep the land in the hands of the people that it came from—the members of the 14 bands and tribes.

Then, the next step that we took, in order to allow people who had been given land from the tribe and could not pass it on to their heirs, to sell it back to the tribe. Also to keep the land in larger parcels so that we would not have large administrative problems, we got our own land act. This act has allowed us to purchase from members who wished to sell, because they can't pass their land on or for other reasons, their interests in allotments or the full allotment itself. We think we have done a good job in this regard, and we have been complimented by everyone for our forward-looking ideas in this matter. We have spent a large amount of tribal funds trying to correct the problems created by the General Allotment Act.

Prior to the year 1967 we had purchased over \$4 million worth of land on our reservation to help solve the problem. In fiscal year 1967, we spent \$625,422 to purchase lands from 408 people. We are doing the same thing in fiscal year 1968, but I do not have those figures available right now, but it is well in excess of \$5 million total. In addition to these amounts, there have been sales between tribal members which also has helped that problem.

In 1966 there was almost \$100,000 in sales, while in 1967 there was about \$75,000. From this you can see that we are doing the very best