

that we can try to solve a problem within our own tribe. We feel that this is an internal tribal matter and one that we can best handle by ourselves. We have been complimented by everyone before as to what we are doing to try to be fair to everybody and yet settle the problem that everybody has. Other tribes have a lot more complicated situations than we have and it is one that has bothered Congress, the tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and everyone. Everyone has told us that we are doing the best job, and we hope that Congress will let us continue with our plans and leave us alone in what we think is an internal tribal matter.

If this situation is as bad as some of these people say it is, I can assure you that the vote against this bill would be a lot stronger. As you can see, a very, very, very small minority—three, four people—are the people who are voting for amending the act.

The fact that we have been doing these things has cut down the administration costs, too, when it comes to the Realty Department at Toppenish. We want to continue to do this. We think it is important that expenses going toward administration be reduced as much as possible, whether it comes from gratuity funds or from tribal funds.

Senator ANDERSON. Any questions, Senator Fannin?

Senator FANNIN. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hatfield, any questions?

Senator HATFIELD. No questions.

Senator ANDERSON. We thank you.

Who is next?

Mr. JIM. The next witness will be Mr. George Umtuch. He is chairman of the Yakima General Council. He is presently elected for the term. Also, we may state so you might know that he was one of the general councilmen when they made this act some years ago; also some of his children are enrolled in Warm Springs and some are in Yakima. I think that should be noted here.

Mr. Umtuch?

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

STATEMENT OF GEORGE UMTUCH, DELEGATE, YAKIMA TRIBE

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

I am George Umtuch, and I have been chairman of the General Council, which is open to every adult member 18 years old and up of the Yakima Nation, since 1950. I have held the office of vice chairman before this.

The Yakima Enrollment Act was the wish of the members of the Yakima General Council. The Yakima General Council still stands by the Yakima Enrollment Act and resists its amendment.

Just at the last General Council meeting, we took this up. We had listed for discussion the bill we are here to talk about, S. 1764. The General Council voted to oppose this bill, S. 1764, 137 against any amendment, 3 for S. 1764.

Everyone was given a right to talk—most of the time of the discussion was taken up by Mrs. Frailey, who talked for S. 1764. She only convinced two other people to vote for S. 1764. While this is the current vote, only last December, all other votes on the amendment of the Yakima Enrollment Act showed the same thing.