

If I think it is of very little importance insofar as inheritance of property on other reservations is concerned. I do not think it means too much to them. So with that I would like to turn it back to our attorney.

Mr. PANNER. Thank you, Olney.

Senator, the Yakima Inheritance Act, section 7, provides, briefly, that no one who is not a member of the Yakima Tribe and who does not have 25 percent or more of the blood of the Yakima tribal members can inherit trust property on the Yakima Reservation, either real or personal property. This act was passed in 1946, and there was a good bit of comment about it this morning by the Yakimas.

I am not sure whether a vote of the Yakima people was taken before the act was passed. I do know there were some general council meetings in which it was shown the tribe favored the bill.

As it was pointed out here this morning, the Interior Department made no report until after the Congress had passed the bill. We are not sure exactly why, but they did recommend it after it had passed. They recommended that the President sign it.

Now some 20 years have indicated the drastic consequences of this section 7, in particular. It is bordering on unconstitutional. I think probably Congress had the power and the regulation of Indian affairs to do it, but it works a terrible injustice on not only other tribes but on individual Yakimas.

There was mentioned here this morning by the Yakima delegation that the Yakima Tribe has repeatedly supported the continuation of this act, but these are at general council meetings, at meetings on the reservation where the presentation has been made that this will result in termination to the Yakima Tribe or some drastic consequences to the Yakima Tribe if this is changed.

Every other tribe that I know of has the same situation that we are asking you to put the Yakimas in. That is, if you repeal section 7, they will be in the same position that the Warm Springs, Umatillas, all of the other Northwest tribes are in.

For years we have introduced reciprocity legislation, one type of legislation or another, in an attempt to correct this situation. What happens is that a Yakima family, where the wife is Yakima, and the husband is a Warm Springs, have children. Some of them may be Yakima children and some of them Warm Springs because, as you know, enrollment depends on their residence at the time the child was born, so that when a Yakima member dies the Yakima children inherit all of their parents' property on the Yakima Reservation, and his share of the property on the Warm Springs Reservation, for example.

Mr. Jackson will mention some of these specific examples, and I might add to that, as far as I know, I am quite sure, that there has never been a vote of all of the members at any kind of a general election other than a general council meeting on the reservation.

We have attached to our statement four written statements by Yakima members who are opposed to this provision of the act. These are four that we picked up at the Warm Springs Agency. They have signed letters, and the letters are in there for the record. In addition to that, I have a copy of a letter, the original of which was sent to