

Now, the Yakima Reservation is probably one of the most productive reservations in the United States. They have an irrigation project that is probably the most productive in the United States, but 90 percent of the acreage on the project is farmed by non-Indians. So, in effect, the Indians are landlords and collect the rentals.

Senator McGOVERN. They lease it out?

Mr. GRORUD. Yes, and it is a bad situation. I would suggest that the Secretary call an election so that every Indian will have an opportunity to say whether or not they will agree to legislation of this kind, and I predict that, knowing the Yakima Indians as I do, that perhaps 90 percent of them will vote in favor of repealing the entire act, and I believe that in order that the committee may be wholly informed, an election should be held.

Now, the Yakima Indians have been very much encouraged by this new activity by the two Senators from Oregon in introducing this bill which would repeal section 7. If the Yakima Tribe is afforded an opportunity to vote at a properly conducted election, a vast majority will favor the repeal of the act of 1946.

I do not know, it used to be about 4,600 members of the tribe, and about half of them live off the reservation. A lot of them live in Seattle, Tacoma, and other coast cities on the west side of the Cascade Range.

Senator McGOVERN. But you think in a referendum or election of some kind that the overwhelming majority of the tribal members would vote to repeal this section?

Mr. GRORUD. Yes; they are in favor of repealing the entire act.

Senator McGOVERN. Yes.

Mr. GRORUD. But they would be very grateful even if section 7 were repealed.

Senator McGOVERN. Yes.

Mr. GRORUD. It is a very bad situation.

Senator McGOVERN. So you say the majority of them are in favor of the bill that is before the committee?

Mr. GRORUD. Yes. But they would ask to amend it which includes section 4. It passed the House which repealed section 4 and section 7, so we felt it would go through. But the tribal council was strong enough, I assume politically, to defeat it from being considered by the Senate.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you very much.

Mr. GRORUD. Thank you very much.

I would like to get permission to file a statement and get sufficient time. The Indians whom I represent have no money to hire anybody.

Senator McGOVERN. We will keep the record open for a few days.

Mr. GRORUD. I would like to have about 30 days. How about 20 days?

Senator McGOVERN. Can you do it in 15? You cannot get it in in a couple of weeks?

Mr. GRORUD. A couple of weeks. All right, I will try to do that. I do all the work without any help. It is difficult, but I will prepare my statement within that time.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you.

Mr. GRORUD. Thank you.

Mr. PANNER. Mr. Chairman, if I might, about this last statement, I would like to say even though I am in favor of repealing this section, I do not believe that a great majority of the Yakimas would over-