

The bill (S. 2013) to repeal the act of August 9, 1946, providing for the preparation of a membership roll of the Indians of the Yakima Reservation, introduced by Mr. Cain, was read twice by its title and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

The petition is as follows:

PETITION

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

March 21, 1951.

Hon. HARRY CAIN,
U.S. Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR CAIN: We herewith present a petition signed by 427 members of the Yakima Tribe of Indians, these signatures representing at least 2,000 of our members. The petition sets forth as follows:

"Whereas Public Law No. 706, Seventy-ninth Congress, second session, chapter 933 (H.R. 6165)—An act to provide for the preparation of a membership roll of the Indians of the Yakima Reservation, Wash., and for other purposes—was approved August 9, 1946:

"Whereas the Congress' long-established objective has been to encourage the Indians, particularly the young Indians, to become self reliant, self sufficient, and independent;

"Whereas this act goes against these objectives and is a step backward rather than forward because—

"A. The tribal council is given the absolute power to strike from the roll at any time (1) Any Yakima of $\frac{1}{4}$ or more blood who has not lived in the Yakima country for 5 years, or (2) Any Yakima of $\frac{1}{4}$ or more blood who has not joined in tribal activities or functions for 5 years, who is without allotment or inherited interest but who is otherwise eligible to be allotted or to inherit.

"*Example.*—A young Yakima of full blood or one-fourth goes away to trade school. He learns a trade and finds employment in a distant city, out of the Yakima country. He supports himself and perhaps marries and raises a family, but lives where his job is, which is out of the Yakima country. His parents are allotted on the Yakima Reservation and want their own flesh and blood son to inherit their allotments. But he cannot inherit, unless he quits his job and moves back.

"*Example.*—A Yakima of full blood or one-fourth lives on the Yakima Reservation but he does not join in tribal activities or functions. He does not mix around, but stays strictly to himself. He may find himself stricken from the roll because he did not maintain any tribal affiliations.

"The result is that Indians are encouraged not to find work or occupation beyond the borders of the Yakima country and are encouraged not to become independent, for fear of being disinherited by their own tribe and unable to inherit from their own people.

"B. There is no simple or convenient appeal procedure set up for appeal from the tribal council.

"Whereas the clause 'who has failed to maintain any tribal affiliations' is so loose and indefinite that it can be arbitrarily and capriciously used to exclude otherwise deserving Yakima Indians, and therefore, vests despotic powers in the tribal council;

"Whereas the act deprives allottees and persons with inherited interests of the natural expectation and assurance, that their descendants, who are the natural objects of their bounty, will inherit, but sets up an unnatural scheme, which can cut off their own flesh and blood, and creates complex problems of who is to inherit instead: Now, therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That this act be repealed or changed to eliminate the evils mentioned.

"Dated in February 1951.

"HATTIE PURVIS HOPTOWIT (And 426 others)."

The principal reason for this petition is the request for a repeal of the act of August 9, 1946 (60 Stat. 968). Among other things it provides for the preparation of a new membership roll of the Yakima Indians.

We believe this legislation was instigated and promoted by the Indian Bureau through a tribal council controlled by it.

The Yakima Indians had rejected the Wheeler-Howard Act approximately 10 years before the Indian Bureau and the tribal council started to promote the legislation contained in the act of August 9, 1946. In other words, when the Bureau and its tribal council failed to sell the Wheeler-Howard Act to the