

COLVILLE TERMINATION

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETIETH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

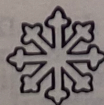
H.R. 3051

TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMINATION OF FEDERAL SUPERVISION OVER THE PROPERTY OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COLVILLE INDIANS LOCATED IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HEARING HELD JULY 12, 1968

Serial No. 90-30

Printed for the use of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1968

and traditions varied. This created situations where a common purpose was and has continued to be difficult to establish. The opening up of the north half in the 1890's for homestead resulted in most of these people being pressed onto the south half. In 1916 each member was allotted a tract of land, certain areas set aside for tribal use (this is the tribal property now owned by these tribes) and the remainder of the diminished Colville Indian Reservation was opened for homestead entry. These two events brought an influx of white settlers. The inter-marriage of the members of these tribes and members of the tribes with the white settlers has brought on a situation so that it is next to impossible to determine from what band or tribe the Indian child of today descended. For more than one hundred years there has been in the territory comprising this reservation and adjacent territory a continued inter-marriage of Indians of these tribes and the whites. This has brought forth the so called "blue eyed Indian". It is not unusual to find the "blue eyed Indian" more insistent on maintaining the Indian traits than is the full blood.

Thus we have a situation on the Colville Indian Reservation that is not comparable with that of any other Indian reservation with which I am familiar. Hence, in dealing with the problems of these people of this reservation it can hardly be on the same basis as dealing with the problems of Indian people on other Indian reservations.

We believe the general provisions of this Bill provide a ways and means of doing the greatest good for the greatest number of those involved better than any other plan yet proposed. Failure to enact it only prolongs and complicates the problems of these people and that of the government. It should be enacted at this session of Congress.

Mr. NICHOLSON. I do have more copies of this official statement which I will leave with the clerk.

I believe that concludes our testimony. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you for being here and for having your people here and staying within a reasonable time. We appreciate that very much.

Mr. NICHOLSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. The next group of witnesses is the Colville Business Council minority representatives, represented by Mrs. Lucy Covington, Mr. Frank George, Mrs. Shirley Palmer, and Mrs. Virginia Andrews.

STATEMENT OF MRS. LUCY COVINGTON, ACCOMPANIED BY FRANK GEORGE AND MRS. SHIRLEY PALMER, COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL (MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES)

Mr. HALEY. Will you all come to the witness table. I see you are missing one witness.

Mr. COVINGTON. We have another minority member, but she went through surgery and could not attend with us.

Mr. HALEY. I see.

Will you identify the people there so that we will have it for the record.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes. I am Lucy Covington, council member, member of the Business Council of the Colville Confederated Tribes. I represent the minority group. I should say we represent the minority group of the business council. I have to my left here, Mr. Frank George who is of the Colville Business Council, and Mrs. Shirley Palmer of the business council.

We did have Mrs. Virginia Andrews, a newly elected council member, who went through surgery and could not come at this time, as she is still in the hospital.

Mr. HALEY. You may
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Mr. HALEY. You may proceed, Mrs. Covington.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Berry, Mr. Meeds, members of this committee,

as time is short and, of course, the speaker is a little nervous—
Mr. HALEY. You mean that you are a little nervous, Mrs. Covington?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes.

Mr. HALEY. Don't worry about these fellows here on my right or left, because this thing [indicating] the gavel, takes care of them. So you are just talking to four men. You shouldn't be nervous at that. Go ahead.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Thank you.

Time was short. We tried to get a spokesman. I would like to have Mrs. Palmer and Mr. George make a short statement after I make our presentation.

Our travel membership roll, as you know, was over 5,000. One of the things that I think all of the minority group has objected to is the system that is used for voting. If this bill becomes a reality then we would have a referendum vote which gives only the adult members the right to vote. The other half of our membership who are minors are denied any voice in this decision, although they hold just as much equity, I would say, in our resources as a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes.

We have stressed many times that they should have the right to a voice by either having a guardian or their parents to decide for them and not just by a few of the adult members. They share in the per capita equally, and in everything else but in this termination bill.

The minority group has objected to all the terminables that have been in effect up to this present time in their entirety. We have the feeling that this is not the time for our membership to terminate. If you would terminate it now, we have many resources that are untapped undeveloped. In fact, I think we live on practically a virgin soil virgin timber, and all, in that area. In the past you may say that we haven't done anything to develop these areas, but we have never had the funds nor the knowledge of doing these things. In these days there are Government programs that make things more helpful and available to Indians that could be used by the Colvilles but they have not taken advantage of any of the OEO programs or the self-help programs that other tribes have been using because of this termination bill. I think while we are fighting termination and they are advocating termination, they feel they are oppressed, the only reason that I could see that people want termination is not to get away from Government controls—Government controls protect and hold our land in trust so that we can own it. Any time a person gets a deed to the land they can do anything they want to, and it has been practiced by many of these people that they end up landless. We have over a million acres of land. We have some very good potential shoreland, wonderful lakes that could be developed. Our housing program could have been upgraded in the last few years but we are so busy fighting termination and liquidation. Liquidation means only one thing, as I said, that would be that they want money. Money will not solve the Colville problem or the Indian problem. In fact, I think it would take away all the advantages that we have now in education. Education has made

great strides in my time. I went to school at a time when they did not have the 10th grade and I had to go to a boarding school to finish high school. I will always say that a boarding school has always been one of the best things that has happened to our Indians. From our area we have a number who are going to boarding schools and I know they will be integrating much more easily than they do when they attend public schools where there is a great deal of discrimination.

The opinion polls that have been used a great deal in trying to reach termination, I believe are outdated completely because at the last election of this year the people against termination, the candidates that were supported by the people against termination won four seats with the election on the reservation, but they lost when the absentee ballots came in. We have gained ground to the extent that there were 1,198 votes for candidates against termination and 1,214 for candidates for termination. So I believe that alone would speak that that opinion poll would have a different story if they would have another opinion poll at this time.

Mr. HALEY. Mrs. Covington, you separated the actual votes and the absentee votes, I believe. I presume that the actual physical votes that you had the day of the election were probably the votes of the people who were on the reservation; is that right? How do you tabulate your votes? In my State, of course, you go in and vote on a machine. Then the absentee votes are counted after the tabulation of the machine votes.

How did the votes on the reservation for termination compare with the votes from people in Spokane and Seattle and everywhere else that they happen to be? Do you have any idea?

Mrs. COVINGTON. I do have some figures here somewhere. On the reservation the votes were much more for the people that were against termination than those for termination.

Mr. HALEY. Do you suppose you could supply those figures for the record at a later time?

Mrs. COVINGTON. I certainly will.

Mr. HALEY. We would appreciate it.

One more question. One of the things that disturbed me when I was out there conducting hearings was the rumor or statement that was made that the Forest Service, if the termination bill was passed, would buy the reservation for \$100 million. Do you know where that rumor started? Who brought that to the attention of the people on the reservation? You heard that rumor, have you not?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes, we have heard that rumor. Mostly, it was the \$40,000 payment that each person would receive. I believe it originated with CIA and then later by the liquidation promoters. But as soon as we start saying that it was not so, they have denied that they have ever used that. But I know that they had used that, \$100 million.

Mr. HALEY. Was there some report out there, in order to refresh your recollection?

Mrs. COVINGTON. The Stanford Research report.

Mr. HALEY. That valued the entire holdings of the Colville Tribe at around \$100 million?

Mrs. COVINGTON. That is right.

Mr. HALEY. And later on, apparently a rumor or some rumors originated there somewhere that each member of the tribe would

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receive about \$47,000 and that the Forest Service would buy this tract of land and the Indians would still remain during their lifetime on the reservation; have you heard that?

Mrs. COVINGTON. That has been rumored, Mr. Haley.

Of course, when you tell people who need money such a thing, they believe it. Their belief is that it states in the bill where they are requesting the Forest Service to buy the forest.

Mr. HALEY. Did you ever hear that statement made by any member or any person employed by the Forest Service?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Have any of you? I do not believe I have.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you very much. I merely wanted to quiet a rumor here that apparently is being put out.

I just hope we will find out—of course, later on, though, we will find out if the Forest Service has been involved in any such situation. If it has, I want to know where they are going to get the \$100 million.

Mrs. COVINGTON. That is one of the fears that we have, because if this bill became effective there are so many flaws in it that we don't know—these people know they are going to get their money—they think they know they are going to get their money and then they vote for liquidation. Then it doesn't become a reality but they are terminated people. Then what? You can't turn the clock back. They will say "You haven't informed us." They haven't really been informed.

I would challenge, in fact, the majority of the council, if you brought them up here and questioned some of the members on their bill, I doubt if they could fully answer it without their two or three leaders here. The others I don't believe would be able to answer the meaning of the bill that they want enacted.

Would you like to say something at this time?

Mr. GEORGE. No.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Mrs. Palmer.

Mrs. PALMER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Shirley Palmer. I am a member of the minority group of the business council. I will not read a statement at this time but I would like to have you know that we do have a written statement which you probably have on file.

Mr. HALEY. While we are on that subject, the joint statement of Lucy Covington, Shirley Palmer, Frank George, and Virginia Andrews will be made a part of the record at this point in the proceedings.

(The statement follows:)

JOINT STATEMENT OF LUCY COVINGTON, SHIRLEY PALMER, FRANK GEORGE AND VIRGINIA ANDREWS, ALL OF NESPELEM, WASH., ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION, AND MEMBERS OF THE COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL.

We, Lucy Covington, Shirley Palmer, Frank George and Virginia Andrews all enrolled tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and elected members of the Colville Business Council, the tribal governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, oppose the enactment of H.R. 3051 and S. 282, bills designed to terminate the Federal supervision over the property of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, State of Washington.

We request that we be recorded among those who do not subscribe to the views of the Colville Business Council as expressed in the statement submitted to the

Committee by the Chairman of the Business Council in behalf of the liquidator majority who control the tribal governing body.

We are opposed to termination of Federal supervision over our trust-held land. It should be understood by all that this Federal supervision only concerns the management of the trust-held land on the Colville Indian Reservation and the trust holdings of individual members on other Indian reservations where they acquired land through inheritance. The trust status does not affect the person of the individual Indian enrolled on the Colville Reservation or any other Indian reservation where the Department of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of upholding the trust obligations of the Federal Government that had its beginning some time after the formation of our National Government.

This problem of extending full citizenship to the American Indians is something that one can describe as being of a highly intricate nature. Indians were accorded citizenship so that they could exercise their right of franchise. The act of June 2, 1924, was enacted because of a long and complicated history of Indian and Federal Government relations. The Indians still have many additional rights of a vested nature which we do not want to relinquish.

The subject of termination brings up many aspects that should be given careful consideration and much deliberation. Non-Indians and tribal members of predominantly non-Indian quantum of blood have a widespread misunderstanding and ignorance of what constitutes an Indian and his rights. They are not knowledgeable about the Indians of today. On the subject of American Indians, most of our non-Indian citizens are imbued with the misconception that somewhere scattered around the West are Indian reservations and these reservations are something like concentration camps. That they are areas—little pieces of land into which the Indians were herded a hundred or more years ago to get them out of everybody else's way. Many of the non-Indians, especially those in the East have humanitarian instincts who say in all sincerity that it is unfair to keep Indians penned up on these reservations. That they should be free. This is a widespread opinion, a widespread feeling which probably exists in the minds of millions of Americans when people come up with proposals like that which emanated during the Eisenhower administration and which is now being revived by Senator Henry M. Jackson and Congressman Tom Foley to "free" the Indian.

We have had Presidents of the United States visit countries overseas. Our Presidents have sent emissaries to many countries throughout the world. Yet, the President of the United States is seldom known to have visited the Indian reservation in many years or if ever. The Government of the United States spends a large sum of money for countries overseas and for backward people whose economies need assistance. There are a lot of reasons for that. It also takes and needs a lot of people to reason why the Federal Government doesn't also take care of our own, help our own. One glaring reason seems to be that those in the Government also do not understand. We have a very large problem concerned with the functions of a people living on Indian reservations and the thinking of groups who propose a so-called trend toward assimilation through termination or liquidation of the Federal-Indian trust relationship.

There are many denials on the part of the sanctimonious people who are our adversaries who say that termination is not aimed at Indian property. We say that it is. We say that these selfish motives are the only reasons why pressures for termination of Federal-Indian trusteeship exists today.

American Indians have always placed a strong emphasis on the land. The late Gen. Patrick Hurley said many years ago that the red stripes on the American flag could very well represent the blood that the American Indians shed in defending the homeland of their people since time immemorial. The land that is now in Indian ownership came about because of the early struggles of the strong Indian leaders who served notice that the Indian was not going to give up his holdings in exchange for words of deceit and chicanery. They never adhered to a sellout philosophy. This land has been Indian-held for untold millenniums. We feel that we should continue to hold on to our land base which had been retained at the price of bloodshed on the battlefields of military warfare with the Indians fighting a force which held itself to be representing a superior race—a race that wanted to civilize the American Indian through expropriation, forced migration, or physical decimation which followed a theory that the issue could be resolved by eradicating the Indian from the face of the earth. When that did not work, now we are faced with the descendants of the same groups trying to achieve the same objective by having us step down through several strata of superior rights and prerogatives to a full citizenship. What could not be done by earlier crude methods can now be realized by passing a

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The generations of Indians before our lifespan held dearly to our lands, and it would not be right to have go out of Indian ownership at the expense of the generations of Indians yet unborn who would enjoy our resources as members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The big sellout theory being pushed by Ruby Babcock, a tribal member of low quantum of Indian blood, who now dominates the thinking of the liquidator members who serve on the business council and who carry out a plan to destroy the tribal land base by termination legislation which was ill conceived and will not result in anything good for the people affected. The plan to terminate Federal trusteeship is unsound in every way. We need to study carefully and thoroughly the whole range of problems that face Indian people. These problems are difficult and oftentimes frustrating because of the clash of thinking between those who follow a mercenary trail to cash in on the dollar value of tribal holdings through terminal legislation and those who not only identify themselves as Indians but are recognized in their communities as Indians. On the other hand, we have tribal members who do not want to make known the fact that they may be of small quantum of Indian blood, but they are most vocal when it comes to getting benefits as Indians. At all other times, they feel that it is a biological disadvantage to be an Indian.

Actually, organizations like tribal governments—the Colville Business Council in this instance—should exist only for the benefit of the tribe or tribes that they represent, and certainly not for the leaders and the interests who want to exploit Indian landholdings at the expense of the Indian landowners.

We feel that we are presently the victims of power-seeking persons who for purposes of self-aggrandizement want to seek controls to serve their purposes. They are seeking power and not acting because of an intense interest in the welfare of the entire tribal membership. Our adversaries are using the pretext that what they propose is something that must be done. Certainly they are not presenting it as self-aggrandizement. So, as we will prove, the motives of the liquidator promoters is not hard to detect nor is it hard to evaluate.

Our opposition stems from the fact that the majority members of the Colville Business Council have ignored the minority to the point that they are not represented on committees where major policy decisions are made and the minority is not advised as to what is in store for the rank and file membership. Our contention is that the majority is listening too attentively to special interest groups rather than looking to the benefit of the whole tribe.

We want to follow a course of action that will include planning to meet the needs of the tribes. We do not have that assurance as we will prove through submission of the makeup of the business council committees and the fact that members of the council representing a district having a largest concentration of fullblood Indians and Indians of substantial Indian blood who own far more trust land than the members who espouse termination.

We are of the firm conviction that tribal leaders should plan to meet the needs of the tribes and in doing so bring about such social and economic arrangements as will permit each member the opportunity of developing his ability to the fullest possible extent. Intelligent planning can ease hostile tension between factions of the tribes. No plan should be so rigid as to prevent ideas of a good kind from being accepted. Yet the liquidation promoters want to do all the planning, and the planning is delegated to those who support their political views and use this norm rather than considering the ability of those who could participate. The minority is not represented at any time, and the Congress of termination is unilateral should become cognizant of this factor. The proposal of termination is unilateral on the part of the majority, and we will point up additional inadequacies of the liquidators and the unsoundness of their plans. They speak of "equality" in the verbiage of their statement couched in sanctimony, but they ignore the true interests of the real Indians for whom the trust responsibilities were originally evolved by the Federal Government.

In our argument in opposition to the pending bills involving termination provisions which are now before the 90th Congress, we must necessarily dwell on the present nature of our tribal government leadership. We will cite specific acts of the council majority and thereby make known why we hold to the view that it would be inopportune to enact terminal legislation in the form presented and endorsed by the Colville liquidator promoters. This is one of the motivating factors behind our opposition to the pending legislation which provides for the ending of Federal supervision over the trust-held lands of the Confederated

Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation. The confederated tribes are identified as a group of tribes, 12 in number—Lake, Colville, San Poil, Nespelem, Okanogan, Methow, Chelan, Entiat, Wenatchee, Columbia (Moses), Yakima Palouse, and the Joseph Band of the Nez Perce Indians. The constitution and bylaws of the Colville Confederated Tribes were ratified by the enrolled membership on February 26, 1938, and approved by Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier on April 19, 1968. Since that time, the constitution has been amended by referendum of the tribes through the adding of five amendments which were duly approved by the Department of the Interior.

The Colville Business Council was created with the intent that it would serve as a democratic organization evincing a fairness to all—tribal council members and other tribal members—based upon the enduring principles on which this Nation is founded. Under these principles provisions are made for minorities to be represented and heard. A tribal governing body is a deliberative body and must have some system of conducting business and some rules to govern the proceedings. The Colville Business Council, under its present leadership, operates under rules that are contrary to all general rules of parliamentary procedure. For example, the council majority enacted rules of procedure as follows:

"That during meetings of the Colville Business Council, motions to rescind and/or motions to reconsider the following designated types of resolutions shall require approval by a two-thirds majority (nine) of the members of the Colville Business Council for passage:

- "1. Election of officers.
- "2. Appointment of committee chairmen.
- "3. Appointments of committee members.
- "4. Appointments of officers either from within or without the business council membership.
- "5. Creation of committees.
- "6. Duties and authorities of all appointive committees and officers.
- "7. Legislative matters acted on by the present business council and none other.
- "8. Establishment of self-governing rules and procedures for conducting meetings. (Authorized by the present business council only.)"

The present council majority rejected a motion to operate under Roberts' Rules of Order.

There are 14 elected councilmen but under the present regime the leadership is guided by a 15th person who is appointive and did not have to run for elective office. She is the operating head of the Colville Liquidator Promoters. The resolution setting forth her duties grants her more privileges than that given to members of the tribal governing body. She has blanket authority to accompany all tribal delegations. She is authorized to undertake special assignments of work under the direction of the chairman or vice chairman of the legislative committee and/or the chairman of the Colville Business Council. We do not have access to disbursement vouchers made to pay her but the extent of her activities should be ascertained. She is listed as an assistant to the legislative committee of the council, and answers rollcall at all council meetings. Many of the tribesmen are becoming aware of the influence Mrs. Ruby Babcock wields over the council majority. She dominates a majority of the liquidator councilmen.

There is an inequity in the committee assignments as far as the Nespelem District council members are concerned. There are no members of the Nespelem District on the major committees like finance; health, education, and welfare; land and forestry; and enrollment.

The finance committee has four members and two of them are from the Omak District. This committee prepares tribal budgets, considers all tribal financial matters, disbursements, tribal revenue, and has jurisdiction on all tribal contractual agreements.

The health, education, and welfare committee is a four-member committee and two of the members are from the Omak District and two from Inchelium. This committee considers educational programs; scholarship awards; protection of health, security, and general welfare of the tribes.

The land and forestry committee is composed of four members and two of the members are from the Keller District. This committee deliberates on timber sales, forestry practice, grazing, soil conservation, land transactions, proposed projects and construction, road easements, road maintenance, and other related subjects.

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The enrollment committee is a four-member committee and two members are from the Inchelium District, 3 members of $\frac{1}{8}$ th quantum blood. This committee considers all tribal enrollments, adoptions, and disenrollment problems on the Coleville Reservation.

The legislative committee is a nine-member committee and is made up entirely of the liquidator group. This committee deals with the responsibility of considering and recommending on all legislative problems and related matters (including claims) affecting the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and to take action whenever necessary to either further the enactment or the defeat of legislation whichever purpose is in accord with business council approval.

We feel that the Nespelem District should be represented on the committees mentioned hereinabove if the best interest of all segments of the tribal membership is to be served in a fair and equitable manner without bias or partiality in any form.

Public Law 871 amended title 18 by adding section 1163 which reads as follows:

Section 1163. Embezzlement and theft from Indian tribal organizations.

"Whoever embezzles, steals, abstracts, purloins, knowingly converts to his use or the use of another, willfully misapplies, or willfully permits to be misapplied, any of the moneys, funds, credits, goods, assets, or other property belonging to any Indian tribal organization or intrusted to the custody or care of any officer, employee, or agent of an Indian tribal organization; or

"Whoever, knowing any such moneys, funds, credits, goods, assets, or other property to have been so embezzled, stolen, abstracted, purloined, converted, misapplied or permitted to be misapplied, receives, conceals, or retains the same with intent to convert it for his use or the use of another;

"Shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both; but if the value of such property does not exceed the sum of \$100, he shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

"As used in this section, the term 'Indian tribal organization' means any tribe, band or community of Indians which is subject to the laws of the United States relating to Indian affairs or any corporation, association, or group which is organized under any such laws."

The above cited law and others have been violated by several of the members of the Colville Business Council who have drawn pay but have failed to fulfill their obligation as delegates.

In any event, we seek the right for a public disclosure by the Indian Bureau or the Department of Justice so that appropriate action can be taken by the tribal membership, in the absence of tribal council action, to remove tribal council members under the provisions of the tribal constitution.

Serious enrollment problems now exist due to using the 1937 census roll as the basic roll. The 1937 census roll is not a true and correct roll and many discrepancies exist in regard to quantum of Indian blood, birth dates, and other related documentation. We feel that the 1937 census roll should not be used because it is unfair to enroll people lacking the required Indian blood quantum but who are declared to be eligible because of erroneous information reflected by the 1937 roll. The tribe should be allowed to correct blood degrees of duly enrolled tribal members where the need for correction is in evidence. Also, we object to the enrollment of persons who were denied tribal membership over 50 years ago for very valid reasons.

Dealing with mineral rights and hunting and fishing privileges, we believe that any legislation should clearly spell out the fact that the tribes would be paid severance damages for the termination of Indian status hunting and fishing privileges and that a thorough mineral survey be made in order to best ascertain the value of the mineral rights on the Colville Indian Reservation. The tribal membership should know what they are going to get for giving up their mineral rights and hunting and fishing privileges and also their vested rights on the Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake that borders the South and Eastern Shores.

The liquidator group has sent delegations to Washington, D.C., in an effort to bring about enactment of terminal legislation. They made a trip in August 1965 and will no doubt be sending other delegations during the coming year. Since they authorize delegations made up of the 10 liquidator members, we ask that provision be made so that the remaining 4 tribal council members who oppose the terminal legislation be authorized by congressional request to appear

at hearings or conferences where terminal legislation is discussed. In this way the views offered by the Colville Business Council will not be unilateral as has been the case in the most recent past.

We have already stated our opposition to the bill in separate statements, but we also urge that the foregoing joint statement be made a part of the record on the field hearings held on S. 1413, H.R. 5925, and H.R. 6331.

Respectfully submitted.

LUCY COVINGTON.
SHIRLEY PALMER.
FRANK GEORGE.
VIRGINIA ANDREWS.

Mrs. COVINGTON. There is another problem that has been of great concern to us.

They mention the closing of the rolls and the members on those rolls. I think if we would go back—I will go back in history. If we were a little more careful with our enrollment we would not have this problem today. Because of the enrollment which we didn't participate in years ago—the Bureau handled a great deal of it—that enrolled many people and adopted many people. There are some on this council at the present time that were adopted into the membership. If we had a better system on the council it would have avoided this. On the majority side, we have several members that are one-eighth degree Indian blood. There are two people on that council that my father went out and got a petition for to be on the rolls. The consultant is one of them. They mention that the people from the Nespelem and the Nez Perce and Moses Bands are the people that are fighting this termination. Mr. Snyder, Ruby Babcock, and Thelma Marchand, they did come on under the Moses agreement, so they are in that same category. They are not the original Colvilles that lived in that area. So they came on the reservation with the Moses Band. I do have Colville blood in me. I would say I do belong to that band. I also belong to the other two bands that were mentioned. I think the Nespelem people are wise to know that if they lose their land base they would not have anything left over.

Now, when I mentioned this roll, I was going to refer to the 1937 roll but I got carried away. The 1937 roll, which is recognized, I believe is erroneous because the degree of Indian blood that is on them—it was a census roll by the Bureau, and later was recommended to the business council to accept as their basic roll. On that roll I am one-half degree Indian. Actually, I am three-fourths. I don't have to have research on my ancestors. I know who they are. Now, as an example, our chairman of the business council is on the roll as a full blood but he is not a full blood. So you could see with just those two names that this basic roll is not a true roll, which if we were terminated would be used as the roll. So that is one of the problems that we have. Of course, we know that if this bill goes on there has been a recommendation, I think from the Bureau, for a reduced reservation. Our reservation has been reduced in the past and many of my people feel it is better off to have a little piece of land than none at all. But before I came there was one person who was asked to support this reduced reservation, who has hardly any education, but she said, "The best thing for you to do is to fight the whole bill because if you compromise anything at all you would be supporting their bill." I think that covers most of what we would like to present.

Did I leave anything out?

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Mr. GEORGE. No.

Mrs. PALMER. No.

Mrs. COVINGTON. We have someone else who came a long way, Mr. Robert Dellwo. Is he going to be recognized today? If not, I would like to give him a minute of our time and introduce him.

Mr. HALEY. I just want to say that, as I mentioned before, I do not want to cut anybody off. We have an agenda that we are following here. I am trying to stay within our time limitation. Actually, we have been a little bit more generous with you than we have with the other representatives of the business council. If we have time we will see if we can get him on.

Does that complete your statement?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Only in the effect that it would have on the reservation bordering, where there are integrated marriages with the Colvilles and the Spokanes and the other tribes.

Mr. HALEY. Mrs. Covington, if this legislation was written so that only an Indian with one-fourth Indian blood could participate in the liquidation of funds, what would that do to the Colvilles? Just roughly, what do you think that would cut away from the rolls?

Mrs. COVINGTON. How many would be cut away from that roll? Do you have any idea?

Mrs. PALMER. No.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Mrs. Palmer has worked on those rolls. I don't know.

Mr. HALEY. I noticed in my hearings out there they have an awful lot of blue-eyed Indians and some of them just didn't look like they might be Indians. But I just wondered what would be the attitude of the Colvilles if we forced another registration of the rolls and reduced the people who could participate to one-fourth Indian blood. You don't have the figure?

Mrs. COVINGTON. I think that would be great, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. HALEY. Does anybody else have any questions? The gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SAYLOR. Mrs. Covington, you state that according to the roll which is being used now, you are listed as being one-half Indian. You say this is not correct, that you are three-fourths Indian?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Right.

Mr. SAYLOR. Now, just for the record in your case, can you give us who your father and your mother were and their background?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes. My mother was a full-blooded Indian, the daughter of Kamiakin, whose father was the chief. Her daughter was the daughter of the Chief Moses, who signed the executive order. I lived on the very spot that he moved on. That is, I live there now.

I did live in the very home that he built there until it burned down. That was my grandmother's father. My father's mother was a full-blooded Indian, the daughter of Chil-has-us-ket, the Chief of the Intiates. She married Mr. Friedlander who was a white man. Therefore, my father was a half-breed. My mother was a full-blooded Indian.

Mr. SAYLOR. You are married, Mrs. Covington. To whom? Is your husband an Indian or is he a white man?

Mrs. COVINGTON. My husband was an Indian. He was also three-quarters Indian. I am a widow, and I have been for 10 years.

Mr. SAYLOR. Now, of the system in your tribe, and I ask these questions, of course, for the record, you inherit through your mothers? In other words, the descent in your tribe is through the female side rather than the male side of the family?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Both sides.

Mr. SAYLOR. You inherit from both sides?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes.

Mr. SAYLOR. We Senecas only inherit through our mothers. That is why I asked.

Mrs. COVINGTON. Maybe I don't understand your question.

Mr. SAYLOR. We eastern Indians inherit, of course, through our mothers. In other words, the blood of the Indian is determined through the mother.

Mrs. COVINGTON. No; we determine both sexes.

Mr. SAYLOR. Both?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes.

Mr. SAYLOR. Now, Mrs. Palmer, are you on this roll that was established?

Mrs. PALMER. Yes. I am an enrolled member of the tribe.

Mr. SAYLOR. On that roll what is your blood relationship?

Mrs. PALMER. My degree of Indian blood on that 1937 roll is full blood.

Mr. SAYLOR. Full blood?

Mrs. PALMER. Yes.

Mr. SAYLOR. Is your husband a white man or an Indian?

Mrs. PALMER. He is a white man.

Mr. SAYLOR. Now, Mr. George, are you on the roll that was established?

Mr. GEORGE. I am listed on all the membership or census rolls as being four-fourths quantum Indian, that is, full-blooded Indian.

Mr. SAYLOR. Full-blooded Indian.

So that if this committee decided that another roll should be established, all three of you who are here as witnesses would be included under any of the conditions described by Mr. Haley?

Mrs. COVINGTON. Yes.

Mr. GEORGE. Yes.

Mrs. PALMER. Yes.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you for coming and making this presentation.

Mrs. COVINGTON. This is one thing I have always brought up, since I am not a full-blooded Indian if I was to get a division from these assets I don't feel I should be getting 100 percent since I am not a full blood. I didn't get on the rolls because my grandfather was a white man. So why should I get that share? I should get 75 cents out of the dollar that the others would get, I think the division, if it was to be that, we would all stay together. Myself, I like to keep all the members that are on the rolls. We have not been prejudiced. We have shared with those that are on the rolls, whether one-eighth Indian or not. But when it comes to termination, I think these changes should be made.

Mr. HALEY. Are there any further questions? Thank you very much, Mrs. Covington.

The next group of witnesses is the Colville Liquidation Promoters, represented by Mrs. Alice Huber, the president, and Ira Lum.

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