

# Indians Speak on Termination

More than a dozen members of the Colville Confederated tribes who testified on a termination bill in Washington, D. C., last Friday were back home this week, with little to do except wait and see if Congress acts.

The hearing was conducted by a House subcommittee on Indian affairs with Rep. James Haley of Florida presiding.

The session lasted from 10 a.m. to about 1 p.m. Friday, though it was interrupted for a half-hour while the several Congressmen attending returned to the floor to vote on a pending measure.

Rep. Haley appeared to disapprove of the legislation.

At one point, he said he had heard that if termination passed, the U.S. forest service would buy the tribal timber resources for \$100 million and that each Colville Indian would receive \$47,000.

He said he doubted Congress would make that much money available to the forest service in view of the country's present fiscal condition.

Another source indicated that the bureau of land management rather than the forest service might take over the tribal timberlands.

Rep. Tom Foley expressed support for the measure but spoke only briefly in the in-

terests of giving witnesses more time.

**OTHERWISE**, the hearing was largely a repetition of testimony given many times on termination, which has been approved by the Senate three times but has failed to get out of the House subcommittee.

Four members of the tribal business council majority, chairman Narcisse Nicholson, jr., Mary Nicholson, Thelma Marchand, and Barney Rickard, spoke in favor of termination.

They pointed out the Colvilles repeatedly have returned termination majorities to the council.

The legislation, said Nicholson, would enable the Indians "to free themselves of oppressive controls of their lives and property and to act independently of the tribe if they wish."

Alice M. Huber and Ira H. Lum of the Colville Liquidation Promoters, a consistent advocate of termination, pointed out there would always be "minority groups" in opposition.

Ronald A. Nelson and Mrs. Norma K. Inks said the Colville Indian association supports termination but would like to see changes in the legislation.

Termination also was backed by the "Oroville-Tonasket group," a group of Colvilles who broke away from the CIA some years ago.

They were represented by Robert Irwin and Mrs. Colleen Allen. Irwin said reservation life did no good for young people. He said with better educational programs Indian children can learn to think for themselves, where reservation controls accomplish the opposite.

**THREE OF THE** four business council members opposed to termination also testified. They were Mrs. Lucy Covington, Frank George, and Mrs. Shirley Palmer.

Mrs. Covington said those favoring termination want the money that would come from the sale of timber resources and declared, "Money will not solve the Indian problem."

Speaking for the Petitioners' party, Dr. Paschal Sherman of Washington, D.C., opposed termination in any form. In reply to a question from Rep. Haley, Dr. Sherman said he felt termination would throw a heavy burden on Washington state welfare agencies.

Indian commissioner Robert L. Bennett previously had presented the Bureau of Indian Affairs' position on the bill.

The BIA has said it would not object to termination provided several amendments were added. The most important would provide for a "reduced reservation" under federal control for those Colvilles who did not wish to withdraw from the tribe.

A Compromise party represented by Steve Cleveland and Edward Gorr said it agreed with this position.

The business council majority has indicated it would not oppose provisions for a reduced reservation, and would even be agreeable to a procedure under which Colvilles who wished to retain an entity could decide what form they preferred, whether federal trusteeships were involved or not.

The Colvilles returned with little idea as to whether the termination bill will be acted on during this session of Congress.

There were indications that Congress will recess in August, rather than adjourn, so that consideration of the bill could become possible later in the year provided it is reported out of committee.

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