

25th
YAKIMA INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON STATE

Route 12, Box 192
Tacoma, Washington
Waverly 6622

E. J. Wilton, President
C. T. Varner, Vice-President
D. D. Varner, Secretary
J. J. Aves, Treasurer

November 7, 1955

TO OUR MEMBERS AND
ALL ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE
YAKIMA TRIBE OF INDIANS:

We are glad to report that our Association now consists of a total membership of more than 350 enrolled members of the Yakima Tribe of Indians, living on and off the Reservation, and new members are being added almost daily. We are sure that there are many more patriotic Yakimas who are ready and willing to join our cause, if and when our program is known and presented to them.

For several years there has been much dissatisfaction and misunderstanding among the Yakima Indians, especially after the enactment of the Act of August 9, 1946. A vast majority of the enrolled members of the Tribe have felt they were betrayed by certain Indian Bureau officials, and a subservient Tribal Council, by saddling the philosophies of the Wheeler-Howard Act on us through the enactment of the Act of August 9, 1946. Parents, children, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, etc. having been disinherited, and other injustices which have caused detriment to the rights of children and enrolled members, by reason of the enactment of said Act of August 9, 1946, and its administration by the Tribal Council.

Hundreds of complaints concerning the working and administration of the said Act of August 9, 1946, by members of the Tribe have been laid before the United States Congress and various Tribal Councils for the past several years, but to no avail. The autocratic councilmen have even defied the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who has urged the Tribal Council to consult with the membership of the Tribe with respect to the consideration of amending or repealing the Act of August 9, 1946, and to consider proposed legislation for closing the rolls and other matters requiring legislation which would affect the Tribe's interests.

The conditions have become so intolerable at the Yakima Indian Agency, with respect to the handling of our affairs, and the dissipation of our funds and other arbitrary acts by the Council, that we and many other members vowed that these conditions shall not be endured any longer.

So by reason of the above and other wrongs, five members of the Yakima Tribe, on February 3, 1955, met at the home of E. J. Wilton at Tacoma, for the purpose of discussing the problems involved and the ways and means how to proceed. As a result of this conference, it was decided to call a mass meeting for the purpose of considering the matter of organizing our members. The meeting was called to be held on February 12, 1955, at the Indian Mission Church, Tacoma, Washington, at which time a very enthusiastic meeting was held with more than 100 members of the Tribe present. The organization was perfected and officers elected. A name for the organization was agreed upon. The name of "Yakima Indian Association of Washington State" was adopted and the Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, on the 22nd day of April, 1955, and a charter was issued, dated April 22, 1955.

The expense of carrying on the business of the organization has been borne by the individual donations from members of the organization. All monies received and expended, are strictly accounted for.

The main purpose of this organization is to endeavor to correct the wrongs now existing at the Yakima Agency; to advocate for the election of councilmen, who are pledged to economy, decency, and law abiding; to carry out the wishes of the majority of the enrolled members of the Tribe; to oust the so called councilmen who are now trying to function after their terms have expired; to eliminate many other evils which now exist at the Yakima Agency; and the repeal of the Act of August 9, 1946.

We have already accomplished many things which is for the betterment of the Tribe. One of the accomplishments which we have attained is the official calling of

a meeting for the election of Councilmen to fill existing vacancies, and that such election of councilmen will be held on one day and at a definite stated hour.

We received the official notice of election by registered mail on November 5, 1955, which notice provides for a three day meeting of the General Tribal Council, namely November 28, 29 and 30, 1955, starting at 2 P. M., at the Satus Longhouse, which notice is accompanied by an agenda or a program of business to be done for each of such days, as follows:

MONDAY, NOV. 28, 1955: consideration of rules and
procedure for General Council.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29, 1955: nomination and election of
Tribal Councilmen.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30, 1955: oath of office for new
Councilmen and other business.

Also attached to said official notice is a copy of a proposed resolution submitted by George Untuch, for consideration on November 28, 1955.

We assume that many of you have received such official notice, together with copy of agenda and copy of resolution, however, in order that we make certain that all of the enrolled members of the Yakima Tribe may have the opportunity to read and get familiar with these unusual documents and what they are meant to accomplish, we are hereinafter setting forth a complete copy of same, with our comments.

We have made every effort possible to have such meeting and election of councilmen set for a date when the mountain passes between the West Coast and the Yakima Valley were passable. We started soon after the disgraceful meeting of July 15th was held to ask for an early election, because after July 15th, there has not been an authorized council which could legally function. We have been able to show without any doubt that there were more qualified members present than necessary to constitute a quorum, at said meeting on July 15, 1955, and there should have been an election. Superintendent LeCrone, Area Director Don Foster and the unauthorized Tribal council have resisted every plea we have made for an election in September or October. We finally agreed with Area Director Foster, that an election meeting

during the 3rd week in October would be satisfactory, and Area Director Foster told our Executive Committee, that he recommended such a date to Commissioner Emmons, but he (Foster) told us that Commissioner Emmons refused to agree to same. We have only Mr. Foster's word for this, we doubt that Mr. Foster ever recommended such a date to Mr. Emmons. We have not been advised by Commissioner Emmons as to the correctness of Mr. Foster's statement.

We have had splendid cooperation from Commissioner Emmons all through our campaign, however, we realize that he has to proceed with caution and deliberate judgment. On the other hand Area Director Don Foster, Superintendent LeCrone, and the so-called Tribal council have thrown every obstacle possible in our way for an honest and clean election and other matters which we believe is for the best interest of the Tribe; they have made every effort to justify and legalize the unethical performance of the officials of the General Tribal Council on July 15, 1955; they have been permitting and authorizing meetins of said unauthorized Tribal Council as though they were legally authorized to transact business of the Tribe. However, Mr. Wilson Charley, one of the Councilmen whose term expired on July 15, 1955, has had the courage and honesty to stand up for what is right, he has refused to meet and participate in such illegal meetings of such unauthorized Tribal Council.

Now it is up to the Yakima people to exercise their privilege to vote. We urge the defeat for re-election to the council, all members whose terms have expired and are now insisting on handling the business affairs of the Tribe although they know that they are acting without authority.

In order that a start may be had to correct an evil situation, honest and intelligent men must replace those who have been unfaithful to their trust. We now have an opportunity to fill eight vacancies on the Tribal Council, and a Chairman, and a Vice-Chairman of the General Council.

This Association met on September 10, 1955, and recommended and endorsed

for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Yakima General Council, the following:

Alba Showaway, for Chairman
Nealy N. Olney, for Vice-Chairman

To replace Tribal Councilmen whose terms expired on July 15, 1955, the following:

For full terms of four (4) years:

1. E. J. Wilton
2. ~~Samuel E. Hale~~
3. Wilson Charley
4. David D. Varner
5. George Pitt
6. Pete Hoyt
7. Ray Hoptowit

and Gailly

For the unexpired term caused by the death of Willie Wahput:

8. Harry Tio

There are many other capable and honest men who are willing to serve and could have been selected for councilmen and other offices, but there are only a few to be elected at this election. There will be seven councilmen to be elected in the next General Election, we have in mind that seven good and true men must be elected in 1957, in order that we may have 14 members to honestly and efficiently administer our affairs.

We urge all enrolled persons who are eligible to vote, to vote for all of these men, whether or not you are now a member of this organization. Do not split your vote. Vote for them all. Be on hand and on time, do not be late at the General Council meeting on November 29, at 2 o'clock P.M. at the Satus Longhouse. You will remember what happened at the July 15th meeting when those who were in charge of the meeting made a mockery of a duly called meeting for the election of councilmen to fill vacancies, and who are responsible for not now having a legal Tribal Council and functioning.

The list of candidates whom we have selected to be voted for, are men of

high integrity and standing in their respective communities, and are pledged to carry out the principles which we advocate, in particular, TO CLEAN HOUSE and to correct the many evils now existing in connection with the management of our affairs.

Some of the principles and reforms which we advocate are:

1. Repeal the Act of August 9, 1946.
2. Economy in the administrative branch of our affairs.
3. Eliminate useless committees.
4. Proper and efficient law and order enforcement.
5. Eliminate useless trips of delegations to Washington, D.C. and other useless trips to conventions and other gatherings.
6. Equal and impartial treatment of individual members of the Tribe, and their affairs, whether members of this or any other organization.
7. Eliminate the practice now in vogue, the deduction of \$1.00 for each check or voucher issued to members.
8. That the membership of the Tribe will be consulted in connection with proposed legislation and other matters which affect their interest.
9. Open Tribal Council meetings, and that the proceedings of each Tribal Council meeting be taken down in shorthand, transcribed and made available to the members of the Tribe.
10. To study and investigate the many cases where persons have been disinherited, and report to the General Council for action.
11. To immediately submit to the membership of the Tribe, the letter of Commissioner Emmons of May 6, 1955, for discussion of the recommendations and suggestions therein set forth.
12. To do everything possible for the promotion of the best interest of the Tribe and its members.

We further pledge that the Tribal members will be fully informed on all matters considered by the Tribal Council, and that there will be no secret meetings, nor will there be any information concerning Tribal matters concealed from the members of the Tribe, such as is the practice now, which is evidenced by Superintendent LeCrone's amazing statement disclosed in his letter, dated September 20, 1955, as follows:

It is not the function of the Agency nor is it the responsibility of the Bureau to keep the public or Yakima Tribal members fully informed on all of the regulation requirements involving Agency operations.

We also pledge to investigate the matter of the retention of biologists and anthropologists, now employed and are being paid large salaries, and the furnish-

ing of automobiles to them, all at the expense of the Tribe. Here is one example. You will note on page one of the Reservation Farm News (without date, but same was received by mail, generally, on October 20, 1955) it is stated (pretending to print the minutes of a Council meeting of October 11, 1955) that:

"Two expense vouchers were approved, one for Paul M. Neibel, Tribal Attorney, and the other was for Dr. F. A. Davidson, Tribal Fish Biologist."

We have, under date of October 25, 1955, asked Mr. LeCrone to furnish us with the amount of money involved in each of these cases, but to date no reply has been received from Mr. LeCrone. Perhaps the reason for not answering our inquiry is that such information comes within the category which Mr. LeCrone and his unauthorized council deem to be such as the members of the Tribe are not entitled to be fully informed. We disagree. We think that Mr. LeCrone should be made to answer our inquiry, as we believe that such are matters which members of the Tribe are entitled to know about.

The Yakima Indian Association of Washington State is organized for the purpose of correcting injustices now existing in the administration of our affairs, principally because of a tyrannical Tribal Council who has by some means, with the aid of certain Indian Bureau officials, agents and clerks, been able to perpetuate themselves in office.

When the injustices and evils, some of which have been mentioned herein, have been eliminated and sane and honest programs for the welfare and betterment of the Yakima Indians have been established, then, and only then, the objectives of the Yakima Indian Association of Washington State, has served its purposes and its existence is no longer necessary.

A copy of the official notice of election, including the agenda, a copy of George Umtuch's letter, dated October 24, 1955, and a copy of the proposed resolution accompanying Mr. Umtuch's letter are here fully set forth, as follows:

N O T I C E

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE YAKIMA TRIBE AT THE NEW SATUS LONGHOUSE ON NOVEMBER 28, 29 and 30, 1955, STARTING AT 2 P. M. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1955: CONSIDERATION OF RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR GENERAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1955: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRIBAL COUNCILMEN, TERMS EXPIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING:
WAPT BASSETT
HENRY BEAVERT
WILSON CHARLEY
JOE MENINICK
ALEX SALUSKIN
GEORGE UMTUCH
WATSON TOTUS
WILLIAM WAHPAT, deceased, (unexpired term)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1955: OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCILMEN AND OTHER BUSINESS.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AT THE NEW SATUS LONGHOUSE ON NOVEMBER 28, 29 and 30, 1955, STARTING AT 2 P. M. PLEASE BE PROMPT IN ORDER THAT THE REQUIRED QUORUM OF 170 IS MET BEFORE ANY BUSINESS IS UNDERTAKEN.

Alex Saluskin

Alex Saluskin, Secretary
Yakima Tribal Council

Eagle Seelatsee

Eagle Seelatsee, Chairman
Yakima Tribal Council

Joe Meninick

Joe Meninick, Secretary
Yakima General Council

George Umtuch

George Umtuch, Chairman
Yakima General Council

APPROVED: Oct. 21, 1955
(date)

Dannie E. LeCrone

Dannie E. LeCrone, Superintendent
Yakima Indian Agency

YAKIMA INDIAN AGENCY
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

October 24, 1955

Dear Member:

The business and the operation of the Yakima Tribe and the General Council has been carried on mainly by custom as supplemented by some written resolutions. In order that all members should be familiar with the rules and regulations, these customs and regulations have been set down in writing and in resolution form. In order that these rules and regulations may be official they shall be brought up for vote on November 28, 1955, as you will note from the Agenda enclosed.

You will further note that some changes have been made as to quorum, hours and membership required to do business. It is felt that such changes will be helpful to the orderly function of tribal business.

Important matters are being considered at this meeting, PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

George Umtuch
George Umtuch, Chairman
Yakima General Council

T-38-56

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the absence of any Constitution or By-Laws, the enrolled members of the Yakima Tribe living on the Yakima Reservation believe that voting and elections should be held in the same manner since time immemorial and since the signing of the Yakima Treaty of June 9, 1855, and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Indian Nation is in need of rules of procedure to govern the elections of Tribal Councilmen and delegates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Yakima General Council in session on this _____ day of November, 1955, at the Satus Longhouse, Washington, a quorum being present, that the following Rules and Procedure shall govern our Yakima General Council and Tribal Council:

SECTION 1. - OBJECTIVES: It shall be the objective of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation to:

a. Establish and enforce such rules and procedures as may be necessary to safeguard individually and tribally owned property and resources for the use of present and future generations and to promote social welfare of its members.

b. To safeguard, protect and secure rights, privileges and benefits,

guaranteed to the members of the Yakima Indian Nation by the Treaty of June 9, 1855 for all time.

SECTION 2. - ORGANIZATION: Organization of the General Council shall be as follows:

a. The General Council which shall consist of the membership as a whole, shall elect from its eligible members, as hereinafter set forth, the following officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and four (4) official counters and two alternates. These elected officers shall serve in the positions that their titles signify until elected successors are sworn in and at the pleasure of the General Council.

b. The General Council shall have all powers and authority except those which have been delegated to the Yakima Tribal Council pursuant to the General Council Resolution dated February 18, 1944.

c. There shall be a regular annual General Council meeting on the last week in November of each and every year, provided, however, that either the officers of the General Council or the Tribal Council, by majority vote, may call special General Council meetings. These General Council meetings and the agenda thereof shall be advertised for not less than thirty (30) days, notice of the meeting shall be posted in all communities for a period of not less than thirty (30) days.

d. A quorum of the Yakima General Council shall be two-hundred-fifty (250) enrolled members of the Yakima Tribe. No vote shall be taken on any Tribal business or the election of any Tribal officers or delegates shall take place when there is less than one-hundred-seventy-five (175) members present. It is also understood that no business is to take place after 10:30 p.m. on any day. It is understood, however, that once there is a quorum present that there shall not be less than one-hundred-seventy-five (175) members to transact business each succeeding day as long as the meeting is recessed rather than adjourned.

SECTION 3. - MEMBERSHIP, VOTERS AND NOMINATIONS:

a. All enrolled members of the Yakima Indian Tribe under the Act of August 9, 1946, 60 Stat. 968, shall be entitled to all the privileges accorded to a member of the Yakima Indian Nation and shall have a right to vote on any matter affecting the Tribe, after he or she has reached the age of eighteen (18) years.

b. At the General Council meeting, the official counters shall pass upon the qualifications of the voters and where the official counters are in doubt, they shall require the person wishing to vote to produce his or her current membership card.

c. Nominations shall be by position, with the incumbent being considered as nominated unless he declines. Other nominations shall be from the floor. Election for each position shall be taken immediately after nominations are closed for each position. All candidates shall be present.

SECTION 4. - TRIBAL COUNCIL: The organization of the Yakima Tribal Council shall be as follows:

a. The Tribal Council shall be elected pursuant to the General Council

Resolution of July 9, 1947 and shall serve until their successors are sworn in.

b. The powers of the Yakima Tribal Council shall be pursuant to the powers and authority set forth in General Council resolution and dated February 18, 1944, with the additional authority to select from within its own membership and from the Membership of the General Council of the Yakima Nation, delegates to go to Washington, D. C., on tribal matters, this delegation not to exceed four (4) members.

SECTION 5. - ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS MEMBER OF YAKIMA GENERAL COUNCIL,
YAKIMA TRIBAL COUNCIL, YAKIMA DELEGATE AND OFFICIAL COUNTER:

The following requirements shall be necessary before a member of the Yakima Indian Tribe is eligible to serve as an officer of the Yakima General Council, a member of the Yakima Tribal Council, official counter or as a delegate to Washington, D. C., from either Council:

a. He must be an enrolled member of the Yakima Tribe under the Act of August 9, 1946, 60 Stat. 968, and must be of the blood of at least one (1) of the original 14 Tribes constituting the Yakima Indian Nation under the Treaty of June 9, 1855 between said Nation and the United States.

b. He must have reached the age of twenty-five (25) years.

c. He must have resided continuously within the boundaries of the Yakima Indian Reservation for at least five (5) years.

d. Official Counters should have general knowledge of membership of the Yakima Tribe.

SECTION 6. - AMENDMENTS:

a. The General Council, at its regular or special meetings, may repeal or amend Rules and Procedure, Acts, Resolutions, Ordinances and Tribal Codes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full quorum.

DONE AND DATED on this the _____ day of November, 1955, at the Satus Longhouse, Washington, by a vote of _____ for and _____ against.

ATTEST:

Chairman, Yakima General Council

Secretary, Yakima General Council

APPROVED: _____
(date)

Dannie E. LeCrone, Superintendent
Yakima Indian Agency

The proposed resolution submitted by George Umtuch, and associates, with the approval of Superintendent LeCrone, apparently constitutes the campaign issues and the principles for which their candidates stand on for election to the Council and other offices. They seem to lack the courage and frankness to mention or publish the names of those whom they are asking the Yakima people to vote for.

We call your attention to the fact that George Umtuch and his associates, have used deceptive means by putting their campaign issues in form of a RESOLUTION and pretending that such is Government or Tribal affairs, so that the cost of the preparation and publication of same, the use of Government and Tribal facilities, equipment, supplies and the distribution of the same, may be made without cost to them, while the cost of getting our campaign material out to the people is paid for by individual voluntary donations. Such scheme and trickery resorted to by George Umtuch and associates is not, in our opinion, honorable nor conducive to good citizenship.

The Umtuch Resolution refers to the Act of August 9, 1949 (60 Stat. 968), but the provisions of said Act is not printed in the Resolution. In order that you may be fully advised as to its provisions, we here set forth the same in full, as follows:

(Public Law 706 - 79th Congress) (60 Stat. 968)
(Chapter 933 - 2D Session)
(H. R. 6165)

AN ACT

To provide for the preparation of a membership roll of the Indians of the Yakima Reservation, Washington, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, with the advice and consent of the Yakima Tribal Council, to prepare a roll showing the members of the Yakima Tribes living on the date of approval of this fact, which roll shall be kept current and shall constitute the official membership roll of the Yakima Tribes for all purposes. No person who is enrolled with any other tribe of Indians or who has received an allotment of land on any other reservation shall be enrolled under the provisions of this Act. The following shall be placed on the roll:

(a) All living persons who received allotments on the Yakima Reservation, except by fraud.

(b) All living persons who are of the blood of the fourteen original Yakima Tribes, parties to the treaty of June 9, 1855 (12 Stat. 951), and who have received allotments on the public domain within the area ceded to the United States by the Yakima Tribes by the treaty of 1855.

(c) All living persons who have maintained a domicile continuously from January 1, 1941 until the date of approval of this Act on the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the treaty of June 9, 1855, (12 Stat. 951), and who are (1) descendants of persons who received allotments on the Yakima Reservation, except by fraud, or (2) descendants of persons of the blood of the fourteen original Yakima Tribes who received allotments on the public domain within the area ceded by the said treaty of 1855. All living children born after January 1, 1941, but prior to the date of approval of this Act to a person entitled to enrollment under this subsection shall likewise be entitled to enrollment hereunder.

(d) All children of one-fourth or more blood of the Yakima Tribes born after the date of approval of this Act to a parent who is an enrolled member and maintains a domicile on the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the treaty of June 9, 1855, at the time of the birth of the child.

Sec. 2. Any person of one-fourth or more blood of the Yakima Tribes who may be excluded from enrollment under the provisions of section 1 of this Act may apply for membership at any time and be enrolled upon the approval of the application by a two-thirds vote of the Yakima Tribal Council. Applications for enrollment under this section on behalf of minors and persons mentally incompetent may be filed by any enrolled member of the Yakima Tribes.

Sec. 3. Corrections in the roll prepared hereunder, by striking therefrom the name of any persons erroneously placed on the roll or by adding to the roll the name of any person erroneously omitted herefrom, may be made at any time by the Yakima Tribal Council.

Sec. 4. Every person whose name appears on the roll prepared hereunder who holds no vested right, title, or interest in or to any restricted or trust land on the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the treaty of June 9, 1855, and who has failed to maintain any tribal affiliations or a residence on the reservation or within the ceded area for a period of five consecutive years, shall no longer be considered a member of the Yakima Tribes and his name shall be removed from the roll. It shall be the duty of the Yakima Tribal Council to determine, subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, loss of membership in each case.

Sec. 5. The Yakima Tribal Council may adopt and enforce ordinances, subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, governing the expulsion of members for any cause deemed by the council to be sufficient.

Sec. 6. No person whose name shall hereafter be placed on the roll of the Yakima Tribes shall be entitled to any back annuities or per capita payments made to the members of the tribes out of tribal funds which were authorized to be paid to the members of the tribes before such person's name shall have been placed upon such roll.

Sec. 7. Hereafter only enrolled members of the Yakima Tribes of one-fourth or more blood of such tribes shall take by inheritance or by will any interest in that part of the restricted or trust estate of a deceased member of such tribes which came to the decedent through his membership in such tribes or which consists of any interest in or the rents, issues, or profits from an allotment of land within the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the treaty of June 9, 1855, (12 Stat. 951), except that a surviving spouse of less than one-fourth of the blood of the Yakima Tribes may receive by inheritance or devise the use for life of one-

half of the restricted or trust lands of the decedent located within the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the said treaty of June 9, 1855.

The Umtuch Resolution also refers to the General Council resolution of February 18, 1944, but do not set forth the provisions of same.

This document becomes very important since Umtuch and associates claim that it is still in effect and desires to have it amended. This resolution seems to be the only authority by which their powers and authority are based for the expenditures of large sums of moneys belonging to the Tribe, and the transaction of other important business of the Tribe, without the sanction or approval of the Yakima people.

Since the adoption of this resolution on February 18, 1944, there have been many measures of great importance to the Yakima people which have come up for decision affecting every man, woman and child of the Yakimas, such as the enactment of the Act of 1946. Why was not this measure of great importance, referred to the people for decision?

Why has not other matters involving the expenditures of large sums of money belonging to the Yakima Tribe, been referred to the people for decision?

There are many, many other measures of great importance which should have been referred to the Yakima people for decision, but we know of none of such measures which have been referred to the people since the adoption of the Resolution in 1944, nor since the rejection of the provisions of the Wheeler-Howard Act in 1935.

In order that you may fully advised as to the provisions of the Resolution of February 18, 1944, the same is printed in full, as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT NOW RESOLVED by the General Council of the Yakima Tribe of Indians in the State of Washington meeting in special session this 18th day of February

1944 at the Wapato Longhouse on the Yakima Indian reservation that:

HEREAFTER the Tribal Council or body of fourteen Chiefs is hereby empowered to transact all business of the tribe, provided that any measures of great importance may be referred back to the people.

DONE AND DATED this 18th day of February 1944 by a vote of 181 for and 4 against.

(Signed) Thos. K. Yallup
Thomas K. Yallup, Chairman
Yakima General Council

APPROVED:

(Signed) L. W. Shotwell,
L. W. SHOTWELL, Superintendent
Yakima Indian Agency

The Umtuch proposed Resolution also refers to the General Council resolution of July 9, 1947, as amended by General Council resolution of July 12, 1949, but the Umtuch Resolution does not insert the provisions of the 1947 resolution.

This Umtuch proposed Resolution also becomes very important inasmuch as George Umtuch, his associates, including Superintendent LeCrone, Area Director Foster and the Indian Office have disavowed the existence of any election procedures now being in effect. Now, however, Umtuch and associates, not only acknowledges its existence, but seek to further amend the same, so as if another fiasco like that of the General Council meeting of July 15, 1955, should again occur (We sincerely believe that Umtuch and associates are now hoping that it will occur again, after the adoption of the proposed Umtuch Resolution), they will remain in office, legally, for alltime to come, without another election.

Their proposed amendments to the Resolution of July 9, 1947, are set forth in subsection (a), Section 4, of the Umtuch proposed resolution, as follows: "The Tribal Council shall be elected pursuant to the General Council Resolution of July 9, 1947 and shall serve until their successors are sworn in;" and subsection (b), Section 3, of the Umtuch proposed resolution, as follows: "Nominations shall be by position, with the incumbent being considered as nominated unless he declines."

You will observe that the said subsection (b) of section 3, of the Umtuch proposed resolution is practically the same as the amendment to the resolution of 1947, adopted on July 12, 1949, however, the meaning is the same.

The Resolution of the General Council of July 9, 1947, as amended by the General Council on July 12, 1949, reads as follows:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Yakima General Council meeting in special session on the 9th day of July, 1947 passed resolution No. 4 which established the Yakima Tribal Council and set forth the terms of office as follows:

"Seven members at large for a period of FOUR years and SEVEN MEMBERS AT LARGE for a period of TWO years and thereafter General Council elections shall be held every TWO years for the election of SEVEN members for a period of FOUR years".

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable to modify the aforementioned resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Yakima General Council meeting in special session this 12th day of July, 1949 that the following procedures are hereby established in the election of the Councilmen:

Each outgoing Councilman shall be automatically a candidate for re-election if he so desires and he shall be required to run for re-election against any duly qualified and nominated for the vacant membership on the Yakima Tribal Council.

Done and dated this 12th day of July, 1949 in a General Council meeting at the Toppenish Longhouse, Toppenish, Washington by a UNANIMOUS VOTE of the General Council.

(SGD) Phillip Olney
Yakima General Council

Attest:

(SGD) Joe Mininick, Secretary

Approved:

(SGD) L. W. Shotwell, Superintendent.

We urge all members of the Yakima Tribe to be present and arrive promptly at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Satus Longhouse, on November 28th, and vote against the adoption of the Umtuch proposed Resolution.

If the Umtuch proposed Resolution is adopted:

Many of us will be prevented from taking part in the
deliberations of the meeting on the 29th and 30th,

including voting for the election of Councilmen.

We will be prevented from voting for the submission to the people a proposed new election procedure.

We will be prevented from voting for the submission to the people a proposed constitution and by-laws.

We will be prevented from voting for the repeal of the provisions of the so-called enrollment Act of August 9, 1946.

We will be prevented from considering the many good and progressive suggestions submitted by Commissioner Emmons to the Tribal Council, designed to further the best interests of the Yakima people.

The Umtuch proposed Resolution is a very wicked one, it is a threat to disenfranchise the Yakima people for the next 100 years or more. Be present and vote against it.

We hope that the Yakima people will not think lightly of this Umtuch proposal, we cannot urge you too strongly to get busy now and ask everyone who has the best interests of the Yakimas at heart to be present, and on time, to vote against such shameful proposal. You may never have the opportunity again to save the Yakima people from such an outrageous rape upon the liberties of a good people.

During the last three months we have had hundreds of telephone calls and inquiries from our members and others asking for information concerning our fight for the freedom of the Yakimas, some people, may perhaps have gotten a little "peeved" because we could not divulge all information which we were in possession of, regarding our activities, but we had thought from the start that it would be best for all concerned to keep vital information within the knowledge of a few of us so as to prevent misinterpretations, misconstruction, confusion and idle talk.

All of you have been wonderful, and now it can be told.

Respectfully yours,

David D. Varney
David D. Varney, Secretary.

E. J. Wilton
E. J. Wilton, President.

W A R N I N G

***** Each and every one of us must be on the alert
***** for election irregularities and frauds. It
***** is important that the Indian Bureau employees
***** be kept from meddling and interfering in the
***** conduct of this campaign. It is incumbent up-
***** on all of us to find out if Government employ-
***** ees are aiding certain candidates in their
***** campaign for election, such as using Govern-
***** ment and Tribally owned vehicles, equipment,
***** supplies, etc.

***** It is claimed that the councilmen whose terms
***** have expired, automatically become candidates
***** to succeed themselves.

***** You must make known and report promptly to
***** the President, E. J. Wilton, Route 2, Box
***** 192, Tacoma 22, Washington, Telephone WAverly
***** 6622, Tacoma, if any of the irregularities
***** mentioned herein are discovered to exist.

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and every one of us has a right to
the freedom of the press and the
the important fact that the American people
to have the right to know and understand the
of the country. It is important
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