

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL No. 16

State of Washington
39th Regular Session

By Senators Woodall, Hallauer, Dore,
Atwood and Redmon

Read first time February 19, 1965. Under suspension of rules read
second and third times February 19, 1965 and passed.

1 TO THE HONORABLE LYNDON B. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED
3 STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRE-
4 TARY OF INTERIOR:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Represent-
6 atives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 most respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, In the United States numerous laws are being passed
9 attempting to insure civil rights to all mankind and to provide equal
10 treatment without respect to national origin; and

11 WHEREAS, There is in effect today a law commonly known as the
12 Yakima Enrollment Act, being the Act of August 9, 1946 (60 Stat.
13 969; 25 U.S. § 607) which discriminates against the Yakima Indians in
14 their right to determine by will the inalienable right of descent
15 and distribution of their Yakima trust property; and

16 WHEREAS, Said Act restricts the right of a Yakima Indian to
17 bequeath trust property except to members of the Yakima Tribe with
18 one-fourth degree of Yakima Indian blood; and

19 WHEREAS, This Act under certain conditions make it impossible
20 for an Indian to bequeath trust property to his or her husband or
21 wife or children; and

22 WHEREAS, This Act under certain conditions discriminates
23 against and disinherits children as between brothers and sisters, and
24 other relatives; and

25 WHEREAS, This law not only discriminates as between Indians
26 and non-Indians, it even discriminates between types of Indian blood
27 and

1 WHEREAS, These are the only people in America who do not have
2 the right to will their property to their own loved ones, and this
3 constitutes discrimination in the extreme;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representa-
5 tives and the Senate of the State of Washington do respectfully urge
6 that the Congress of the United States do at the earliest possible
7 time devise and approve legislation which will amend the above-
8 entitled law to allow all members of the Yakima Indian tribe to will
9 their property to whom they may desire; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be trans-
11 mitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United
12 States, the Senators and Representatives from the State of Washing-
13 ton, to the Vice President, and the Chairman of the State Government
14 Committee of the Senate, to the Speaker and the Chairman of the
15 State Government Committee of the House of Representatives, and to
16 the Secretary of Interior.