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National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) records – Denver, CO: Proceedings, 1944

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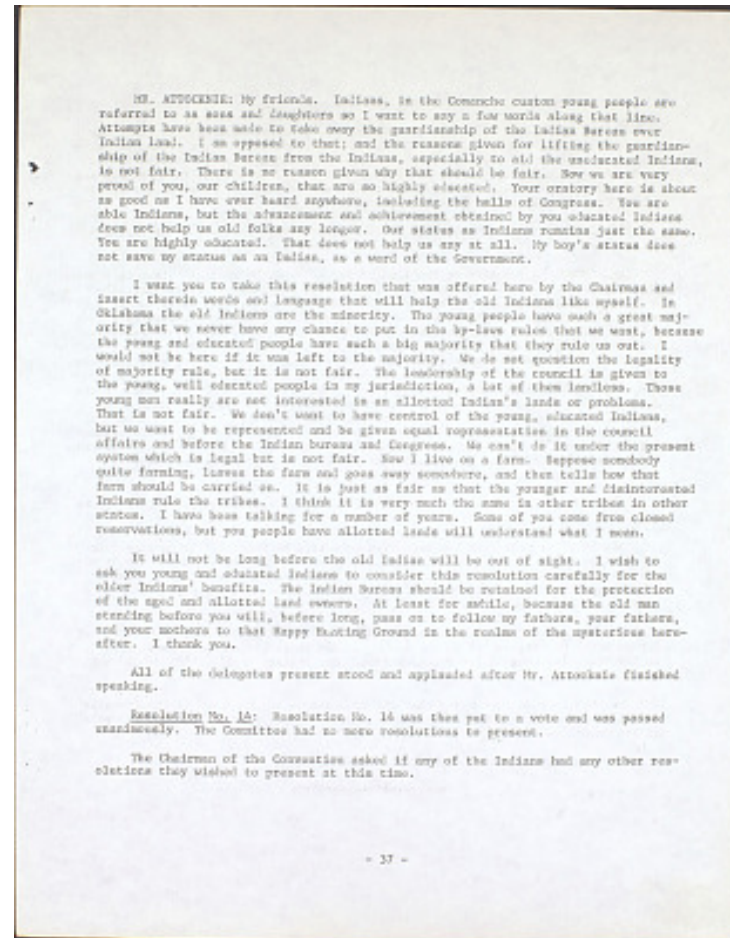
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Mr. ATTOCKNIE: Mr friends. Indians, in the Comanche custom young people are referred to as sons and daughters so I want to say a few words along that line. Attempts have been made to take away the guardianship of the Indian Bureau over Indian land. I am opposed to that; and the reasons given for lifting the guardianship of the Indian Bureau from the Indians, especially to aid the uneducated Indians, is not fair. There is no reason given why that should be fair. Now we are very proud of you, our children, that are so highly educated. Your oratory here is about as good as I have ever heard anywhere, including the halls of Congress. You are able Indians, but the advancement and achievement obtained by you educated Indians does not help us old folks any longer. Our status as Indians remains just the same. You are highly educated. That does not help us any at all. My boy's status does not save my status as an Indian, as a ward of the Government. I want you to take this resolution that was offered here by the Chairman and insert therein words and language that will help the old Indians like myself. IN Oklahoma the old Indians are the minority. The young people have such a great majority that we never have any chance to put in the by-laws rules that we want, because the young and educated people have such a big majority that they rule us out. I would not be here if it was left to the majority. We do not question the legality of majority rule, but it is not fair. The leadership of the council is given to the young, well educated people in my jurisdiction, a lot of them landless. Those young men really are not interested in an allotted Indians lands or problems. That is not fair. We don't want to have control of the young, educated Indians, but we want to be represented and be given equal representation in the council affairs and before the Indian bureau and Congress. We can't do it under the present system which is legal but is not fair. Now I live on a farm. Suppose somebody quite farming, leaves the farm and goes away somewhere, and then tells how that farm should be carried on. It is just as fair as that the younger and disinterested Indians rule the tribes. I think it is very much the same in other tribes in other states. I have been talking for a number of years. Some of you come from closed reservations but you people have allotted lands will understand what I mean. It will not be long before the old Indian will be out of sight. I wish to ask you young and educated Indians to consider this resolution carefully for the older Indians' benefits. The Indian Bureau should be retained for the protection of the aged and allotted land owners. At least for awhile, because the old man standing before you will, before long, pass on to follow my fathers, your fathers, and your mothers to that Happy Hunting Ground in the realms of the mysterious hereafter. I thank you. All of the delegates present stood and applauded after Mr. Attocknie finished speaking.

Resolution No. 12: Resolution No. 12 was then put to a vote and was passed unanimously. The Committee had no more resolutions to present.

The Chairman of the Convention asked if any of the Indians had any other resolutions they wished to present at this time.



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