

AUTHORIZING CERTAIN INDIANS TO FILE SUIT IN THE COURT OF CLAIMS

APRIL 26, 1934.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. COLLINS of California, from the Committee on Indian Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 723]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 723) to amend the act of March 13, 1924 (43 Stat.L. 21), so as to permit the Flathead, Kootenai, and Upper Pend d'Oreille Tribes or nations of Indians to file suit thereunder, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

This bill has the approval of the Department, and the facts are fully discussed in the following letter from the Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 26, 1933.

HON. BURTON K. WHEELER,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR WHEELER: I have received your letter of March 24, requesting report on S. 723, to authorize the Flathead, Kootenai, and Upper Pend d'Oreille Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Mont., to have their claims against the Government adjudicated by the Court of Claims.

The proposed legislation is to amend the act of March 13, 1924 (43 Stat.L. 21), which granted authority for a period of 2 years therefrom in which these Indians, and certain other tribes therein mentioned, could enter suit in the court as indicated; and also would remove the limit of attorneys' fees fixed therein at \$25,000 so as not to apply to the Indians of the Flathead Reservation.

Under the act cited, the Blackfeet Nation and the Nez Perces of the Colville Reservation, Wash., and of the Fort Lapwai Reserve, Idaho, and also the Gros Ventres of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Mont., entered suit through their attorneys of record in the court mentioned. However, the Indians of the Flathead Reservation failed to do so within the time prescribed by the act, and were therefore deprived of an opportunity of having their claims heard and adjudicated. Subsequently, by the act of February 3, 1931 (46 Stat.L. 1060), the limitation of the \$25,000 attorneys' fees in the jurisdictional act relating to the Indians whose cases were so filed in the court was removed and the contracts with the attorneys were amended in accordance therewith, which provides for the court to determine such fees.

