

Mr. HARKNESS: Does it include the St. Regis reserve and the Caughnawaga, and so forth?

Mr. LICKERS: Partly, yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We will now hear Mr. William Smith.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Asa Hill is the spokesman for the defense league.

The CHAIRMAN: You are William Smith?

Mr. SMITH: Yes.

Mr. Asa Hill, called:

By the Chairman:

Q. Have you a brief, Mr. Hill, and can you circulate it among the members?

—A. Yes, sir, I have.

Q. Can you let us have it?—A. First of all do you want to understand the constitution of this league? Do you want me to read the constitution?

Q. Have you a brief prepared? If you have we will circulate that among the members.—A. I am very sorry that we left our brief at the hotel. We were supposed to come at the end so we did not bother bringing the brief with us.

Q. You can let us have it later. Will you proceed now? How long is the constitution? Have you the whole constitution there?—A. It is a couple of pages.

Q. Can you tell us what it is without reading it?—A. My friend is more familiar with the constitution than I am.

The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us, Mr. Lickers, what the defense league is?

Mr. LICKERS: They have the constitution there.

The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us from your knowledge what the defense league is?

Mr. LICKERS: The defense league was an organization set up in 1925 under the leadership of Chief Clinton Rickard. Prior to that time there was some difficulty about Indians in Canada crossing to the United States, a right which was given them in the Jay treaty of 1794. To restore those rights to the Indians this defense league was set up. As a result of their work they were able to prevail upon the United States government to give Indians free passage as between the two countries. This league is merely for the purpose of seeing that that right is properly protected now and in the future; and also to protect any individual of the Six Nations Confederacy on either side in the event that they run afoul of customs regulations or that any hindrance is placed on them in crossing the border from one side to the other. They are an organization which are assisting the Indians in that regard.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We would like to have this put on record. Is this your full contribution?

The WITNESS: That is the full constitution.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that should be in the record.

**"PART I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INDIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE OF AMERICA:
THE PREFACE**

The constitution of the Indian Defense League of America has hereby been drawn up and approved by representative groups of Indians from the United States and Canada and is designed and constituted for the memberships of the Indians of America only. Therefore it seeks to offend none of our people but to work for the welfare of us, the Red Man, the aborigines of America; and to preserve to us and our posterity the good established for us by the leaders of our many tribes; and to honour the humanitarian and philosophic principles of many noble sages from among our people regardless of tribe.