

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Nancey Harrington at 10:30 a.m. on March 21, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
 Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Senator Dave Jackson
 Representative Lana Gordon
 Brad Hamilton, Director of Kansas Office of Native American Affairs
 Don Chubb

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Harrington opened the hearing on:

HCR 5021–Naming the new state office building the Charles Curtis State Office Building

Senator Dave Jackson presented testimony in favor of the resolution. (Attachment 1). He also presented copies of the article, “From The Indian Reservation To Our Nation’s White House” Garfield Gazette: Focusing on North Topeka, Past Present and Future. Vol. 2, Issue 4. December 1999, in support of the resolution.

Representative Lana Gordon presented testimony in favor of the resolution. (Attachment 2).

Brad Hamilton, Director of Kansas Office of Native American Affairs, presented testimony in favor of the resolution. (Attachment 3).

Don Chubb presented testimony in favor of the resolution. (Attachment 4).

Following brief discussion, Senator O’Connor made a motion to recommend HCR 5021 favorably to the entire Senate. Senator Teichman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Harrington assigned the bill to Senator Barnett to carry on the floor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled on the Call of the Chair.

**SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: March 21, 2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
Julie Hein	Hein + Weber
Ann Andrews	Charles Curtis
Suede Swenson	North Tepeck Historical Society
Virginia Swenson	" "
David J. Jelen	NOTOMA, INC
Glenn Thompson	Stand Up For KS.
Don Enrabb	CHARS CURTIS
Betty Rasner	" "
John Herety	CHARS CURTIS
Ann Cattull	Charles Curtis and Curtis House
Jodi SPINDLER	Kansas Office of Native American Affairs Office
BRAD HAMM, LINDA	" " " "
Kerola Dooling	Interested Citizen
Robert Saylor	Supporting naming bldg for
Helen Saylor	Chas Curtis
Barbara Dale	Supporting naming bldg for Charles Curtis
Way Conn	Supporting naming bldg for Charles Curtis
Puka Gordon	testifying in support of HCR 5021



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SENATE CHAMBER

TESTIMONY
SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2001

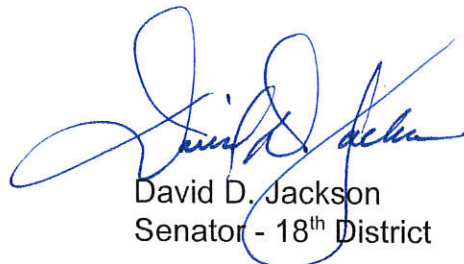
HCR 5021

Good morning, Senators.

Today I appear before you as President of North Topeka on the Move Association. NOTOMA is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to the revitalization of Historic North Topeka. One of the goals in our strategic plan is to improve the pride and image of North Topeka.

Charles Curtis grew up in North Topeka and the Curtis family cemetery is currently being preserved as an historic site, (although Charles Curtis is not actually interred there). The accompanying article from the December, 1999, issue of the Garfield Gazette provides a brief biography of our nation's 31st Vice President, the only native Kansan and Native American to serve in such high office.

I request your favorable consideration of HCR 5021, which urges naming the new state office building the "Charles Curtis State Office Building".



David D. Jackson
Senator - 18th District

Senate Fed + State
3-21-01
Attachment 1-1

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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K-12 EDUCATION
NEW ECONOMY
VICE-CHAIR: SHAWNEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
DELEGATION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5021

Senator Harrington and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to come here today to speak in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 5021.

This is a Concurrent Resolution proposing to name the new state office building on the southwest corner of 10th and Kansas Avenues in Topeka, the Charles Curtis State Office Building.

Charles Curtis was a native Kansan and our only person of Native American descent to hold the high office of Vice-President. He served under President Herbert Hoover.

The resolution passed favorably through the House on a vote of 120 to 2 opposed. In addition, support is coming in from within the community and from around the state in the form of petitions, E-mails and letters.

HCR 5021 speaks for itself for Curtis's accomplishments. I would like to introduce our other guests that are here to testify on behalf of this resolution so that they may make additional comments.

In closing, I am excited to recognize an individual with such a rich Kansas heritage and long list of contributions to our state and country. Charles Curtis embodies the spirit of Kansas. Our commitment to that spirit would be solidified by naming the new state office building after him.

Senate Fed + State
3-21-01
Attachment 2-1



KANSAS

Bill Graves
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Native American Affairs Office

Richard E. Beyer
Secretary

TO: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

FROM: Brad Hamilton, Director
Kansas Office of Native American Affairs

DATE: March 5, 2001

SUBJECT: Support for Concurrent Resolution 5021 – Designating the Signature Building as the Charles Curtis Building

I am Brad Hamilton, director of the Kansas Office of Native American Affairs. I am here today to support Concurrent Resolution 5021 designating the Signature Building as the Charles Curtis Building. Through 38 years of public service, Charles Curtis accomplished a great deal of things that benefited all people. The programs he initiated crossed racial and ethnic boundaries, urban and rural boundaries and age and gender boundaries. Curtis was a man who represented all people. His dignity, integrity and pride followed him from Shawnee County District Attorney to Vice President of the United States. Curtis was a political leader during critical times in our nation's history and without a doubt the greatest native born Kansas who aspired to public service.

Curtis is an exemplary role model for not only Native American youth but all children seeking to find their way. His humble beginnings and fight to be someone can serve to inspire other young people. Faced with the struggle of being a part of different cultures, he thrived and accomplished much at a young age.

When you look at all the accomplished people Kansas has cultivated, Curtis is at the top. He was someone everyone could be proud to know. Isn't it time, we honor him for supporting us and furthering our own state motto Ad Astra Per Aspera, "To the Stars Through Difficulties." Curtis carried his state and people to Washington and reinforced the argument that Kansas was a powerful state in politics.

It is for these reasons that the Kansas Office of Native American Affairs supports identifying the Signature Building as the Charles Curtis Building.

Testimony before the **Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee** on **March 21, 2001** concerning naming the new signature office building in Topeka for **Vice President Charles Curtis** given by Don Chubb.

Future Vice President Charles Curtis was born near Topeka on January 25, 1860 on land owned by his grandmother, Julie Gonville Papan, who was half French and half Kansa Indian. Curtis was one eighth Indian and a full member of the Kansa tribe.

Curtis's mother died in 1863, and when his father left to fight in the civil war young Charley was sent to live with his grandmother on the Kansa reservation near Council Grove. During this time the boy spent two years in the tribal school, but he primarily learned the ways of the Kansa, including a love of horses. Returning to Topeka and his Curtis relatives, Curtis became a successful local jockey, largely supporting his family with his earnings from his successes at local racetracks.

When a spurt of growth threatened Curtis's riding career in his late teens, Charley entered Topeka High school, where he quickly caught up with the other students. He supported himself by driving a horsedrawn "hack" between the train depot and local hotels until as late as midnight each night, in addition to selling fruit and working as a reporter for the North Topeka Times.

At the age of 21 Curtis read law with a local attorney and then established a law practice with another young lawyer. Remember "Boston" Corbett, the soldier who killed John Wilkes Booth, who fired his pistol to clear the Kansas House of Representatives while serving as the assistant doorkeeper. His defense helped Curtis win the post of Shawnee County Attorney. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1892, a position he held until he was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1907.

Curtis was the first Kansas Senator chosen by popular election in 1914. He was also the first native-born Kansan to serve in the U.S. Senate and the first Native American. Noted for short speeches and a talent for persuading others to compromise, Curtis was a candidate for the presidential nomination in 1928. He lost to Herbert Hoover, who asked Curtis to join him on the ticket as Vice President in order to unify the party and assure the farm vote. Hoover and Curtis were easily elected, making Curtis the first Vice President from a state west of the Mississippi River. Because Curtis's wife Annie had died four years earlier, his half sister Dolly Gann served as hostess at his social events. Curtis is remembered as a champion of agricultural and Indian affairs, and as the first Vice President to have an official automobile.

Because of the great depression, Hoover and Curtis lost their bid for reelection four years later. Curtis died in 1939. His body, along with a bow sent by a Kansa Chief, lay in state in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building and the Kansas Statehouse. He is buried in Topeka.

There are a number of important reasons for naming the new signature office building in Topeka for Charles Curtis. From a statewide prospective, he achieved higher elected office than any other native born Kansan. He was the first Native American to hold the office of Vice President. He was certainly the first Topekan to hold these offices, as well as being a descendant of the family who operated a ferry here before the town was founded, and who still live in Topeka today. In the first 150 years of our state's history no native Kansan has achieved the political recognition earned by Charles Curtis.

Senate Fed + State
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Attachment 4-1