

SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM 2011 KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

President Robert Henry

Thank you very much. Distinguished Governors and Chiefs of the Great Nations; Mr. Chief Justice; Justices of the Court; Mr. Secretary of the State; Distinguished Civic Leaders; First “Dude” of Oklahoma...the First-Gentleman of Oklahoma; Distinguished Federal Judges. It is a great joy to be here with so many friends, and so many people committed to Sovereignty and to the traditions of our Great Native Peoples: our First Americans.

Today, continuing with the tradition of bringing remarkable leaders, like Sandra Day O’Conner and the other leaders that were mentioned, to speak and talk with you. Symposium features one of the greatest internationalists of our time. The first time I met Emma Baroness Nicholson, I was presiding over a committee which she had been appointed to, it was a large formal gathering, and I turned to begin the meeting would you please announce into the record your name and formal title. And, when it came her turn to speak she said “Well my formal title is about nineteen words long. So let’s just say ‘Emma’.” And, her name as nearly as I can tell is—her formal name—something like this: The Right Honorable Emma Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne and the Royal County of Berkshire. So, ‘Emma’ is what she goes by.

Her family got its start in the gin business. Nicholson Gin began some of the family’s fortunes on one side. Another side came over in 1066 with William the Conqueror. Her family has been in the Commons and the House of Lords for many years; and if you tour the great House of

Commons you will see stain glass windows bearing the name of 'Nicholson' and her other family names.

She has made a career of defending human rights; particularly, the rights of the Marsh Arabs. A people caught between the deadly problems of Sadaam Hussein on one side and the Iranian Theocracy on another. Into their defense comes the Right Honorable Emma, and at all days and hours she tends to fly in and speak and raise her voice for the indigenous peoples. She testified and gave evidence at the trial of 'Chemical Ali', and has been reportedly threatened many times because of that.

She does not stop or tarry. She makes fifteen to twenty trips to Iraq every year. She's worked for orphans in every country in the world. And, with J.K. Rowling, the author of Harry Potter, she founded Children's High Level Group to again campaign for the rights of orphans that have been so horribly mistreated in Eastern Europe and other places.

She began as the Co-Chair of the Conservative Party, the Tories. She left that party of some difficulties and joined the Liberal Democrats. Now fear not those of you who are conservative, the Liberal Democrats in Britain are about like a 'Bellmon' Republican over here. When she was Co-Chair of the Conservative Party she was in the Brighton Hotel with Mrs. Thatcher when it was bombed. She survived that bombing thank God, and has continued her career across the world advocating for those that have no advocates.

She was member of both the House of Lords as a life peer and the European Parliament at the same time. She has now stepped down from the European Parliament, but retains, of course, her peerage in the House of Lords. If you're privileged to have high tea with her on the Thames, there at the House of Lords, you will see at what high regard she is held by all who come by. She is a remarkable person; a remarkable woman, 'a beloved woman' as the Cherokees would say. A person who has led her nation and the European Union for the rights of indigenous peoples and children.

Please join me in welcoming...Emma.