

combating poverty through community action programs or in some other way which might later suggest itself, we hope we might be given the opportunity to serve and thereby further implement the purposes for which our organization was formed.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs appreciates this opportunity to appear at this hearing in order that we may publicly announce our willingness and eagerness to promote the public welfare by joining in this concerted effort to eliminate poverty in every possible way.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. I have no questions. Thank you very much, Mrs. Nicholson.

Mr. PERKINS. Likewise, I wish to compliment you on your statement, Mrs. Nicholson.

Thank you very much.

Mrs. NICHOLSON. Thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. PERKINS. The next witness is Mr. Richard Schifter, general counsel, Association on American Indian Affairs.

Come around, Mr. Schifter. I notice you have a prepared statement here. Do you wish to insert that in the record and summarize it?

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD SCHIFTER, GENERAL COUNSEL,
ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. SCHIFTER. I shall do so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PERKINS. Without objection, the statement will be inserted in the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

**STATEMENT BY RICHARD SCHIFTER, GENERAL COUNSEL, ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN
INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am here to testify on behalf of the Association on American Indian Affairs. As we may be unknown to members of this committee, I would like to identify us briefly. The association is a national organization of citizens concerned with the welfare of American Indians. Together with its predecessor organizations it has been in existence since 1909. Today, it has about 10,000 members distributed throughout all 50 States. Our president, until his death last year, was the well-known novelist and writer, Oliver LaFarge, of Santa Fe, N. Mex. Our present acting president is Roger Ernst, of Phoenix, Ariz., who served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior from 1957 to 1960.

The association enthusiastically supports H.R. 10440. We believe that the programs which can be initiated under the bill can bring hope and encouragement to areas of our country which are, at present, not really part of our land of opportunity. These areas most definitely include our Indian reservations.

In his testimony before you, Secretary Udall furnished you with some statistical information about the present conditions of our American Indian population. I do not want to repeat the Secretary's figures, but would like to add another dimension to his analysis. What the conditions of poverty, ill health, poor housing, and maladjustment have produced is an all-prevailing spirit of hopelessness, resignation, despondency. These factors, in turn, are reflected in a high incidence of broken homes, in delinquency, alcoholism, and other symptoms of social disorganization. What must be remembered in this context is that the experiences of the 18th and 19th centuries are still a vivid part of the group memory of Indian communities. All too often do you hear expressions of fear and distrust of outsiders; the feeling that outsiders are out to get something out of the Indians. There also prevails the resigned feeling that these outsiders will ultimately succeed, that the Indian just does not have a chance to come out on top. This is, as I have indicated, the prevailing mood; a mood instilled in