

Mr. GIBBONS. What makes these people stay on the reservation? Most reservations that I have seen most human beings could not live on them. Why do they stay on the reservation?

Mr. SCHIFTER. You heard the testimony of the representatives of the National Farmers Union and the Grange this morning. I would say that Indians stay on their reservations for the very same reason that white people stay on poor lands. It is home to them. It is a community they know. Indians have their own system of helping each other which is quite different from most of our society. If an Indian is hungry and he has a cousin, second cousin or uncle or an aunt, he just moves in with them and they help him somehow. Indians feel very insecure going off into the white man's world.

This is a very serious problem to them. And there is this clear remembrance of the last battle. On one reservation that I work with in South Dakota, the last battle was in 1890. They talk about it as if it happened yesterday. Every child is taught to remember that.

All that provides is a feeling, "here is home, here is where we have been all the time for hundreds and hundreds of years, this is where we ought to stay."

Mr. GIBBONS. Don't you think we ought to try to lure these people off the reservations?

Mr. SCHIFTER. Congressman, when you try to lure older people off it doesn't work. When you train young people to look for other things, then quite naturally they are going to look around for opportunities elsewhere. What you have to do is, first of all, teach them a certain amount of knowledge about how to fit into our society and our economy and some skills. The only way off the reservation has invariably been a higher education. It is the Indians who go to college that stay away.

In a way, that presents a problem for the community because then the community is deprived of having college people within it or people with better training. So you have somewhat of a problem with those who stay behind because the less enterprising are the ones who stay behind. Somehow you have to cope with that problem, too.

Mr. GIBBONS. Is the population increasing?

Mr. SCHIFTER. Increasing in a way that refers back to what I mentioned before, the substantial decrease in infant mortality, has increased population at a rate higher than the general average throughout the United States.

Mr. GIBBONS. I have seen so many examples of Indians moving into the mainstream of American life and excelling when they get off the reservations. I have seen so many of these reservations and they just appall you. I do not see how anybody can make a living on them.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Usually the ones with a higher education are the ones that move off. That is right.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. I appreciate your statement, Mr. Schifter. I think, basically, what you have said is that you need more money to help the Indians. As far as I am aware in questioning Secretary Udall, it was pretty well confirmed that the present authority in the law would permit, for Indians, virtually everything that is in this bill for the poor, generally. There is the authorization now for the Fed-