

terior, there is adequate authorization legislation to do it all if Congress were to appropriate funds for these purposes. But Congress has not seen fit in the past to appropriate money for such purposes and probably will not do it just for Indians, that is my guess. I think it is politically rather clear that if you render assistance across the board, then the Indians can benefit from it, too.

Let me point out to you, as an example, only a few years ago we found out that the Public Housing Act covered Indian reservations and there is now housing assistance being given at a rate which Indians a few years ago would have considered unbelievable, simply by tying into a program that is just generally available to the American public.

The same may be true of other programs. The Accelerated Public Works Act provided a great deal of help for Indians. They would not have gotten it on their own.

Mr. GOODELL. I sympathize with that view. Of course, at the same time that we are providing the eligibility for Indians under our general program, we are punishing the Indians through other policies of the Government. Has your organization been involved at all with the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Kinzua Dam, in trying to help them?

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes, we have been.

Mr. GOODELL. I hope you will be in the next crucial 2 or 3 or 4 weeks.

Mr. SCHIFTER. We are aware of it, sir.

Mr. GOODELL. The Senate having knocked the insides right out of the House bill, there is probably a minimum justice for them. The thing that concerns me so much about this is that the House bill was set up on a basis to make the Seneca Nation a continuing self-sufficient unit. They have been completely free of Federal aid since 1949. They are one of the unusual Indian tribes in this country who have not been receiving Federal money. We take the very heartland of their nation away from them and then we refuse to give them enough money as reimbursement for this so that they can have a self-sufficient economy from what remains of their reservation.

The Senate has cut them right to the bare subsistence level and they are going to have to take an \$837 allotment or whatever it turns out to be for them from the Federal Treasury, once again encouraging the lack of any ambition or motivation, just the worst features of an individual human being to sit back and accept these things; they did not want it. They are a very proud people. And they moved away from it. Now we are forcing it right back on them.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Congressman, we applaud the position that you and the House of Representatives have taken on this and we hope you will prevail over questions raised by certain Members of the Senate.

Mr. GOODELL. If you have any influence over some of these western Senators—

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes, there are just a few involved.

Mr. GOODELL. Thank you.

Mr. PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Goodell.

How many Indians did you say there were still on the reservation today?

Mr. SCHIFTER. About 380,000, Congressman.