

major decision, to get the children in public schools. I think we should do this everywhere possible.

There are these situations that you are familiar with where remote necessity prevents this. The question there, it seems to me, is providing superior schools. It may be that special efforts of the type that we are not doing now are going to be needed to bridge the gap for these children that have such serious handicaps.

Mr. THOMPSON. In an aside at one point during a colloquy, Mr. Hawkins suggested that it might possibly be that you have difficulties arising out of treaties with tribal councils. Is that a factor in the school situation?

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, the whole Indian problem relates back to the fact that as a matter of high national policy we chose to make treaties with Indian tribes to give them a piece of land, large or small, worthless or having some worth, and to put them on it, to deliberately separate them from society and say, "You stay there and leave us alone and we will leave you alone."

Quite frankly, this was our policy a hundred years ago. We provided very minimal support in terms of economic development in those early stages. This is the reason that we today are left with so many serious problems that aren't easily resolved, that these people are physically segregated and you do have a de facto segregation.

It is not merely in terms of schools; they are out of the mainstream in terms of highways, in terms of economics. This is one of the reasons for the Indian economic development legislation that we presented this year. We would like to get them into the economic mainstream. They can't go to the banks and borrow money. Although they are Indian communities, they can't float municipal bonds. I can go right down the list.

It is no wonder they have made so little progress because they are not in the mainstream of America.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you find to any extent there are tribal councils or groups of Indians who resist integration because of their culture, because of their beliefs?

Secretary UDALL. Many of them resist integration for cultural reasons; yes. Many of them because of their own cultural background are not particularly attracted to some facets of our society, and I think for good reasons. Bridging this cultural gap of educating them, of giving them opportunity so that they can decide how they want to adapt to our society, this is another very special problem we have.

The idea of a competitive society just as we have runs frequently across the grain with them. Yet this competitiveness is one of the main elements, one of the main strands of our society.

Mr. THOMPSON. There are no Indians on this committee, I can assure you of that.

I note one particular thing that interests me, that 300 VISTA volunteers have been assigned to reservations. Have they worked out well?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes; they have. In order to cooperate with them, we, as a Bureau have made available to them facilities that we have. In other words, if we have a school that has a room that is not used, that is available for the purposes of the VISTA program, equipment,