

Each of you submitted financial statements. Do each of you feel that you are in a position to undertake this assignment without any possible conflict of interest regarding any matter that you know of?

Mr. YARBOROUGH. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. I have no conflict of interest that I can think of.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Vance?

Mr. VANCE. I have no conflict of interest.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Anderson.

Senator ANDERSON. Patently it is to the advantage of some claims attorneys for the Commission to go on for years and years. Continuances of hearings and other action is asked for time after time and they always seem to be granted. I am just hoping you are going to resolve this problem. I hope you will say, "I will get this job done."

Do you think, Mr. Yarborough, you can do it within the time that the law says?

Mr. YARBOROUGH. I have every intention of attacking the problem with a view of finishing by 1972.

I do not know what all the problems consist of before the Commission and I am in no position to say that the job can be done by 1972, but I intend to give every effort I can to meet the congressional deadline.

The CHAIRMAN. The law provides that they finish in that time. With that mandate, you ought to be able to get it done.

Mr. YARBOROUGH. That is exactly correct.

Senator ANDERSON. I hope so.

Senator Jackson says he sponsored this in 1946. He made some promises to the people. But here we are still. Time after time the lawyers have been asking for, and receiving, extensions.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Bible.

Senator BIBLE. I think it is rather clear, from all those who have spoken, that they hope this job is completed on schedule. I certainly share that.

I would suggest to you men, if you are confirmed, that you furnish some type of progress report to the staff people. You have 300 cases. It does not seem to be an undue burden for five men tried and true to hear these cases and dispose of them.

I would suggest that the staff, Mr. Chairman, work out some type of questionnaire as to the status of these cases.

I have talked very effectively with Senator Watkins. He is a man of great integrity and ability and he ended up with a lot of frustrations in not completing the work of the Indian Claims Commission as he expected. Serving, as I do, on the Interior Appropriations Committee, he talked to me frequently about inadequate staff. He was inclined to lay the blame in part on the lack of adequate staffing. We tried as appropriations members to give him the tools to work with to get the job done. I am frank to recognize that.

I do not expect you to have any solution to it now, but if there are shortcomings in meeting your time schedule you ought to get together, the five of you, and say exactly what you need to meet the commitment which I think you have made to the country and which you have made to us.

I would suggest to our staffman, Mr. Gamble, that he work out some kind of questionnaire.