

I have never practiced before the Commission but as a lawyer we have problems arising in our State which are before your Commission and I am repeatedly told that the great blame lies on the lawyers and the Commissioners who grant the continuances repeatedly. That certainly has to be tightened up.

I am very happy to see that you have a country lawyer here. He may get the work done a lot faster than a city lawyer. I think perhaps we can get all working together, and get this job done. That purpose is inherent in everything we have said here.

I will simply pursue one question of the chairman one step further. I would ask each of you, individually or collectively, have you ever represented anyone in front of the Indian Claims Commission?

Mr. VANCE. No, sir; I have not, Senator Bible. I think the new law, as amended, provides on the matter of continuances that there shall be none except for one continuance of up to 6 months unless the claim is in the process of being negotiated.

Senator BIBLE. I am sure we will be glad to tighten that up. Lawyers are a strange group of people. I say that as a lawyer. They can always figure out ways to prolong the final judgment. I would assume that you men are trained in law and you have vast experience in law and you know how to hold their feet to the fire; that is what I am trying to say.

In response to my question, you say you have never represented anyone in front of the Indian Claims Commission. Have you been a member of a partnership that has represented anyone in front of the Indian Claims Commission?

Mr. VANCE. No, sir; I have not participated in any way in any piece of legislation that had anything to do with the Indian Claims Commission. As with all Montana lawyers, I have both prosecuted and defended Indians.

Senator BIBLE. I don't know that the fact that you have represented them before the Indian Claims Commission would necessarily disqualify you. It might disqualify you in one particular case.

Mr. Kuykendall.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. My response is the same as Mr. Vance's. I have never represented anyone, never appeared before the Commission in any fashion, nor have I been a partner of any law firm that has done so.

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Yarborough.

Mr. YARBOROUGH. I have had no practice before the Indian Claims Commission.

Senator BIBLE. Either individually or as a member of a partnership?

Mr. YARBOROUGH. No.

Senator BIBLE. I am satisfied.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Bible.

Those are good questions.

The Chair would like to state that the comment with reference to reports from the Commission is one that we do intend to insist upon. As a matter of fact, this was discussed when we had the extension bill before the committee. In the conference report, we stated, and I quote: "In the meantime, the House and Senate conferees on Interior and Insular Affairs will exert themselves to see that this does not happen," referring to the delay, "by calling periodically for progress reports from the Commission."