

So, you are all on notice that you will be reporting to the committee as to what progress is being made to clean up the calendar and get the cases to judgment.

I think the point Senator Bible made is an excellent one and we want the Commissioners, when you are confirmed, to have that clear understanding.

Senator Moss.

Senator Moss. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am satisfied with the personal qualifications of all three nominees. It appears to me that they have the education, background, and ability to do the job.

There is no need for my reiterating the expressions that have been made of the great feeling of urgency of committee members concerning the conclusion of this work.

I think the legislation by which the Commission is extended and the the increase in members and the report which the chairman read expresses thoroughly the opinion of all members of this committee.

I have no questions at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Burdick.

Senator BURDICK. First, I want to say I am very sorry to see Mr. Vance leaving the University of North Dakota Law School. I am satisfied with his qualifications.

I have to smile when my colleagues say how dissatisfied they are with the 21 years of inactivity on the part of the Commission. I was one who wanted to end this Commission. That is how I felt about it. I wanted to transfer it to the Claims Court or district court. Just move the cases over to the courts because I was thoroughly dissatisfied with 21 years of inactivity, comparative inactivity.

So, I do not intend to vote for renewal of this Commission again. That is how I feel about it. I think we owe this to the Indians. Some of those alive in 1946 will never see any money and if we don't move fast, many more will not see their claims acted upon.

It is not fair, I suppose, to lecture, so to speak, to the new members. This is based on what the old members did.

I wish you good luck. I hope you say "No" once in a while to a request for continuance from either side.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Metcalf.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Chairman, I have nothing to add.

I am delighted that Mr. Vance has made such a fine appearance here. I know he and the other members are impressed with the admonition that we are concerned about justice to the Indians and speedy solutions of these cases.

I am pleased with the qualifications of every member.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Metcalf.

Thank you, gentlemen, for your responses and statements here this morning.

Senator Monroney has sent over a letter from the Ponca Tribal Counsel of Ponca City, Okla., for inclusion in the hearing record. That letter and enclosure will be included at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)