

in a Federal court where the punishment would be in proportion to the gravity of the offense.

The purpose of Article VI is to expedite the approval of contracts between Indian tribes or other groups of Indians and their legal counsel when such approval by the Secretary of the Interior, or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is required by law.

As a result of his guardianship powers, the Secretary of the Interior has been provided authority to approve contracts between Indians and their attorneys. Despite efforts of the Department of the Interior in 1960 and 1962 to expedite approvals of tribal attorney contracts, administrative delays in approving such contracts is a continuing problem. Frequently these delays extend for over a year and consequently impose so severe a hardship upon the tribes in need of counsel that they constitute a denial of due process of law.

Incidentally, I think the record will show that recently there was a case of an Indian tribe that made a contract with counsel downtown. The Secretary did not approve it, and about a year and a half later he went into the Federal court and he was compelled to approve it.

Now, what we provide in this legislation is that the application relating to the employment of legal counsel made by Indians and other Indian groups to the Secretary of Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is deemed approved if neither approve nor deny within 90 days from the date of filing. In other words, if the tribe makes a contract for certain services—legal services and submits it to the Secretary as he is required to do, and the Secretary fails to act within 90 days, then it is approved.

No, title VII authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to revise and republish Senate Document 319 of the 58th Congress, and the treatise entitled "Federal Indian Law." This section directs that an accurate compilation of the official opinions of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior be compiled and maintained on an annual basis, and that Senate Document 319, containing treaties, laws, executive orders, and regulations relating to Indian affairs be kept current on an annual basis. The need for adequate and up-to-date research tools in the area of Indian affairs is pronounced. If our Indian citizens are to receive benefits in full measure from their own efforts, as well as from the activities of their attorneys and of scholars working on their behalf, full and easy access must be had to relevant documentary sources. Instances of out-of-print, out-of-date, and out-of-circulation materials must be corrected.

The passage of this bill into law will not provide the final solution to the legal dilemma in which the American Indian finds himself. But, it is a long step toward granting him his share in the American dream.

The Congress and the States have long neglected the rights of an American who has not been able to amass powerful lobby groups, large sums of money, and vast numbers of political crusaders.

For most of us, the basic constitutional protections are taken for granted. However, for the American Indian, the words we prize so highly had a hollow ring. He needs action, not silent sympathy or lengthy pronouncements of good intentions or pompous promises of assistance.

This legislation has been endorsed by the National Congress of American Indians, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American