

I take no position at this time on the question of housing, on the question of gun law, or on the question of the other civil rights provisions in the bill now before this great committee.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Aspinall.

As usual, you have made a forthright, splendid statement of your position on the matters, and I believe that the history of this committee would reflect that it has sided with you in every instance that you have been before this committee in behalf of legislation. I hope that the record won't be broken in this case.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Chairman, I am very appreciative of the indulgence this committee has shown to me and the reaction that they have had to my presentations. I appreciate it very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Aspinall, nothing can be gained by a great deal of conversation between you and me, but what you are asking here is that this bill follow the normal, ordinary legislative procedure. Normally when there are differences between the bills as passed by the two bodies, they go to conference. And I think it is a very reasonable request.

As a matter of fact, it is difficult for this humble member of this committee to understand why this should be placed in such an unusual and separate category. You request it go to conference, the normal, logical procedure. It can go to conference any day that those in control of the procedural machinery in this House want it to go, as the gentleman from Colorado knows. A motion can be made on the floor and it will go there.

This committee can, and I am sure it would, without any great debate if conditions were a little different, bring out a resolution sending it to conference. As a matter of fact, I think that as chairman of this committee I would assure you, I think I would be perfectly safe, that if the green light were given, if we had the votes, in other words, in this committee, we could report this resolution out today sending this bill to conference where it ought to go.

I want to thank you for your statement.

Any questions, Mr. Anderson?

Mr. JOHN ANDERSON. Do you feel, Mr. Chairman, that there is some possibility that the provisions of these titles dealing with Indian affairs may actually violate existing treaty obligations that the U.S. Government has with various tribes?

Mr. ASPINALL. I certainly do. And I would say also—

Mr. JOHN ANDERSON. That would be with respect to their right to conduct their tribal councils and judicial processes?

Mr. ASPINALL. Tribal judicial procedures, tribal judges, tribal decisions affecting their own people.

Mr. JOHN ANDERSON. You mean we might actually vote for a civil rights bill and then find out we have violated the civil rights of the Indians by doing that?

Mr. ASPINALL. Of course, this is right, Mr. Anderson. But what difference does it make to some people? Some people, all they want to have is civil rights for themselves. Overall, I think we, all of us, want to have enforceable civil rights that the people can live with. But when you find one minority working against other minorities all of the time, without any consideration whatsoever of the rights, the inherent