

through special legislation based on a full investigation of the circumstances.

The remaining portions of the bill, titles V, VI, and VII, are essentially technical in nature. To my knowledge none of the tribes objects to any of these titles and I think on the whole they would be useful provisions.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize again and urge this committee to report favorably on House Resolution 1100, which would permit the House to vote to concur with the Senate-passed bill. I do so not only because I think the housing and protection titles of this bill are critically important throughout the country today, but also because I affirmatively support the provisions of the bill as they affect Indian tribes.

I join with President Johnson, who in his message to the Congress on March 6, 1968, entitled "The Forgotten American," strongly endorsed both the Indian bill of rights and the requirement of tribal consent to State assumptions of jurisdiction.

In this connection, I also would like to remind the committee of President Eisenhower's concern back on August 15, 1953, in regard to the provisions of Public Law 280, and I quote:

Although I have grave doubts as to the wisdom of certain provisions contained in H.R. 1063, Public Law 280, I have today signed it because its basic purpose represents still another step in creating complete political equality to all Indians in our Nation.

My objection to the bill arises because of the inclusion in it sections 6 and 7. These sections permit other States to impose on Indian tribes within their borders, the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the State, removing the Indians from Federal jurisdiction and, in some instances, effective self-government. The failure to include in these provisions a requirement of full consultation in order to ascertain the wishes and the desires of the Indians and of final Federal approval, was unfortunate. I recommend, therefore, that at the earliest possible time in the next session of the Congress, the act be amended to require such consultation with the tribes prior to the enactment of legislation subjecting them to State jurisdiction, as well as approval by the Federal Government before such legislation becomes effective.

As I have stated, almost without exception, Indians throughout the country support this legislation and Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today.

At this point I would like to submit the statement of the National Congress of American Indians on S. 1843 and related bills before the Indian Affairs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, March 29, 1968:

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

I am John Belindo, Kiowa-Navajo, and Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians. The National Congress of American Indians is the only private national organization of the Indian people themselves where the voting and programming is limited to legally recognized Indians and Indian tribes. We are responsible for speaking up for the Indian people on a national scale. Close to 87 Indian tribes including Alaska native villages are represented in our organization. We are in close contact with these various tribes and Alaska Native groups which represents a major cross-section of the Native population of our nation. I am honored to appear here today before this Committee to make a statement indicating the position of the National Congress of American Indians with respect to the Senate approved Bill S. 1843 and related legislative proposals.