

It is at this point that we feel that the Congress acted in an irresponsible manner in giving states the rights to assume jurisdiction without safeguards to avoid hopeless complications. Senator Ervin's amendment, if passed, would provide long needed relief from an extremely distressing problem.

Your support is earnestly solicited.

Yours very truly,

QUINAULT TRIBAL COUNCIL,
JAMES JACKSON,

Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Reifel. Because of the fondness I have for the gentleman who just testified, the very friendly relations I enjoy with him, I am pleased to note that he made a very able statement in behalf of this provision of this bill.

And I judge, as the committee I am sure must judge, that the gentleman would like to see this particular legislation affecting Indians enacted into law.

Mr. REIFEL. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Now with that I have no quarrel, and I'm sure this committee has no quarrel. The question before us, Mr. Reifel, that this committee must decide and the House, eventually, is whether we are proceeding in an orderly, legislative fashion here. As the gentleman says, he has a very high regard for the chairman of the Interior Committee, as I do. I certainly share that. He says that they are considering this legislation in an orderly way, and he doesn't want to see it handled in this fashion. And I am sure that—I believe you said he had been a great friend of the Indians of the country. So that is the question involved. It is not the merits of the particular legislation as it affects Indians.

Any questions, Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH. Just one. When you say most of the Indian tribes are for it, is that because of communications on S. 1843, have they seen this, or do they write to you, or what? I'm trying to figure this out. I have never heard from an Indian tribe, so I don't know.

Mr. REIFEL. Well, you hear in several ways. First, through their attorneys who may be here in Washington or out in the field. For instance, the Pine Ridge Sioux Tribe has an attorney here. My own tribe has an attorney here. I have had telegrams from tribal members, and I was to receive some telegrams from the president or the executive secretary of the National Congress of American Indians. They are not on my desk, but by letter, telephone calls, by visits with them as they come, since I'm the only enrolled member of an Indian tribe in the Congress, they feel some feeling of rapport with me, so many of them stop by the office and visit with me. It is in those ways I have gotten the information.

Mr. SMITH. How many Indian tribes are there, approximately?

Mr. REIFEL. It is difficult; I would say there are somewhere around 100 tribes. This is not exact, because take my own tribe, which is a Sioux Tribe, they are a part of a larger group, which is Rosebud. Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, and so on, each of these is recognized as a separate tribe, but they are Sioux.

Then you get to the Chippewas, and they are White Earth, Red Lake Chippewas, and these are again considered separate tribes.