

Mr. LATTA. This is in the Indian section.

Mr. REIFEL. It is my understanding that, not being a lawyer, the law enforcement body of the tribe may permit a religious type of government.

Mr. LATTA. But that is pretty clear there, isn't it?

Mr. REIFEL. This is clear, yes. "No Indian tribe in the exercising of power of self-government shall make or enforce any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion."

Mr. LATTA. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Anything further?

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I want to say likewise Mr. Reifel made an eloquent and persuasive statement. The only comparable statement for its eloquence and persuasion I think the gentleman also made in support of the cultural center bill recently on the floor.

And I commend the gentleman.

Mr. REIFEL. Thank you very much.

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Chairman, I too want to join in commending the eloquent and very sincere presentation made by the able gentleman. Congress in 1964 passed, I think, a landmark law to authorize claims on behalf of tribes or groups of Indians for wrong done in the past history of our country.

I think that was a landmark piece of Indian legislation. This is another one, perhaps even more significant. But I just want to ask the gentleman one question. Is it too soon in what we might call the evolution or the modernization of the Indian people of the country—and we have many of them of whom we are very proud in my State—to be considered just like other citizens and not have any special laws or anything; just be subject to the same laws that other people are, not have special Indian courts, and have the same kind of courts that all the rest of us have?

Mr. REIFEL. As I understand your question, is it too soon to bring say, an Indian tribe, with all of its cultural values directly into the legal mainstream of the country?

Mr. PEPPER. Just forbid—I can't have any kind of a special court. I am a Baptist of Anglo-Saxon descent, but we don't have a special court. We have the same kind of courts that the Jews and the Catholics and all other people have.

But there has been a legacy of the Indian courts. I have been out in the Everglades and heard a good bit about how they hold their own courts and some of the judgments they render and the like.

As I understand it, they can be tried either in an ordinary American civil court or in their own court. I say is it too soon yet, or would it be an injustice to the Indian to no longer treat them as a separate group of people, but just treat them like other citizens, they are just people, citizens.

Mr. REIFEL. The gentleman is correct. It is too soon.

The CHAIRMAN. Excuse me. I want to get a consensus of the committee about who would be available for a meeting tomorrow.

Mr. PEPPER. I have commitments tomorrow, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. How about Tuesday?

Mr. PEPPER. I will be here Monday or Tuesday.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Anderson?

Mr. WILLIAM R. ANDERSON. I will be here tomorrow; yes, sir.