

doing them. I cannot understand why you should have any problem with them.

The CHAIRMAN. If I may say to my colleague—this is not an argument. He has stated his position.

Mr. MEEDS. I understand, Mr. Chairman. If the Chair will let me continue——

The CHAIRMAN. I hope you hurry up and finish. I have two more Governors to hear from by 12:30.

Mr. MEEDS. What is your objection to all of those rights which you are presently giving your people to have those codified, made a part of the law, and made applicable to other Indian tribes who do not have some of the rights that your people have?

Governor LEWIS. The educational level of two-thirds of my people right at this period is the fifth grade. Talking in two languages, and plus the fact that I mentioned something about accomplishment, that our people can do by working together, is the main thing that I would like considered. We are doing these things, we are thinking about it. But then—and you admit that we are doing these things in our tribal governmental system. And so when the thing is crammed down anybody's throat, when they are trying to do something on their own, it sort of lets a feeling of—they sort of drop. And these problems that we see and foresee for the future, we want to do it on our own.

Mr. MEEDS. Don't you think that it would make no radical change in the law as you presently administer your own law, though, would it—the adoption of all these things we have talked about—it would not make any radical change, or perhaps any change in which you are administering your own law at the present time?

Governor LEWIS. The fact that say from 1957 back, our tribal leaders had any education, they could not communicate, and they would misunderstand language, or get things twisted around, and did not have anything documented. In order so that we would be starting a foundation of our own is the reason why we have to get into a constitution on other things. But we want to do it.

Mr. MEEDS. You realize that title II of this bill would allow you to and give you assistance in formulating that code that you are talking about?

Governor LEWIS. We understand that. But the time element is just out of the question. Like I said, some tribes can do it, and it will take longer for some. I would say the 12-year period of time, when we have the two languages set up, we have this problem which will stay with us that length of time. When I get home—I have four councilmen who never had any education. I will have to interpret everything to them, starting with them first, and then spread the news out.

Mr. MEEDS. The fact, is it not, sir, is that the adoption of these things would really not cause you any substantial problems in adopting your laws presently and the rights you presently give to people.

The CHAIRMAN. The witness has answered the question.

Governor LEWIS. We would have to explain to your people first. And this is the job. In the language, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from South Dakota is recognized for any questions.

Mr. BERRY. I have no questions. I just want to commend the witness. Governor, you have made an excellent statement. I just want to