

**STATEMENT OF HON. B. L. TIMS, MAYOR OF SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.;
ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN DeBOLSKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS**

The CHAIRMAN. We are glad to have you before the committee. You may sit down and we shall listen to your presentation.

Mayor TIMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My statement will be fairly brief, approximately 12 minutes. I would like to be clear at the outset that I am not speaking against the so-called Indian civil rights bill. I think in relationship to your remarks this morning that no political realist would talk against the popular designation of civil rights.

The CHAIRMAN. Even though it did not have too much as far as offering values.

Go ahead.

Mr. TIMS. What I am strongly opposing is title III of that proposal. I am opposing it for myself and others in Arizona because it would wipe out the most enlightened legislation so far passed in Congress to set our Indian community free—Public Law 280. My colleagues and I are among those who want to free the Indian to give him at long last the opportunities we have opened to immigrants and minorities from every part of the world.

I titled these brief remarks, "Let America Help Its Indians," because I wanted to make a distinction between our opportunities of today and our awesome mistakes of the past. In the past, errors have been made by Americans. Now, at least in my part of the country, a substantial number of Indians are being surrounded more by the American way of life than by those who for generations have been killing them with kindness. These fine Indian people are being embraced by America. There is a natural course of events which follows such contact. Groups which encounter the mainstream of our country, regardless of their customs, their lack of education, their strangeness, have in the past, millions of them, embraced our life because they recognized the opportunity it provided.

Now, Indians are confronted with similar opportunities and opportunity created not by legislation but by abundance. Now, it is proposed by men, by legislation, to cut the Indian off from the personal participation essential to his development. The opportunity for the average Indian to profit from contact with growing America for the growing America would again be eliminated through a continuing policy of segregation which is a denial of everything most of us have been brought up to believe as America's. The privilege of leasing Indian lands in the path of oncoming urbanization of metropolitan Arizona offers one of the greatest opportunities for Americanization in the best sense of the word ever presented an emerging minority. It will teach them about ownership, management of property, about the relationship of maintenance cost to income, about the cost of a community and the costs of municipal life.

In short, if we give them the chance urbanization affords, these Indian neighbors of mine can learn in one generation what their forefathers have not been permitted to learn in five.

Here is the opportunity to learn to live and profit within the American economic and social framework, a reality which no government bureau or any other agency can permanently buffer.