

Mr. MEEDS. Are you aware that title I of this proposed bill is in effect granting of the first 10 amendments to the Indians on reservations?

Mr. ACOYA. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. And that title II is establishment of model codes or a model code for criminal matters and civil matters on Indian reservations? Are you aware of that?

Mr. ACOYA. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. How would you suggest that the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution be made applicable to the Indians in any other way than by passage of law either by the State or by the Federal Government?

Mr. ACOYA. Well, I believe, sir, that the Indians themselves with their law-and-order codes and their constitutions, they have allowed this type of thing within their own jurisdiction. In other words, that their constitutions have allowed their people those rights or freedoms under the Bill of Rights.

Mr. MEEDS. You feel that they have, then, at this present time, Indian people have at the present time all of the rights of the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution?

Mr. ACOYA. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. MEEDS. Are you aware of any problems that have arisen with regard to alleged persecution of religious beliefs on Indian reservations in the State of New Mexico?

Mr. ACOYA. Not on those that were expressed this morning, sir, in the respect that the people that were in this position primarily those people that would not conform to the ways of their own pueblos, conforming to the customs and traditions of their respective pueblos.

Mr. MEEDS. Well, what if those customs and conditions were in effect a violation of religious freedom?

Mr. ACOYA. As I understand, sir, these customs and traditions are not in any way violations of any religious beliefs.

Mr. MEEDS. Well, I have information, and you may know more about it than I do, but about 6 months ago a tribal council of the pueblo at Isleta passed an ordinance prohibiting a certain Catholic priest from coming on the reservation to hold services. A group who supported the priest took the matter to the tribal court. The court declared the ordinance contrary to the pueblos' constitution. The council called the judges before it and purported to impeach them. When the tribal judges refused to accept their imprisonment and to surrender their offices, the power of their offices, they were incarcerated for several days by the order of the council. Are you aware of that?

Mr. ACOYA. Yes, sir; I am.

Mr. MEEDS. Did that actually take place?

Mr. ACOYA. Yes; it did.

Mr. MEEDS. Would you call that a practice of religious freedom in that pueblo?

Mr. ACOYA. As I understand, there is a—from the Governor's standpoint, if I may, sir, this is considered a local situation where the locality itself has the ability to work out its own problems. In this case, where we find this type of thing, it was the Isleta Pueblo's position to do as it saw fit within its own powers of the government to handle such a situation.