

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. MEEDS. As far as my time—

The CHAIRMAN. If the gentleman wants to use some of his time, that is all right with me.

Mr. MEEDS. I would very much like to.

The CHAIRMAN. All I can say to my colleague is, we are going to adjourn here at 3:30. It doesn't make any difference what happens, and we have got the attorneys to take care of.

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Again, would you state what you represent?

Mr. BURNETT. I am the president of the American Indian Treaty and Civil Rights Council.

Mr. MEEDS. Treaty and Civil Rights Council. And what Indians do you represent; all tribes of Indians?

Mr. BURNETT. No. Presently we have membership in seven States—not membership, affiliates. We do not have membership.

Mr. MEEDS. Well, I am going to ask you for your opinion. Would it be your opinion, sir, in the position that you have, that the overwhelming majority of American Indians are for the passage of S. 1843 as it stands?

Mr. BURNETT. May I answer in this way. The overwhelming majority of the Indian people do not realize what civil rights are.

Mr. MEEDS. Would it be your opinion that if the majority, overwhelming majority, of the Indian people knew that the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution were not applicable to them on reservations, that they would want those first 10 amendments applicable to them?

Mr. BENNETT. I think they would demand it.

Mr. MEEDS. And we have heard from people this morning representing approximately 30,000 Indians. If my calculations are correct, or anywhere near correct, there are about 350,000 American Indians living on reservations and we have heard from people representing 30,000 of them that do not wish these 10, these first 10 amendments, applied to them, evidently.

Now, can you—you are an attorney; are you not?

Mr. BURNETT. No; I am not.

Mr. MEEDS. You are not an attorney. In your position on this Civil Rights and Treaty Council, can you see any reason why a group of Indians living on a reservation or in a pueblo who have all the rights of the 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution would be opposed to any other Indians having them?

Mr. BURNETT. No; I cannot. The only—I understand the Pueblo situation quite well. I was the representative of the National Congress of American Indians for 3 years and I know the U.S. Indian situation quite well. I understand their position and I have heard it stated time and time again this morning by the different witnesses that in practice they do have all of these 10 rights that are referred to here in this bill and I cannot see why it would not be well to have it stated in law so that somebody could go to court and protect that right if and when it is violated.

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions?