

tion to them and I cannot understand why they should object to something that doesn't apply to them.

With respect to the remainder of S. 1843, I should like to confine myself to the heart of the matter which is modification of Public Law 280. Public Law 280 permits the State to impose its laws on Indian people living on Indian reservations without their consent, and of all the Indian legislation on the books, there is none better known to Indians or more generally despised than Public Law 280.

Public Law 280 and the provisions that I am talking about that permitted legislation by the State without the consent of the Indians to subject the Indians to jurisdiction was adopted by Congress without any hearings. No Indian tribes were heard with respect to that provision of the statute which relates to extending State jurisdiction without tribal consent. That was done in executive session.

When this bill came before the President, President Eisenhower, he was tempted to veto it and he characterized it as an unchristianlike approach at the time he signed it into law, and he urged Congress then in 1953 to change it. But since 1953, although repeated efforts have been made, including efforts with the administration, we have not been able to obtain any bill from either House, or with one exception, the Senate. One of the sessions of the Senate did pass a bill amending Public Law 20 to require tribal consent.

I think the committee should know that this requirement has been brought to bear at least with respect to the tribes I represent in the States of Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. In the State of South Dakota the Legislature imposed State jurisdiction over Indians in Indian country. This was done on short notice, with small opportunity given to the Indians to present their views. Livestock interests spearheaded by a majority leader of the State senate, formerly a State senator from Indian country, were behind the efforts to place Indians under State control and jurisdiction.

For the first time probably since the Battle of Little Big Horn, the nine tribes in South Dakota, all Sioux, united and pooled their resources and obtained a referendum under a State constitution to refer the issue to the people.

The South Dakota tribes purchased television and radio time, newspaper and magazine coverage, and they brought to the people of South Dakota Abraham Lincoln's message that no man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent. And the people of South Dakota responded and rejected by an overwhelming vote of almost four to one the statute passed by the State Legislature of South Dakota to impose jurisdiction, State jurisdiction on Indians without their consent.

That was a very costly procedure for the tribes. It cost them more perhaps than to run an entire campaign, but it was necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. Your time has expired for today. When the hearings were held on the Senate bill of the 89th Congress, the National Congress of American Indians were meeting here. They don't represent all of the Indians, do they, Mr. Sonosky?

Mr. SONOSKY. No. I don't think they represent all the Indians. They represent most Indian tribes.

The CHAIRMAN. But there were several Indian tribes, including the pueblos who had no particular notice at that time of what was going on when the hearings were held in the other body.