

COUNCIL ANNETTE ISLANDS RESERVE,
Metlakatla, Alaska, November 13, 1967.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS,
Washington, D.C.:

This is to follow up on our telegram supporting Ervin Amendment HR 2516. Our Violators (liquor, Misdemeanor, Vehicle traffic violations, Crime) answer to the State Police and Magistrate. We are not happy with this because:

1. We have to fly in a State Trooper from Ketchikan and sometimes also a Magistrate. Ketchikan is 16 miles from here and by water.

2. They cannot answer our call sometimes because they have other areas to cover. Sometimes weather does not permit them to come in even when they are drastically needed.

3. This way a lot of things lag. Witnesses sometimes don't show up or change their minds about a given case after some time has elapsed.

4. We used to pick up \$1500.00 to over \$2000.00 on fines here when we had our own Magistrate. Our Constitution provides that our Magistrate can fine violators up to \$360.00 and/or sentence them to so many days free labor. This has become ineffective since the advent of Public Law 280.

5. We cannot jail sentence anyone. We can hold them in confinement until the State Police arrives.

6. Misdemeanor—breaking windows, marking up posters, stealing bicycles, ignoring curfew, breakins and pilfering, shoplifting, and the like has been hard to curtail and more or less rampant since Public Law 280. The State Police and Magistrate at Ketchikan do not want to, or do not have time for these cases.

7. Violations of all our Ordinances and disrespect of special rules on Good Conduct has been at a high peak.

8. A steady flow of liquor is in progress now, and bootleggers are plentiful. Our local Police according to State Officers are not empowered to make arrests; in fact our local Policemen are not as effective as they once were.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY S. LITTLEFIELD, Sr.,
Mayor.

NOVEMBER 8, 1967.

Mr. JOHN BELINDO,
Executive Director, NCAI,
Washington, D.C.:

Your attention is respectfully called to the amendments to H.R. 2516, the Civil Rights Bill, proposed by Senator Ervin.

The Indian rights amendment would repeal the provisions of Public Law 280 which allow states to assert civil and criminal jurisdiction over Indian country without the consent of the Indians. The Quinault Tribe has repeatedly objected to this aspect of P.L. 280 on the grounds that it is both impractical and unjust. In my report to Robert Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs on October 17, 1966, I made the following statement, which is the official stand of the Quinault Tribe on this problem:

"Because of the special status of Indian Reservations and the provisions of the treaties with Indians, state governments, have neither the political capacity nor the legal structure to administer jurisdiction over them in a manner which satisfies treaty rights. Neither do the state and local law enforcement agencies have the funds, the personnel, nor the facilities to do the job, by their own admission."

I am submitting herewith documentary evidence of the truth of the above statement in the form of recent newspaper articles. These illustrate the inability of Grays Harbor County government to meet its present obligations to the non-Indians of this area. Grays Harbor County is being criticized for its level of taxation, while, at the same time the County sheriff's force is threatened with disruption due to their inability to provide adequate salaries for officers. At the same time, Westport, at the south end of the county apparently suffers from inadequate law enforcement, with alcoholism a greater problem in Grays Harbor County than elsewhere in the state, and with inadequate financing to maintain their present program, it is quite evident that Grays Harbor County is not ready to provide even normal protection to the Quinault Indian Reservation.

The Quinault Reservation is now policed by four full time officers. If this protection were removed through state assumption of full jurisdiction it is very clear that we would be left without any protection at all.