

Not only our Pueblo is concerned over our God given rights and freedom but there are other tribes throughout the entire U.S. who are so concerned, and in favor of this bill to pass and become a law, so justice may overrule tyranny.

We have in our Pueblo a small portion of a homemade Constitution which was worked and adopted by the U. S. Indian Service in year 1947. So by this document we are self-governing body, but not all the tribes have this sort of government. The contents of this document are good if and when it is used by the governing body.

When the inexperienced people take over the administration they push the Pueblo Constitution aside and exercise their authority to their individual needs.

Therefore, our civil government weakens and becomes partial toward their people; they do not execute civil matters on a legal basis. When justice is not done we cannot appeal the cases to outside legal courts, due to not having any Constitutional Rights as citizens of the U.S. Only under this Constitutional Rights when it becomes a law the self-governing people of our Pueblo will live in freedom and protection.

As a Committee in behalf of our people we read and studied the Bill Titled II through VII Rights of Indians. We unanimously give our approval as a majority against a minority on our Pueblo.

With God's speed and Blessings, we, as a Committee in behalf of our people, pray and await for the day when justice will come.

Sincerely yours,

Isidor Aberto, Acting Chairman; Bob Jaramillo, Bernardine Jajola, Alvin Lucu, Seferino Lente, Jal F. Salezor, Jose L. Montoya, Lorenzo R. Jajola, Lawrence Jaramillo, Gus Jaramillo, Remijo C. Abeeta.

ISLETA, PUEBLO, ISLETA, N. MEX., *March 25, 1968.*

Senator SAM J. ERVIN, Jr.,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ERVIN: This letter is to show our appreciation concerning S. 1843 discussed on March 14, 1968, the Bill on Indian Constitutional Rights was discussed, and we are hoping that it will be acted on soon. It is a fact, without a doubt, in the mind of any red blooded American Citizen regardless of Color, Creed, or Race, that the American Indians by God's given rights are entitled to the United States Constitutional rights as citizens, of our own country not as immigrants to this Country, but as people by natural rights and birth. . . .

Our young men and women have served in the First World War, Second World War, Korean Conflict, and to date many more are in service in Vietnam. Many of them returned home to enjoy the freedom they won for their Country, so by not having any Constitutional rights, they have no freedom. The freedom is for the other race of American citizens. We are never known to object to the Constitution States, we are never known to burn our draft cards and never known to riot as we have seen and heard of within the States.

The time has come for the American Indian to stand up with the rest of the citizens and be counted. We must be given our Constitutional rights, and live abreast in this modern world, with the rest of the privileged citizens.

As World War veterans and in behalf of the rest who are in agreement we ask Congress to pass the Rights of Indians from Title I through Title VI. . . .

Only by freedom and by democratic government we can be privileged to participate in this great land of ours.

It is right and just.

Sincerely

JOSE L. MONTOYA,
Second World War Veteran.

Mr. Chairman, there has also been objection to Title II of S. 1843, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to recommend to Congress a model code to govern the administration of justice by courts of Indian offenses on Indian reservations. Concern has been voiced, again by leaders of the Pueblo tribes, that this model code would be imposed unilaterally upon Indian communities. This is a mistaken reading of the title. It merely directs the Secretary to *recommend* a model code and contains no language providing or even implying that this code shall become applicable to any tribe. It would be a model and nothing more and