

Federal Government have been held by the courts to be inapplicable with respect to Indian tribal governments in actions which affect their tribal members." It continued: "Such absence of restraint on tribal governments flows from a time when Indian tribal governments were regarded as sovereign nations when Indians were not even counted in the enumeration upon which Congressional apportionment was based; and when much of what is now Indian country was unexplored wilderness. . . . Since 1924 Indian citizenship and tribal freedom from constitutional restraint have been incompatible." After analyzing the bill section by section, the Report stated flatly that "We believe these proposals to be desirable and are prepared to carry them out."

In its comments on the bill, the Department of Justice said: "This Department joins the President, of course, in urging that the Congress complete action on this bill."

Most importantly, President Johnson has urged action on these measures. In eloquent words he outlined the dilemma of the Indian and the disgrace of the Nation:

"Mississippi and Utah—the Potomac and the Chattahoochee—Appalachia and Shenandoah . . . The words of the Indian have become our words—the names of our states and streams and landmarks.

"His myths and his heroes enrich our literature.

"His lore colors our art and our language.

"For two centuries, the American Indian has been a symbol of the drama and excitement of the earliest America.

"But for two centuries, he has been an alien in his own land."

Mr. Chairman, may I join with these eminent attorneys, these sincere Indian citizens, these Administration officials, and with the President of the United States in urging that your Committee take favorable action on these essential measures, thereby clearing the way for this Nation to unburden its guilt in its behavior toward the first inhabitants of this continent.

