

have improvements. Wherever you have improvements on Indian lands, you have taxes being paid by the Indian lessees. Wherever you have the Indians driving an automobile, he's paying his gasoline taxes, which is one of the main sources of revenue today, or if he smokes cigarettes, or whatever it is.

Really, what we're talking about is something which basically permits two things. One, it gives the Indians something for the years of restriction they have faced, to catch up economically; and two, it certainly acts as an accelerator of economic development on Indian land if it is retained for a while, and the map behind you that Mr. Patencio pointed to, points to the lack of development that you see as Indian land. We'd like to see that filled in like the other sections.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Just one final question. Mr. Chairman, I understand that your holdings in trust have declined from about 32,000 to about 26,000 acres in the last, approximately, 10 years; is that correct?

Mr. PATENCIO. Correct.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Are you concerned about this decline in the total of trust holdings, which would indicate to me that at the rate it's going, within a few more decades there will be no trust holdings and tax exemptions?

Mr. PATENCIO. Yeah.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I see.

Mr. PATENCIO. Well, the allotment program which I explained earlier, it's up to the individual to do as he pleases with his property, and I'd like to see him keep it in trust, personally. I don't know what their needs are, or plans.

Mr. TUNNEY. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Gentleman from California.

Mr. TUNNEY. Does the tribe envision the time when they feel that termination would be appropriate in reference to the statement of Mr. Simpson that the tribe feels that it ought to have an opportunity to economically catch up. Does the tribe envision a time when they will be terminated and will desire termination?

Mr. PATENCIO. I'm pretty sure that this is probably what they want. We want to take our place in society, no matter how long it takes, and we'd like to get down to accomplish that. To answer your question, I believe we are working toward that.

Mr. TUNNEY. Has there been any fee title given to trust land in the last 3 or 4 years?

Mr. PATENCIO. Yes, sir.

Mr. TUNNEY. Do you have any idea, Mr. Simpson, how much land has been disposed of by this method? How much has been taken out of the Federal trust in the last 4 or 5 years?

Mr. SIMPSON. The estimate, to the best of my recollection, that the Indian Bureau gave not long ago is that you have something approaching 5 to 6 percent.

Mr. TUNNEY. Thank you.

Mr. SIMPSON. That's in the past 4 years.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Mr. Patencio, members of the council, I want to compliment you on a very fine presentation. I think you have been very frank with us, and I think you demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the issues involved here, and we appreciate very much