

I would like to ask you this question, Governor: This is a hypothetical question but I think it places the U.S. Government in a little bit better position than some of you want to have it placed.

What would have happened to these claims of the natives if Russia had not transferred its title to the United States?

Governor HICKEL. What would have happened to the patents?

Mr. ASPINALL. What would have happened to the claims of the natives that are now presenting claims to the Federal Government? What would have happened to the claims if Russia had seen fit to keep ownership of that area?

Governor HICKEL. I would have to go over to Moscow to answer that question. Not being facetious, I don't know what would have happened.

Mr. ASPINALL. You would have to go further back than that. A trip to Moscow wouldn't do a bit of good at the present time. All you have to do is look at the proposition. Don't point to the Federal Government as a bad boy in this operation. We gave Alaska what she wanted first and now we find a problem in which all of us are interested and are desirous of finding an answer.

Now, to make the record clear, Alaska has received fair treatment. In the case of the other States, some received one section out of each township for various purposes, mostly school purposes. Some received two sections. Some received four sections. Four sections, which is one-ninth of the total land area, is all the Federal Government ever gave to any State before statehood was granted, or at the time statehood was granted.

Now, Alaska, if I understand correctly, has at the present time a land area of 365,481,600 acres. In our bill we provided that the government of Alaska, the State, would have 103 million acres. In other words, Congress was not parsimonious when it came to the granting of statehood. One-third instead of one-ninth, or one-thirty-sixth. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't clear up this question of native claims, but it does mean that in some respects some of the figures which are quoted by the friends of Alaska are just a little bit unreasonable.

When you talk about Uncle Sam owing \$1 billion liability here, or \$500 million liability under these circumstances, we get just a little bit out of line, in my opinion. That is all I wish to say because you have made a good statement as far as Alaska is concerned and your statement speaks for itself. It doesn't need any questioning on my part.

Before the State of Alaska can get 103 million acres of land and before you begin to proceed as you have a right to proceed, we must take care of this problem, but let's keep it within bounds.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. The gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SAYLOR. Governor, it is good to see you before the committee. I would like to commend you on your appearance. I don't know where Secretary Seward is today but his investment of \$7,200,000 for the entire State of Alaska 102 years ago, would I'm afraid, cause him to shudder if he thought we were having a bill presented to us by the Governor of Alaska for \$1 billion to settle the native land claims of the people of Alaska.