

what we have at the present time, which is too bad, which I will admit. Is that not right?

Mr. LEKANOF. Mr. Connor will respond.

Mr. CONNOR. Mr. Aspinall, may I respond to that?

Mr. ASPINALL. I just want to get it in the record.

Mr. CONNOR. We have done considerable research in the Aleutian area and the anthropologists that have worked there have determined that the Aleuts enjoyed a very long lifespan. Many lived to be 100 years old. This is done by a study of the bones. The reasons ascribed to the long lifespan is the high standard of living they enjoyed in that region.

Mr. ASPINALL. We are talking about two different things. The number of Aleuts is very small compared to the rest of them. You were in more or less the temperate climate and the warmth of the Gulf Stream. I am talking about the natives who lived in the North where they barred themselves up, as the statement said, in secret places and put chewing gum in the keyholes in order to keep out the air. This is all understandable. I understand it. I just don't want this record to be misleading. I think we have made improvements up there. In fact, in the cases I was told about, when I was in Kotzebue that the health situations were much better than they were in previous years. I am hoping that in the last 16 or 17 years they were better than they were then. If not, the Health Department, not the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has neglected its job.

You folks are entitled to the same advantages for health and education and social development as any other part of the United States at the present time. Isn't that right?

Mr. CONNOR. That is correct, sir.

Mr. ASPINALL. So it should not come into this particular responsibility of this committee, unless you want to make the background to show your needs.

Mr. CONNOR. Mr. Aspinall, I think it demonstrates a couple of things. First of all, some people who are opposed to the native land claims say, "Look, these people should be merged into the dominant culture, or they already have been, so why should they be compensated."

Mr. ASPINALL. We've got that every place. You've got that in every nook of the American people. You have other people for whom perhaps we should not build any more houses and everybody should live outdoors year in and year out. I don't want to get into this argument.

Mr. CONNOR. It also demonstrates how the settlement and the use of the proceeds may relieve some of the Federal programs eventually through the self-determination of the native people themselves.

Mr. ASPINALL. That is right.

On the other hand, it makes no difference what line you get it out of. It all comes from the Federal Treasury. You folks are citizens of the United States. I want you to keep that in mind. It does not make any difference what your background is, your bloodstream or anything. You are citizens of the United States and you are entitled to all these other programs.

Mr. LEKANOF. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think the important thing here is that we are asking an opportunity for a people who would decide on their own future; the concept of self-determination. At one time the native people enjoyed this type of living. They survived for over