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TO MAKE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. Res. 448

TO MAKE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS A
PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

JUNE 25, 1980



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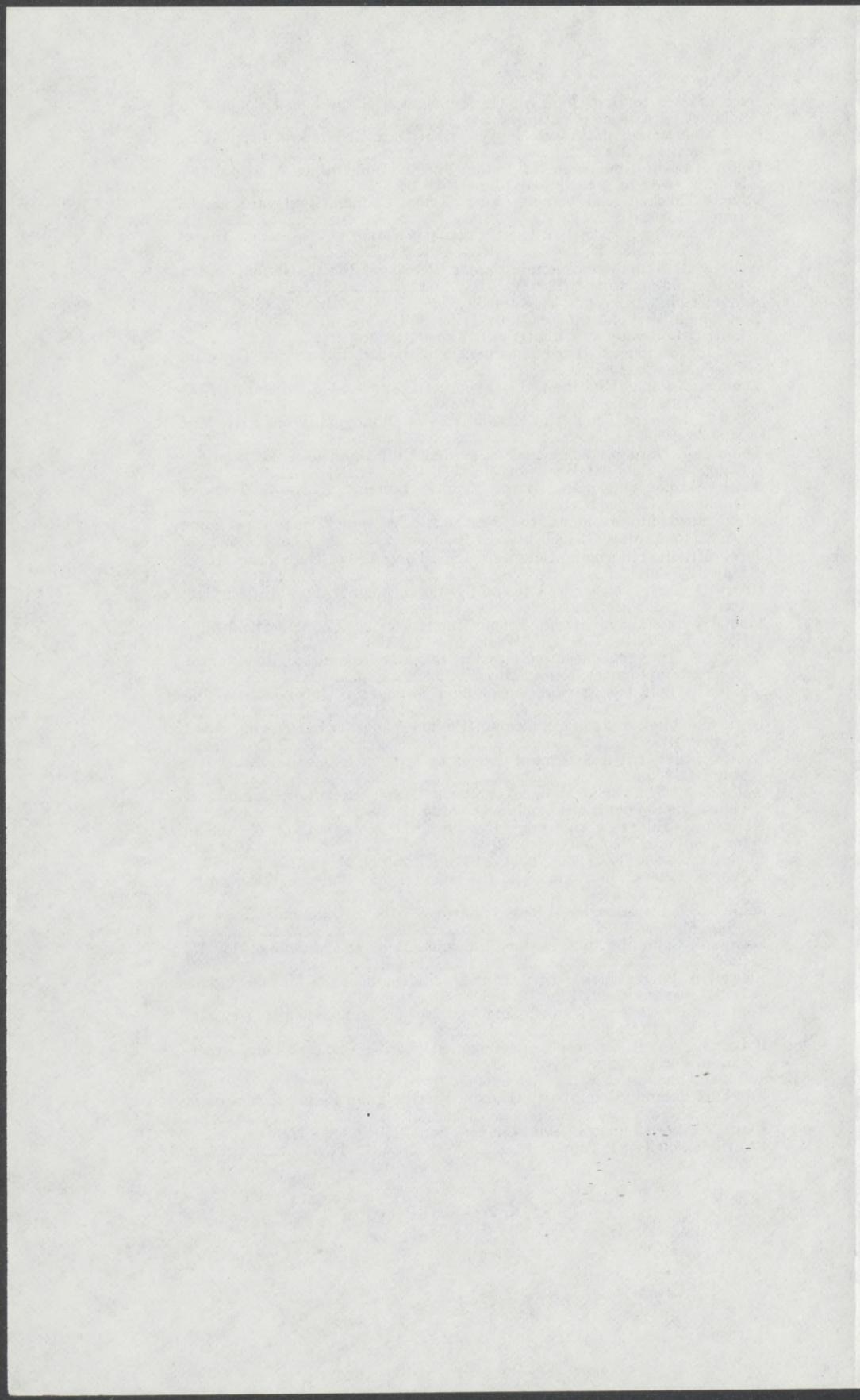
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TO MAKE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1980

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in room 301, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Claiborne Pell, chairman, presiding.

Present: Senators Pell and Cannon.

Staff present: William McWhorter Cochrane, staff director; Gerald W. Siegel, chief counsel; Thomas K. Decker, minority staff director; Donald F. Massey, minority counsel; Raymond N. Nelson, professional staff member; Paul G. Goulding, professional staff member; John K. Swearingen, director, technical services; John L. Sousa, counsel (elections); Jack L. Sapp, professional staff member; Robert C. Heckman, assistant chief clerk (auditor); and Peggy Parish, chief clerk.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CLAIBORNE PELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee on Rules and Administration will come to order.

For the second time, in succeeding Congresses, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration is holding a hearing on a resolution to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee.

In the past, the decision whether to give the Indian Committee such status has been postponed, and the committee was given temporary status by being continued through the present Congress, or until January 2, 1981.

It would seem the time has come, and perhaps is overdue, to face the issue squarely and decide whether the Indian Committee should become a subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, as was provided in the past, or should be given separate status and permanency.

The resolution before us today, Senate Resolution 448, proposes permanent status for the existing committee and has the support of 27 cosigners.

In 1978, I supported the proposal to provide a 2-year extension of the committee, to the end of this Congress.

I have been opposed to proliferation of committees, and supported the reform proposals of the Select Committee on Committees

which, under the chairmanship of Senator Adlai Stevenson, was convened several years ago for the express purpose of making recommendations concerning the Senate's committee system.

The abolishment of several committees was proposed at the time, but the recommendations were tempered by the Senate and a modified form of revamping was adopted instead.

I have given much thought to this resolution now before us, perhaps in part because I have a small amount of Indian blood in me, and because I believe there are factors that dictate special consideration for the Indian Committee.

The situation of American Indians is unique in our society, and much of the injustice that was dealt to the Indians by our forefathers remains with us today. Therefore, I intend to keep an open mind as I closely follow the testimony of the witnesses today.

We have a number of witnesses this morning, including some of my colleagues.

Before I call upon them, without objection, I request that a number of letters and statements we have received from persons interested in this measure be printed in the record at an appropriate place.

At this time, I call upon the chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, and the chief sponsor of the resolution, Senator John Melcher, to lead off.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND SPONSOR OF
SENATE RESOLUTION 448**

Senator MELCHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for arranging this hearing.

I believe that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs provides a focal point for the Senate's work in addressing issues which concern both Indians and non-Indians.

In order for Congress to continue to meet its historical, constitutional, and legislative responsibilities in the area of Indian affairs, a permanent Indian Affairs Committee with adequate expertise and resources should be established in the Senate.

I am going to refer to just a few of the legislative proposals considered and reported by the Indian Affairs Committee and passed thus far by the 96th Congress.

First, legislation settling a long-standing dispute between the Hopi and Navajo Tribes. Second, legislation establishing a Native Hawaiian education program. Third, an extension of the statute of limitations for the filing of claims by the Federal Government on behalf of Indian Tribes. Fourth, legislation correcting serious defects in the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges Act. Fifth, legislation reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The committee has also actively considered, and in most cases, reported bills addressing long overdue needs of individual tribes in such areas as petitions for restoration, transfer of lands to be held in trust for certain tribes, and water rights settlement.

The committee has conducted 18 oversight and investigative hearings, and the committee's attention to its oversight responsibil-

ities has begun to provide a significant opportunity for bringing to light long dormant problems.

Of major importance in the oversight area thus far has been the committee's documentation of unsound and possibly illegal spending practices by the Indian Health Service. The committee is currently reviewing a draft report and audit, conducted by committee staff, which could result not only in the more productive use of funds appropriated for the Indian Health Service, but also in potential savings to the Federal Government in the millions of dollars.

I believe this is only the first phase in what must be a continuous oversight effort by the committee. The committee's oversight activities have extended far beyond what would likely be accomplished by a subcommittee.

Just during the months of June and July, the committee has or will conduct oversight hearings on the Indian Judgment Fund Distribution Act, the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian housing, and Indian education.

In addition, further oversight field hearings on Indian health issues have been scheduled this fall to be chaired by Senator Hatfield. Finally, the committee is in the midst of considering legislative proposals to improve the machinery for the administration of justice on Indian reservations, and legislation establishing an Institute for the Development of Indian Art and Culture.

I am attaching an exhibit which gives the history, jurisdiction and a summary of legislative activities of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs during the 96th Congress. [The exhibit referred to may be found in the files of the Rules Committee.] Since that report was printed at the conclusion of the first session of the 96th Congress, additional hearings were held by the committee, and additional bills have been reported. Currently, a total of 37 measures have been referred to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The committee has reported 22 of these measures to the Senate.

In addition, the committee has held 51 hearings, 18 of which were of an oversight nature.

Mr. Chairman, these reasons for continuing the committee were considered in the last Congress by this committee. The report that accompanied the recommendation that the committee be continued in the next Congress made some very astute observations. Those observations are as true today as they were then.

Indian affairs issues continue to be extremely important, requiring expert and expeditious consideration. Beginning next week, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs will begin holding hearings on legislation introduced by Senator Cohen, the committee's ranking minority member, which is intended to settle a longstanding and extremely complicated land claim made by the Indian tribes in the State of Maine.

As the chairman of the Rules Committee knows, in September of 1978, Congress enacted legislation settling the Narragansett land claim in Rhode Island, based on a settlement agreement developed by the parties to the dispute. The Select Committee on Indian Affairs played a valuable role in this process by insuring, through

extensive research, that all parties involved were adequately represented, and that the proposed legislation was legally sufficient.

In the Maine settlement legislation, as well as in at least four of the outstanding land claims for which the committee anticipates receiving settlement proposals, the committee will once again attempt to identify a reasoned and principled legislative approach to settlement, taking into account the interests and responsibilities of all parties.

Mr. Chairman, the recommendation, in Senate Resolution 4, to include this committee as a subcommittee of another committee, will really not get the job done.

First of all, the chairman of that committee, the Labor and Human Resources Committee, is not very anxious to assume jurisdiction over Indian affairs and does not recommend this transfer. Prior to the 95th Congress, the Indian Affairs Committee's functions were included in what was called the Senate Interior Committee. Now that committee is known as the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. I serve on that committee. The chairman of that committee is not anxious to assume jurisdiction once again of this work in a subcommittee. The basic reason is because of the diverse nature of the Indian legislation. Indian bills do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other single committee.

I want to finally say that I firmly believe Senate Resolution 448 should be passed as introduced, and that is to make this a permanent committee. We have serious problems in retention of staff as well as the recruitment of staff from Indian country. I think the chairman well knows of our desire to have more of the staff personnel be Indian.

A former counsel for the Indian Affairs Committee in the last Congress and the beginning of this Congress is Alan Parker. I think he is going to testify. Larry Parker, Alan's brother, is going to join the committee staff. I suspect he will provide for the committee the same type of astute, dedicated, sharp service that Alan did when he was chief counsel.

I bring this up because Larry Parker is moving his family from North Dakota to Washington, D.C. That is a big move for a family. The committee is not permanent. Larry Parker has made a decision which will be a very severe inconvenience for his family. This is simply another illustration of why it is so significant that the committee not be extended from Congress to Congress, and be renewed for one Congress at a time. It should be a permanent committee so that Indians know, if they move here out of sympathy for and dedication to the Indian problem to contribute to solving those problems, that they will be assured that the Indian staff is a permanent one. They should know that moving their family to Washington is not going to represent serious financial setback.

Mr. Chairman, although Indian people comprise only a very small segment of the total U.S. population, this country's responsibility in the field of Indian Affairs is great. However, for too many years this Government's Indian policy has been one of neglect, resulting in an incoherent, often confusing and haphazard patchwork of outdated laws, inefficient and stifling bureaucracies, and conflicting administrative policies.

In addition, serious conflicts have arisen in many parts of the country following the assertion of legal rights by the Indian tribes, and often these conflicts can only be resolved by the Congress. After all, Congress has not only ultimate responsibility for Federal Indian policy, but also under the law and the Constitution, Congress has plenary authority in this area.

We have made great progress in the Select Committee on Indian Affairs in the past 3 years, and are proud of it. I want to point that out. I want to note for the chairman's benefit that one of the bills that we will be considering this summer is designed to make some sense out of the national involvement in Indian art, culture, history.

Go down to the Smithsonian Institution and search for any type of adequate presentation of Indian art and culture. It abounds but is not represented at the Smithsonian. It is the Native American culture. It abounds in this country, but we have so little of it in the forefront of our thinking that the Smithsonian virtually lacks any type of recognition of it.

I only bring that up, Mr. Chairman, to illustrate that the committee's activity and function is vital, and it is very broad in its service to this country's needs.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much indeed.

I do not know what your time frames are, whether you want to stay and go on to the other Senators first.

Senator MELCHER. I will stay for questions, and I would like to submit these letters in support. Perhaps the committee has duplicates.

The CHAIRMAN. They will be submitted, and without objection, included in the record, without duplication.

[The prepared statements of Senator Melcher and Senator Hatfield follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee on Rules and Administration, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of S. Res. 448, establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate. As you know, in 1977 the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 4, in recognition of the need for a committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian affairs during the 95th Congress. The life of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs was extended through the 96th Congress by the passage of S. Res. 405 on October 14, 1978. Now, twenty-seven Members of the Senate have joined me in cosponsoring a resolution establishing a permanent Indian affairs committee.

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs, which I have the privilege to chair, has served the Congress, the Country, and the Indian people efficiently and effectively for 3 years by providing a focal point for the Senate's work in addressing issues which concern both Indians and non-Indians. During this time it has become increasingly evident that if the Congress is to continue to meet its historical, constitutional, and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian affairs, a permanent Indian affairs committee with adequate expertise and resources should be established in the Senate. It is imperative that Congress have the capacity to resolve in a fair and responsible manner the serious conflicts which continue to arise between Federally connected Indian interests and other public and private interests.

It has been my experience that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has proved to be an excellent and versatile forum for exploring alternative ways of mediating such conflicts consistent with the legal rights of Indian tribes and the overriding Federal responsibility. In addition, the Committee, through its oversight functions, has continued to seek solutions to the varied problems Indians have

encountered in the administration of Federal trust and social service responsibilities.

As an illustration let me refer to just a few legislative proposals which were considered and reported by the Committee and passed by the Senate thus far in the 96th Congress: (1) legislation settling a long-standing dispute between the Navajo and Hopi Tribes; (2) precedent-setting legislation establishing a Native Hawaiian education program; (3) an extension of the statute of limitations for the filing of claims by the Federal government on behalf of Indian tribes; (4) legislation correcting serious defects in the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges Act; and (5) legislation reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The Committee has also actively considered and, in most cases, reported bills addressing long overdue needs of individual Indian tribes in such areas as petitions for restoration, transfer of lands to be held in trust for certain tribes and water rights settlement.

The Committee has conducted eighteen oversight and investigative hearings and the Committee's attention to its oversight responsibilities has begun to provide a significant opportunity for bringing to light long-dormant problems. Of major importance in the oversight area thus far has been the Committee's documentation of unsound and possibly illegal spending practices by the Indian Health Service. The Committee is currently reviewing a draft report and audit, conducted by Committee staff, which could result not only in the more productive use of funds appropriated for the Indian Health Service, but also in potential savings to the Federal government in the millions of dollars. I believe that this is only the first phase in what must be a continuous oversight effort by the Committee.

The Committee's oversight activities have extended far beyond what would likely be accomplished by a subcommittee. Just during the months of June and July, the Committee has or will conduct oversight hearings on the Indian Judgment Fund Distribution Act, the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian Housing and Indian Education. In addition, further oversight field hearings on Indian health issues have been scheduled this fall to be chaired by Senator Hatfield. Finally, the Committee is in the midst of considering legislative proposals to improve the machinery for the administration of justice on Indian reservations and legislation establishing an Institute for the Development of Indian Art and Culture.

The attached exhibit, "History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Legislative Activities of the United States Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs during the Ninety-Sixth Congress", discusses more fully some of the Committee's activities. (The exhibit referred to may be found in the files of the Rules Committee.) Since that report was printed at the conclusion of the 1st Session of the 96th Congress, additional hearings were held by the Committee and additional bills have been reported. Currently, a total of thirty-seven measures have been referred to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The Committee has reported twenty-two of these measures to the Senate. In addition, the Committee has held fifty-one hearings, eighteen of which were of an oversight nature.

To put the issue of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in proper perspective, I would like to briefly summarize the historical approach to Indian affairs by the Congress. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House and Senate Committees on Indian Affairs which has been in existence since the early 1800's were abolished. Legislative and oversight jurisdiction over Indian matters were at that time vested in subcommittees of the Committees on Public Lands in the House and Senate. Although some important legislation affecting Indians was enacted during the next 30 years, this subcommittee arrangement failed to produce a truly adequate forum for legislating appropriate solutions to problems affecting Indian people. Indian legislation could no longer be reported directly to the Senate from a full Indian Affairs Committee, and legislative jurisdiction over Indian affairs was fragmented in a number of committees. In the Congress, there were more than 10 committees responsible for Indian affairs, resulting in a disjointed and haphazard treatment of Indian legislation.

This situation changed dramatically in April of 1977 with the establishment of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The Senate's record on Indian affairs during the past three years demonstrates clearly and persuasively that a separate committee on Indian affairs is the most efficient way to approach and resolve problems related to Indian issues. The select committee, comprised of a relatively small number of members with both a serious interest in addressing these matters and experience in Indian affairs, has been able to devote sufficient time to fully consider its legislative responsibilities and to deal fairly with Indian legislation.

Mr. Chairman, in testimony before the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration during the hearings on Senate Resolution 4, the need for a separate committee on Indian affairs was underscored. Witnesses representing the Indian tribes as

well as several of our colleagues in the Senate pointed out the compelling logic to consolidating rather than fragmenting committee jurisdiction over Indian affairs as had been proposed by the Select Committee on Committees.

This position, presented to the Rules Committee, emphasized the totally unique nature of the Federal government's responsibility in Indian matters, and in my view, possesses even greater validity and merit today. Not only do the range and complexity of Indian issues before the Senate argue for the continuation of a separate committee, but these considerations with equal force lead to the conclusion that none of the standing committees in the Senate can be expected to devote the specialized expertise and interest to this field.

Mr. Chairman, at this point, I would like to refer to the following excerpts from the Rules Committee's Report No. 95-1047, which accompanied S. Res. 405, extending the Committee through the current Congress. In that report the Rules Committee stated, and I am quoting, "The rationale of the Committee on Rules and Administration in recommending the establishment of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs was clear. There is an evident need for a committee whose members could focus full attention on Indian affairs legislation with the assistance of an adequate staff with expertise in that field . . . Although the wisdom of the Senate in establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been proven, it is also apparent that the date for termination has proven unrealistic. The Select Committee on Indian Affairs has an imposing agenda which cannot realistically be considered during the remaining months of this Congress. The issues remaining before the Select Committee are significant and complex. . . . The Rules Committee is confident, however, that it would be unwise to terminate a proven, working structure for the consideration of American Indian affairs while the basic work contemplated for the Select Committee is in midstream. . . . In summary, the Committee believes that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is a proven, timely and effective structure for the consideration of Indian affairs matters. . . ."

Mr. Chairman, these astute observations made by the Rules Committee two years ago are just as true today as they were at that time. Indian affairs issues continue to be extremely important, requiring expert and expeditious consideration. Beginning next week, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs will begin holding hearings on legislation introduced by Senator Cohen, the Committee's Ranking Minority Member, which is intended to settle a long-standing and extremely complicated land claim made by the Indian tribes in the State of Maine. As the Chairman of the Rules Committee knows, in September of 1978, Congress enacted legislation settling the Narragansett land claim in Rhode Island, based on a settlement agreement developed by the parties to the dispute. The Select Committee on Indian Affairs played a valuable role in this process by insuring, through extensive research, that all parties involved were adequately represented and that the proposed legislation was legally sufficient. In the Maine settlement legislation, as well as in at least four of the outstanding land claims for which the Committee anticipates receiving settlement proposals, the Committee will once again attempt to identify a reasoned and principled legislative approach to settlement, taking into account the interests and responsibilities of all parties.

Mr. Chairman, let me finally say that I firmly believe that S. Res. 448 should be passed as introduced. To amend S. Res. 448 and provide for another temporary extension of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs would raise serious problems in terms of retention of staff and recruitment of Indian staff from Indian country. As the Chairman must know, with no assurance as to the duration of the Committee, hiring of suitable staff becomes increasingly difficult. The Select Committee on Indian Affairs should be able to carry on its work without any question as to its future.

Mr. Chairman, although Indian people comprise only a very small segment of the total U.S. population, this country's responsibility in the field of Indian affairs is great. However, for too many years, this Government's Indian policy has been one of neglect resulting in an incoherent, often confusing and haphazard patchwork of outdated laws, inefficient and stifling bureaucracies and conflicting administrative policies. In addition, serious conflicts have arisen in many parts of the country following the assertion of legal rights by the Indian tribes and often these conflicts can only be resolved by the Congress. After all, Congress has not only ultimate responsibility for Federal Indian policy, but also under the law and the Constitution, Congress has plenary authority in this area.

Significant progress has been made by the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, but our major work has just begun in providing the legislative solutions necessary to laying the foundation of a sound Federal Indian policy. If the responsibility for Indian affairs reverts to a subcommittee, which would occur in the absence of this resolution, the potential for the careful and equitable consideration of Indian issues

will be severely diminished. A separate and permanent Indian affairs committee is simply the most practical way to meet this responsibility. I urge the Rules Committee to support this resolution and act on it as quickly as possible.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. MARK O. HATFIELD, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBER OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman and fellow members of the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Let me begin by thanking Senator Melcher for his fine testimony, and for making such a convincing case in favor of the establishment of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the Senate. It is an honor for me, as a member of both the Rules Committee and the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, to be a co-sponsor of Senate Resolution 448.

As Senator Melcher and Chairman Pell are well aware, my involvement in Indian Affairs in the Senate goes back to the days when Indian concerns were dealt with by a subcommittee of the old Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Among the most significant pieces of legislation we considered and acted favorably upon in the 93rd Congress was a bill creating the American Indian Policy Review Commission. I was privileged to have been one of the three Senate Representatives to serve on the eleven-member Commission.

It is very relevant to point out that one of the most important recommendations made by the Commission was that permanent committees be established in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. These Committees were to have full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian Affairs. The result in the Senate was, of course, the creation of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs in 1977, and its subsequent extension in the 96th Congress. With over three years of experience from which to analyze the effectiveness of a separate forum on Indian Affairs, there is no doubt that the merits of a distinct Committee are entirely evident.

Chairman Melcher has outlined the wide variety and complexity of the issues which have come before the Select Committee. It should be obvious that they are not simply public land or human resource issues. The unique body of law which is the basis for Federal Indian policy requires that the legislative concerns of our native American community be dealt with by a separate committee of the Senate.

Let me conclude by saying that I am convinced that the needs of the Senate and, more importantly, the needs of the American Indian can best be served by our favorable action on Senate Resolution 448. I encourage my colleagues on the Rules Committee to give it their careful consideration and active support.

The CHAIRMAN. Perhaps Senator Inouye is under time pressure and would like to present his testimony now.

STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL K. INOUE, MEMBER OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Senator INOUE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to speak in favor of Senate Resolution 448.

As you are aware, I am a newcomer in the field of Indian affairs. But like all of us, I have been long aware of the complexity and the compelling nature of the issues involved, and am vividly cognizant of the unique Federal obligations extended to this Nation's native American citizens.

I have also long been aware that these obligations have not often been sufficiently recognized and adequately addressed by our Government and leaders. Through my work on behalf of the native Hawaiian people whose interests I have the privilege of representing in Congress, and my involvement with matters impacting American Indians and Alaskan Natives, I have become convinced that creation of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee is highly appropriate. It is, further, of the utmost importance if the special rights and interests of this unique minority are to be protected and our Federal responsibilities are to be upheld.

Candidly, Mr. Chairman, the history of this country's treatment of its native American populations has too often been reprehensible.

Few in this Nation have suffered greater indignity and injustice than have the American Indians. Deprived of their ancestral lands, their numbers depleted by disease, warfare, and in some cases, what would appear to be outright genocide, their governmental, social and cultural structures broken up and depleted, native Americans have a sad legacy from their dealings with the Government of the United States.

Today, native Americans in general remain poor, uneducated and unhealthy and are at the bottom of almost every socioeconomic statistical indicator. The moral arguments alone would justify passage of this legislation.

However, the United States, through constitutional treaty and legislative authority has a well founded legal responsibility to protect and uphold the rights and interests of native Americans. U.S. native American policy, which has ranged from efforts to support and pacify Indians by keeping them on reservations, to forced cultural and social assimilation with nonnative America—from legislative termination of treaty rights to outright neglect, does not speak well for our record as legal trustees. Let us not compound this sad history by relegating our first Americans to a position of no importance.

Mr. Chairman, I have further comments to make, but may I request that the remainder of my statement be made part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, that will be done. And, also, I would ask that without objection a statement by Senator Hatfield, who had to be in Oregon for the funeral of a friend, be inserted in the record immediately following the statement of Senator Melcher.

[The prepared statement of Senator Inouye follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Resolution 448, a measure introduced by Senator Melcher. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation which seeks to establish the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate. Though I am a relative newcomer in the field of Indian affairs, having only begun my service on the Select Committee this Congress, I have long been aware of the complexities and the compelling nature of the issues involved and am vividly cognizant of the unique Federal obligations extended to this Nation's native American citizens.

I have also long been aware that these obligations have not often been sufficiently recognized and adequately addressed by our Government and leaders. Through my work on behalf of the native Hawaiian people whose interests I have the privilege of representing in Congress, and my involvement with matters impacting American Indians and Alaskan Natives, I have become convinced that creation of a permanent Indian affairs committee is highly appropriate. It is, further, of the utmost importance if the special rights and interests of this unique minority are to be protected and our Federal responsibilities are to be upheld.

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Today, native Americans in general remain poor, uneducated and unhealthy and are at the bottom of almost every socioeconomic statistical indicator. The moral arguments alone would justify passage of this legislation.

However, the United States, through constitutional, treaty and legislative authority, has a well founded legal responsibility to protect and uphold the rights and interests of native Americans. United States' native American "policy" which has ranged from efforts to support and pacify Indians by keeping them on reservations, to forced cultural and social assimilation with non-native America—from legislative termination of treaty rights to outright neglect, does not speak well for our record as legal trustees. Let us not compound this sad history by relegating our first Americans to a position of no importance.

However, past performance does not negate the fact that the Federal Government's legal commitment to the American Indian, the Alaskan Native, and the native Hawaiian continues and must be adhered to. It is this duty to honor our commitments and promises to the native American in a fair and effective manner that makes the continuation of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee imperative. The creation of a permanent standing committee appears the only reasonable means of ensuring that good faith efforts will be made to meet the needs and confront the problems currently experienced by Native Americans, of preserving their unique rights and cultures and of establishing a just and coherent national Indian policy.

As stated in the final report of the American Indian Policy Review Commission, "the United States responsibility to native Americans extends from protection and enhancement of Indian trust responsibility and tribal self-government to the provision of economic and social programs necessary to raise the standard of living and social well being of the Indian people to a level comparable to the non-Indian society." This is a vast responsibility, one which covers a broad range of extremely sensitive and complex issues requiring specialized expertise and large commitments of time and energy. It was in recognition of the importance and complexity of our Government's special relationship to native Americans, that Congress first established the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs through the enactment of Senate Resolution 4 in April of 1977 and again when the Senate extended the life of the committee in October of 1978. There was, as this Committee on Rules and Administration indicated in its report on the extension resolution, "evident need for a committee whose members could focus full attention on Indian affairs legislation with the assistance of an adequate staff with expertise in the field."

Though composed of only 5 members, the select committee has clearly demonstrated its great value in providing a focal point within the Senate to deal with Federal laws, policies, and actions relating to Indians and other native Americans.

In the 95th Congress alone, it was able to consider more than 100 recommendations put forth by the congressionally established American Indian Policy Review Commission and reported more than 30 pieces of legislation, many of them precedent setting, to the Senate floor for action. This present select committee, ably led by Senator Melcher, has attempted to match that record. I am confident, Mr. Chairman, that your investigation of the select committee's performance and accomplishments over the past three years will reveal great success in ensuring, through its legislative and oversight authority, that the federal legal, social, and economic obligations to native Americans are effectively managed and adhered to.

From the record, we can but conclude that a separate committee assisted by a conscientious, expert staff is, and can continue to be, the most effective means of addressing the demands of this area.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee is a proven structure and an effective forum. Its work, however, is not complete. Many issues involving land claims, water, fishing and natural resource rights, education, health, and housing are yet to be examined. Issues that are extremely complex, which in some cases, such as energy development and mineral exploration and production, are still evolving. The need for a committee whose members can focus direct attention on Indian affairs legislation assisted by an expert staff remains. From my knowledge of the nature and extent of the problems the select committee is obliged to deal with, this need will continue for some time.

I do believe that if the responsibility for Indian affairs reverts to a subcommittee, which will occur unless Senate Resolution 448 is enacted, the Congress' ability to meet its obligations in the area of Indians affairs and its ability to ensure that other branches of Government meet their obligations to correct past transgressions will be severely handicapped and reduced. Our duty to look after the interests of native Americans and to protect and preserve their unique rights and cultures and improve their social welfare will be curtailed.

In his remarks accompanying S. Res. 448 as introduced, Senator Melcher affirmed that a separate and permanent Indian affairs committee is the only practical way to meet our responsibilities in this field and adequately deal with the many pressing problems with which native Americans are currently confronted. I wholeheartedly concur in this statement and, accordingly, urge your committee's most favorable consideration of the resolution now before you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Melcher, how large is your present staff?

Senator MELCHER. Well, presently about 20.

The CHAIRMAN. How many of those are Indians?

Senator MELCHER. Of those, 8 are Indians, and 3 of the 20, I believe, are temporary and non-Indians. So as for the usual staff number, we have about 17; 8 of those 17, which are permanent are Indian.

The CHAIRMAN. But to carry the analogy further, on your personal staff, what percentage is Montanans?

Senator MELCHER. About one-third.

The CHAIRMAN. My thought was, is it possible to have all or most of the staff be Indian?

Senator MELCHER. We would like that, but it has been difficult. I mentioned Alan Parker, one of the very fine members of the staff, has left us, and that occurs, too. But Alan is an Indian. We are fortunate that one of the eight I am counting is his brother, who I spoke of earlier, Larry Parker.

It is a little difficult to attract Indians to come here.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you believe your select committee can effectively deal with all of the matters that pertain to the rights, needs, and obligations of the American Indians?

Senator MELCHER. Yes; I do.

The CHAIRMAN. I am curious what your rationalization would be on the question of how the Senate could support the pending resolution, and also the principle that the Senate should not allow its committees to proliferate to meet special needs?

Senator MELCHER. I think each Senator just has to weigh the need and make up his or her mind as to whether the need is great enough. I am convinced that the need is great enough for a separate and permanent committee, and that the function of the legislation and oversight process, can be more expeditiously handled through the select committee than through a subcommittee.

I think we would be, frankly, engaging in an exercise in futility if we transferred Indian affairs jurisdiction back to a subcommittee. I think we would have the same number of staff, and greater confusion in that particular full committee, in addressing the problems presented by legislation and oversight. I do not think we would save money, but waste money.

The CHAIRMAN. Of course, you would be a unique chairman if you thought your committee should be dissolved, I think.

Senator MELCHER. That is true. But I have to say, my attitude over the 11 years I have been in Congress has not changed, and this is the only time I have been chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. I have served on the House Interior Committee when it had a separate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, and I had that attitude then, and I maintain it now.

The CHAIRMAN. Former Senator and Indian Affairs Committee chairman Jim Abourezk testified on July 12, 1978, 2 years ago, that by that date your committee had completed work on one-half of the

206 recommendations of the American Indian Policy Review Commission. What is the estimated status of completion of those recommendations today?

Senator MELCHER. The staff director advises me we probably covered another quarter of the recommendations in the review commission. I think it should be reiterated, we focus more on oversight in this Congress than has been the case previously. I think that is a very necessary part of the committee's function.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any of these unfinished matters that would be incapable of being handled by a Subcommittee of Labor and Human Resources?

Senator MELCHER. I think it would be extremely difficult for that committee to handle Indian land claims. The Indian land claims I am speaking of are in the State of Maine, and there will be four others that we are aware of right now in the East. I also think it would be extremely difficult for that committee to handle some of the year-by-year changes that have to be made on Indian reservations that requires amendments to the statutes.

I think the expertise on these matters is entirely alien in that particular committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I noticed that in requesting your committee be made permanent, your resolution does not remove the special exemption that was adopted in section 105(a)(4) of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to February 4, 1977, which permits its committee members to serve on the Indian Affairs Committee without giving up membership on another committee of the Senate.

Is this your intention, or was that an oversight?

Senator MELCHER. No, that is our intention. It is an exempt committee, and we would like to maintain it as an exempt committee.

I think the best example is Senator Inouye who could not serve on it if it were not an exempt committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you expect the work of the committee to decline with the passage of time?

Senator MELCHER. In my judgment, no. My judgment is that the workload will continue, both in oversight and in legislative matters. The 33-some bills that have been referred to the committee in this Congress, I think are about average for the coming years. And I think the oversight function is going to be as great or greater in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank you very much.

I revert back to my original question, and I guess I am more parochial than you are; 80 or 90 percent of my staff are from Rhode Island, and I would hope that if this committee is continued you would have a flat policy that its staff should be 100 percent Indian. Because to my mind, that is the way it should be.

Senator MELCHER. That is our goal, Mr. Chairman. I might say, that is my goal for my personal staff to be entirely composed of Montanans. But it is difficult to get Montanans to move across two-thirds of the country, to what they view as a rather crowded, humid climate. They like to stay in the big sky country.

Frankly, we have had difficulty attracting Indians to work on the Indian Affairs Committee, partially for that reason. Another part reason is the temporary status of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Melcher.
Senator Cannon?

Senator CANNON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Melcher and Senator Inouye, you know, it seems to me that we are just going over, plowing over the ground that we have been over now for many, many years. We established a special committee a few years ago to look at the committee structure, and come back and make recommendations. And since that time, we have nothing but recommendations from various members who have a particular interest, or various people who have a particular interest to do away with the recommendations of the very committee that we adopted.

As you know, Senator Stevenson, as chairman of that committee, spent a lot of time, and a lot of work, and interest in trying to get the structure, the committee structure, within a manageable basis. We now have four select committees. Their recommendation was that we do away with all of them, that we have a special committee, and we have some committees that were absorbed. One of the committees that was absorbed was the Space Committee, certainly a very important one, that had the jurisdiction of putting a man on the moon, and bringing him back, and spent billions of dollars, yet that was absorbed by another committee, and the work is handled by a subcommittee with a permanent staff.

It seems to me that we can well handle the work to be done in a subcommittee manner, provided the staff is efficient, and I am sure it would be, so that the same attention can be given to it.

I for one, if the Senate does decide to go this route, I personally would not in any way vote to except from the limitations on service on the committees that we have provided in the rules now.

In other words, to provide a waiver on it, I think it would be unwise. We have consolidated not only the Space Committee, and one of the standing committees in the Senate, we had the Committee on Nutrition, which is certainly a very, very important one, but we put it in Agriculture where it belongs. Agriculture handles most of the programs and the problems that are involved in nutrition.

So I am not very sympathetic to your request, having been chairman of the Rules Committee at the time that we spent so much time and effort in trying to restructure the committee structure so that the Congress could get its work done in a more manageable fashion. And I am sure we are going to hear from Senator Stevenson.

The CHAIRMAN. He is scheduled to be a witness this morning.

Senator CANNON. Senator Stevenson, I know from his past position on these various issues, will be very strongly opposed to this kind of a procedure.

I heard just the last part of your response to Senator Pell, but I do not quite get the rationales for the differences as to why a subcommittee could not handle, with the permanent staff, could not handle the work of this committee, as a select committee, just as well as a subcommittee.

Senator MELCHER. Some of the bills that are referred to the Indian Affairs Committee would logically fit within Labor and Human Resources. However, some of the bills would be totally

alien to that committee, and would logically be referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The diversity of the type of legislation, and therefore the diversity of the oversight function is so broad that it does not fit into either Labor and Human Resources of Energy and Natural Resources.

Furthermore both the chairmen of those committees have candidly told me that they feel the Indian Affairs Committee is necessary, and because of the diversity of Indian bills, and the oversight functions of the committee, that Indian affairs just do not fit in either one of those committees.

Senator CANNON. Do we not have a considerable overlap in every subcommittee of the Congress today, where the jurisdictional overlap exists between the subcommittee and one committee and some other standing committee?

Senator MELCHER. It is very great. But we do not help the situation by doing away with a special committee, and then transferring jurisdiction to other committees as a subcommittee. In fact, I think we further aggravate this problem of referring bills to two or three different committees.

Senator CANNON. You are aware of the position of the leadership on referral?

Senator MELCHER. Very much so.

Senator CANNON. They are adamantly opposed to joint referral, and yet we do have an overlap in a good bit of the time.

Senator MELCHER. I think it would be extremely difficult. If we are going to do something with Tribally Controlled Community Colleges that would fit in Senator Williams' Labor and Human Resources Committee. That type of bill could go there. However, if there is a need to rearrange the boundary of an Indian reservation, for example, that bill would logically be referred to Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Under these circumstances, jurisdiction over Indian legislation would be split and I do not think that we would be serving the best interests of the Senate to do that. And I am sure the Indian community across the country would feel disillusioned again if that were the case.

Senator INOUE. Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to your questions, from a calculation based upon budgetary constraints on the basis of structure and jurisdiction, I suppose one could agree that there is no need for a permanent committee, that the problems confronting us can be adequately studied and resolved by a subcommittee. But if this country is to continue priding itself as a nation concerned with human rights, a nation that concerns itself with moral obligations, then I would like to suggest to this distinguished committee that we are faced here with a very unique problem.

We are faced with people from several nations that have dealt with the U.S. Government over the years, and their history has been a rather bleak one, a history of warfare and decisions in which we have participated, a history of populations: decimated by genocide, forced assimilation into a non-American community, termination of treaties.

I have been told that of the hundreds of treaties we have been involved in, there were only two that this great Nation of ours

decided to abide with. One was to give an Indian tribe, on an annual basis, a yard of calico per native. If we should now take this position to relegate what I call the first American into a position of nonexistence, or nonimportance, by integrating them with Labor and Human Resources, Judiciary, and everything else, I think we would be compounding this horrible history of ours.

So I hope that this committee will look upon this request as a unique one. It is true from a very technical jurisdictional standpoint, you can do this with subcommittees, select committees, or no committee. But you are dealing with a special problem.

I would hate to face an Indian if we should turn this down, because I think we do have a special obligation. I think the House should do the same thing. The problems are many, they are complex. And as the chairman has indicated, we cannot resolve these problems in 2 years. It is like the problem of the poor of this Nation, the poor will not disappear in one Congress.

The problem of labor management relations will not disappear in one Congress. The problem of the ravages of history as it relates to the Indians, will not disappear in one Congress.

So I hope that this committee, after deliberating over this resolution, will vote favorably, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I just would like to say that the remarks of the Senator from Hawaii touch a very sympathetic chord, because it is true that the one great blot of dishonor on this Nation's ascutcheon is the way we have handled the treaties with the Indians in the past. That is one basic reason why I am in sympathy with this request. We really do suffer from that, I believe, as you pointed out.

Senator CANNON. First, let me say that I am very impressed by your eloquent plea. I will not yield to you or any other person in the Congress my concern for the welfare of the Indians. I have seen the way in which they have been abused in the past, and I have seen we have tried to make corrections over the years. But I am not convinced by your plea that a permanent select committee is any more attuned to taking care of those concerns than an appropriate subcommittee of one of the standing committees of the Congress.

That is my concern, not the fact there is too much attention paid in this area. We know there is not. But there is too little attention paid because of the proliferation of the committees, and the spreading out of the energies of the various Senators in trying to serve in too many areas. And that was the whole direction of the Stevenson committee, what it was directed toward.

You certainly do not contend that when we put the Nutrition Committee under Agriculture that that was in complete disregard of all the hungry youngsters of this country, that it was in disregard of providing food under the food stamp program. It was to try to rationalize the committee structure, and to provide just as well for those requirements as was provided under a select or a special committee.

And certainly I would agree with most everything you said, except I do not agree with your conclusion that all of those concerns would go by the board if you put it in a subcommittee of a particular committee. You are one of the outstanding chairmen of

a subcommittee on my own committee, and I know your subcommittee, the fact that it is a subcommittee, and not a special select committee of the Congress, certainly does not lessen its direction, and the direction of the chairman toward solving the problems that you work on so well.

Senator INOUE. I thank you.

I would like to add one last word, sir. We have not mentioned this, but I think it is also very important to note the perception that the Indian will have by what we do here.

I am certain most American Indians feel that there is a promise that we have made over the years, and this is part of the promise. If I were an Indian, and the decision were made to do away with this committee, it would be another addition to the litany of broken promises. I do not want to be a part of that.

Senator CANNON. Are you suggesting that the Congress promised that there would be a permanent select committee?

Senator INOUE. I think the Government of the United States, over the years, promised the Indians, one way or another, that we will take care of them, try to undo the past injustices.

Senator CANNON. That, I agree. But as I said, my problem is trying to find out why a subcommittee of the appropriate standing committee of the Congress would not be as well able to do that as the select committee.

That is my point, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Senator Cannon, there is one practical point I would like to bring out. When the function of the select committee was included in the so-called Interior Committee, now Energy and Natural Resources, the time constraint of the full committee's actions on that subcommittee's work was of concern to Senator Jackson.

Let me point out that there are five of us on this select committee, and we can perform rather quickly the function of moving a bill when it is necessary. If those bills that have been moved, those 22 bills that this select committee has moved so far this year, were added to the Energy Committee's bills it is unlikely that they would have been acted upon. The Senate Energy Committee would have to make sure that there was a quorum present of the full committee to approve of what the subcommittee had done, and not familiarizing itself with what the subcommittee has done, would have been an added burden for Senator Jackson, one that he has been glad to have been relieved of.

I point that out because that is the last experience of a chairman when Indian affairs was a subcommittee function.

Senator CANNON. I have no further questions.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for being with us, gentlemen.

Without objection, I would ask unanimous consent to insert at an appropriate place in the record a statement from Senator DeConcini, who could not be with us today, and also, a statement from Senator Burdick, who had to leave before he could present it.

Now we will move ahead with the panel, and I ask them to come forward.

Mr. Ronald Andrade, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians; Mr. Kenneth Black, executive director of the National Tribal Chairman's Association; Mr. Lance Lujan, director of Educational Services of the Institute for the Development of Indian Law; Mr. Alan Parker of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program; and Ms. Ada Deer of the Native American Rights Fund.

STATEMENTS OF A PANEL REPRESENTING INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS, CONSISTING OF RONALD ANDRADE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS; KENNETH BLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION; LANCE LUJAN, DIRECTOR, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN LAW; ALAN PARKER, OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN LAWYER TRAINING PROGRAM; AND MS. ADA DEER OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND

Mr. ANDRADE. Mr. Chairman, I represent the National Congress of American Indians. We represent approximately 150 tribal governments in the United States. Among those tribal governments, we represent approximately 400,000 members that are members of those tribes, recognized members by those tribes.

We do have a printed statement that I want to make sure is inserted in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the statement will be inserted in full in the record.

Mr. ANDRADE. We just completed a conference in Reno. We had approximately, almost 400 participants. At that conference, the membership—

The CHAIRMAN. I must ask you, if you would, please, to desist, in order that we may hear from Senator Stevenson. Why do you not all sit where you are?

Senator Stevenson, we welcome you here and very much look forward to hearing your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. ADLAI E. STEVENSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Senator STEVENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the witnesses, also, for their indulgence.

As you know, the temporary Indian Affairs Committee was accepted by the Select Committee on Committees, by this committee, and by the Senate on the promise that there would be no effort to extend it beyond its 2 years of life. Its formation in the first place was proposed only because of some peculiar circumstances at the time.

This resolution represents the second attempt to make the temporary committee a permanent one.

Such proposals as this one put us, I believe, in serious danger of returning to the bloated and overextended committee system which we faced several years ago, and which the Senate then recognized divided the time of Senators among a myriad of committees and subcommittees and their respective jurisdictions.

The objects of the reorganization which followed are as valid today as they were then. Those objectives include the rationaliza-

tion of committee jurisdictions and reductions in the number of assignments for Senators. We reduced the assignment load of Senators from an average of 18 committees and subcommittees to about 10 and a half. Workload was more evenly distributed.

A half dozen committees were abolished. Some 60 subcommittees were abolished. We recognized then that only with such reorganization could members do justice to all of their assignments. It is not only the Senate which suffers if it fails to resist the old temptation to always create more committees and more subcommittees for more issues.

In this case, it is the Indians who suffer. We ought to know, as Senators of this institution that the needs of native Americans are better dealt with by a permanent legislative committee of major standing with authority to act by reporting legislation as well as exercising oversight.

The Committee on Human Resources, of which you are a very senior member, Mr. Chairman, and to which the jurisdiction in this case would be assigned, has the ability to address Indian needs far more effectively than a permanent special committee. Its broad legislative jurisdiction encompasses all of the major areas of social legislation, including education, employment, and health and welfare generally.

Some Indian problems undoubtedly should be addressed specially, but they could be dealt with effectively through an Indian Affairs Subcommittee in the context of a comprehensive legislation and oversight jurisdiction by a major standing committee of the Senate.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that history is once again in danger of repeating itself. The Senate, every person we represent, suffers when we succumb to the old habits with the inevitable result that our responsibility is spread over more committees than we can attend. When the Senate indulges itself in one case, it is always more difficult to resist in the next. The memories are short, the will is weak. But I urge you to resist the old ways, and to strengthen the Senate by continuing the work of reorganization which we undertook jointly with this committee and the committee I then chaired.

That work ought to be continued and not undermined as it would be by making this a permanent committee which I understand not only is a breach of the old promise on which this temporary committee was accepted, but also of the limitation on committee assignments by member Senators. I was not aware that an exception to that limitation was proposed in this resolution, too. That ought to also be opposed. The whole reorganization of the Senate is in danger of unraveling. And the Indians, native Americans, will not be the only ones to suffer if that is allowed to happen. Everyone suffers.

Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Stevenson.

May I acknowledge the tremendous job that you did in trying to bring some order out of the confusion of committee structure in the Senate.

Do you not believe, however, that the history, nature, and complexity of Indian issues might warrant an exception for this select

committee, so that there would be a greater likelihood of adequate attention being paid to the totality of Indian problems?

Senator STEVENSON. No, sir, I do not. That argument is always made, and it always has a certain validity. The logical extension of that argument is to create special committees for everybody in a very pluralistic society. I think in addition to promoting responsive legislation, we ought also to recognize we are all of us Americans and strive for policies which treat us as equals.

The CHAIRMAN. I see the logic of what you say. But there is another question that I would put to you, and I have always thought that the one greatest dishonorable spot on the field of honor of this Nation is the way we have dishonored the treaties we made with the Indians, and treated them through the years. Except for that, I think we have been a very honorable Nation, and can hold our head high.

Would it not be a rather positive step to correct this stain on our honor to make an exception and allow this select committee to continue?

Senator STEVENSON. I certainly do not want to defend the country's record with respect to the welfare of the native American. And not only for all the reasons usually assigned, but because of what I have seen of their condition in large cities I represent.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not now talking about their condition or their welfare, I am talking about the blot on the majority of our forebearers who came to this country willingly from Europe, unwillingly from Africa, willingly from the Far East, who really disgraced themselves by signing treaties, and then ignoring them. That is what I speak of. I am talking about the sense of shame that I think we should feel as a Nation for the way we have made and dishonored these treaties.

We built ourself up as a great honorable Nation, yet we ignored these treaties time and time again. This would help wipe out that sense of shame.

Senator STEVENSON. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I cannot agree with that. I think you are right up to a point. You are right in speaking of the shame. But I disagree that we can act in response by creating another committee and in the end disserving all Americans, including Indians. If that shame is real, as you suggest it is, then we ought to get on with the business of serving Indians and not by neglecting them but by serving them. That is why I suggest we put history behind us and accept our reorganization and the responsibility for Indians, placed only where it can be and that is in a major standing committee with the authority, the power, and the ability to act; not in a little select committee without the power.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not disagreeing with the logic of what you are saying. I guess it is more a question of gesture. We know we are not going to unravel, or go back to the treaties that we wrote, signed and ratified and ignored. I do not think anyone is suggesting we go back to that. But this would be a step in that direction. That is the point I am trying to make.

Senator STEVENSON. Should we have a special committee for Mexicans, a special committee for blacks, for all of those who feel

with much validity they have been wronged? The Nation in their case bears some shame.

The CHAIRMAN. But we have not signed treaties with them. That is the difference.

Senator STEVENSON. There was the treaty with Mexico.

The CHAIRMAN. Which we honored, and there was a war, and the new treaty was made.

Senator CANNON. I would like to ask Senator Stevenson, is there any particular expertise, or any particular support that would be generated more out of a select committee than a subcommittee of an appropriate standing committee to address the same concerns?

And I ask that question in light of the fact that one of the biggest consolidations in the reorganization was the Space Committee, which we referred to earlier, was made a part of a major standing committee. Senator Stevenson is the chairman of it.

I would like to ask him whether or not he feels there has been any denegation to the attention paid to space, to NASA and Space Committee activities as a result of being a subcommittee of a standing committee?

Senator STEVENSON. Mr. Chairman, we both have conflicts of interest in this case since we both ended up with large responsibility for the space program, you as chairman of the full committee and myself as chairman of the subcommittee. But I do not think anyone contends for one moment that space has been neglected as a result of reorganization.

I would go further than that. I think everybody familiar with the record would agree that the Senate has been able to give far more serious, responsible, constructive attention to space policy as a result of the reorganization and the transfer of responsibility for space to a major standing committee of the U.S. Senate. It is not only because in that case all of the staff resources are available, but also I think because the subject of space can be dealt with in a much broader context.

Space, and this is true of many subjects, raises all kinds of other related subjects. Our capacity for industrial innovation, for example—we can deal more comprehensively with subjects that have such aspects. And that would certainly be true of Indian affairs if it were dealt with in a major standing committee of the Senate with the legislative and the oversight responsibility for education, for unemployment, for welfare, and so on.

As you point out, to the extent there is a need for special attention to the unique problems, you can do everything that a select committee can do through a subcommittee. So I think you have raised a very good example of what happened as a result of reorganization.

We heard all of the same protests at that time, and they have not been brought out. In fact, the record since indicates space policy has been very well served as a result of the consolidation of the responsibility.

Senator CANNON. We heard the same argument with respect to the Select Committee on Nutrition. Would you say since that has been taken over by the Agriculture Committee, and is a subcommittee of Agriculture, that there has been any lessening of attention to the nutritional needs of this country, to the food stamp

program, to the people who are hungry, and trying to provide services to them?

Do you think that has been denegated by reason of it being handled by a subcommittee of a standing committee?

Senator STEVENSON. No, sir. The same answer applies. And here again, there is history to bear us out. Nutrition has been better served in my judgment. The food stamp program, for example, has been reformed. And not only is that subject better served as a result of reorganization, but the abolition of the old Nutrition Committee, and members' responsibility to it, enables them as a result of reorganization to serve all of their duties more effectively.

It is not only nutrition, but all subjects that benefit.

Senator CANNON. On the one point you make, we referred to earlier, that there was some kind of a representation, and I remember very well because I was very heavily involved in it, that if the life of the committee were extended for 2 years, until January 2, 1981, that there would be no further attempt made to extend that.

Do you recall the proceedings with respect to that, the representations that were made?

Senator STEVENSON. I recall vividly. I recall Senator Abourezk and others giving us those assurances. I also recall some skepticism. We were students of history on the committee. And I think we all feared that history might repeat itself.

These committees generally get created, these temporary committees, and there are assurances given that they will last for one Congress, two Congresses. And by the time the period expires there is a vested interest not only of members, but also of staff, in the perpetuation of the committee. The temporary committee gets extended and the extended temporary committee gets made permanent. And if you cannot say no in one instance, you cannot say no in the next. And the whole process proliferates. So you end up with far more committee assignments than any human being can do justice to.

While it is true about the assurances, I cannot say that I am terribly surprised in view of this institution. It is history in danger of repeating itself.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much indeed, Senator Stevenson.

Senator STEVENSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Senator Stevenson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. ADLAI E. STEVENSON

Mr. Chairman, I oppose S. Res. 448 which would make the Temporary Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate. It would undermine the Senate's Reorganization of 1977.

The temporary Indian Affairs Committee was accepted by the Select Committee on Committees, the Rules Committee, and finally the Senate with the adoption of S. Res. 4, on the pledge that there would be no effort to extend it beyond its 2-year life. Its formation in the first place was proposed only because of the peculiar circumstances existing at the time, namely that it should be able to consider and act on the recommendations of the American Indian Policy Review Commission. The life of the Committee was limited by S. Res. 4 to the 95th Congress in the expectation that this would allow sufficient time for it to complete its work on the recommendations of the AIPRC and other related Indian affairs matters.

The resolution before you represents a second attempt to make the temporary committee a permanent one. In 1978 the Rules Committee considered a similar resolution (S. Res. 405), concluding that the committee should not be made permanent, but agreed to extend its life for one additional Congress so that it would

expeditiously consider remaining issues and present its recommendations to the Senate.

Mr. Chairman, proposals such as the one embodied in S. Res. 448 put us in danger of returning to a bloated and overextended committee system where our time as senators is divided among a myriad of committees and subcommittees.

The objects of the Senate's reorganization are as valid today as they were in 1977. They include the rationalization of committee jurisdictions and reductions in the number of assignments for Senators. The Senate reduced the assignment load of Senators from an average of 18 committees and subcommittees to 10.5 with the workload more evenly distributed. A half-dozen committees and nearly 60 subcommittees were eliminated. The Senate recognized that only with reorganization could Members do justice to their assignments.

It is not only the Senate which suffers if it fails to resist the ancient temptation to create more committees for more issues and Senators. In this case the Indians suffer. The needs of native Americans are best dealt with by a permanent legislative committee of major standing and authority to report legislation.

The Committee on Human Resources to which the Indian jurisdiction is assigned has the ability to address Indian needs more effectively. Its broad legislative jurisdiction encompasses all the major areas of social legislation, including education, employment, health and welfare generally. Some Indian problems undoubtedly should be addressed specially, but they can be dealt with effectively through an Indian Affairs Subcommittee in the context of comprehensive legislation and oversight by a major standing committee.

History is in danger of repeating itself. The Senate, every subject, everyone we represent, suffers when we succumb to the old habits with the inevitable result that our responsibility is spread over more committees than we can attend. If the Senate indulges itself in one case, it will be the more difficult to resist in the next case. Memories are short in this institution—and the will is weak. I urge you to resist the old ways, strengthen the Senate by continuing the work of reorganization—not to undermine it by making this a permanent committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I think Mr. Andrade was speaking before we suspended to hear Senator Stevenson.

STATEMENTS OF A PANEL REPRESENTING INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS, CONSISTING OF RONALD ANDRADE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS; KENNETH BLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION; LANCE LUJAN, DIRECTOR, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN LAW; ALAN PARKER, OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN LAWYER TRAINING PROGRAM; AND MS. ADA DEER, OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND—Resumed

Mr. ANDRADE. Mr. Chairman, as I was mentioning, we just had our meeting in Reno, Nev., in which our membership overwhelmingly endorsed the reestablishment of the committee as a permanent committee.

Our concerns are many, and they stem from very many areas. Primarily, that the tribes feel that there is tremendous complexity of the issues that are dealt with by the Senate select committee in regard to the Indians. Many of them are constitutional questions. Many of them refer to the Supreme Court cases, many others to laws passed by this Congress.

It is very important there be one committee who has particular emphasis in those areas. The Constitution of the United States treated Indians differently than all other people. They did not treat us the same. I think we never forget that it took until 1924 for the United States to recognize that they had somehow forgotten that Indians were to be made citizens of the United States, and waited until 1924, then we were declared citizens.

We were not noted in the Constitution, so that many of the areas that developed in Indian law, or Indian rights, were developed in the Supreme Court. As a result, much of our law is relative to decisions handed down by the Supreme Court, as well as the various laws passed by the Congress.

We feel that a committee dealing with those issues, in particular, are very important. No other racial group in the United States has that type of relationship at all. Every other racial group was covered by the Constitution, especially in the 13th and 14th amendments, but not the Indians. Every other group was specifically dealt with in the 1968 Civil Rights Act, but Indians had a different civil rights act. Every other group is treated differently in other areas of legislation.

We feel this is very important, and that our relationship to this Government has always traditionally been as sovereigns, and that was decided by the Supreme Court, that we were nations dealing in a nation-to-nation relationship. No other group in the United States has that type of relationship.

The UN, to which this country belongs to, has recognized that there are many areas of the Indian relationship that still are unclear as to what has been their development over the last 200 years. Those are very important.

Our membership was concerned with the Senate Select Committee, because we seem to face a particular problem with the United States that when it is convenient for them to forget the relationship with us, it is automatically forgotten. Five hundred treaties were signed, and almost 500 forgotten.

We had land cessions to us, and those were forgotten. We have become a matter of convenience to this Government. When it is convenient for them to know us, they know us. When convenient for them to forget us, then we are forgotten. And we are forgotten very quickly.

We are concerned this same thing happens with the Senate Select Committee. Our relationship is still built on treaties with the U.S. Government, still built on Supreme Court cases, still built on laws. We feel uncomfortable with the fact that it is now convenient that the Committee would be disbanded or moved to some other kind of relationship.

One of the things we discussed, over and over again, is that we tend to remember for much longer periods than we feel the rest of society does. Our memories seem to stem from much deeper times than general society's. It is not forgotten by many of the Indians that it was as early as 1903, in reference to my own Tribe, where we were forceably moved by U.S. troops from areas we lived on for as long as we can remember, and moved to a reservation. That was 1903.

In 1914, the other reservation, where my grandfather was from, was disbanded. Our people were just told to go and live somewhere, because there was no place for them there any longer. We do not forget those things.

If you go back, even to earlier times, there was a time in history where the Europeans came to our people and said help us, because you are stronger than we are. And at that time the Indians controlled all the resources, and the Indians controlled all matters of

life and death. And without that support, those Europeans would have perished, and could not have continued in this country, and would have died. And Indians did support them.

I think history bears out that we helped those Europeans. We never turned away from any of those Europeans, and without that support they would not have existed.

It seems times have changed. Where we were the stronger ones in those days, we are now the weaker ones. And now we appeal to the strong, and say support us. We feel there are certain things we need to continue our existence. We feel there are certain promises that we feel must be fulfilled, and that we ask that you fulfill those, because now we are dependent upon you more than ever before.

We feel the permanent Senate Select Committee is one of those promises. We feel without that Senate Select Committee, and without that special focus, many, many of the Indian issues will be unheard. And there are too many issues built upon one piece of Indian legislation to say it can be dispersed. Because there is no other committee in, in our opinion, that must deal with the diverse question of constitutional law, State rights, other legal entities, relationships between the political entities, and the relationship between sovereign nations.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very, very much indeed, Mr. Andrade.

Mr. Black?

Mr. BLACK. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Chairman, we at the National Tribal Chairmen's Association wish to express our appreciation for the invitation to present testimony before the committee.

The issue before the committee is whether or not to extend the existence of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. We request that this committee act positively on the matter.

On October 16, 1973, the Organization of Petroleum Energy Countries (OPEC) instituted an embargo on oil exportation that has rendered our Nation, and our Nation's economy, vulnerable to the energy pricing policies of those countries. The American Indian has suffered deprivations in health, income and social well-being due to the price increases by OPEC since 1973 due to the impact these increases have had on the Nation's economy. Part of our problem is the remoteness of the reservations to retail outlet centers, medical facilities, schools, farm implement dealers and stockyards, to name a few. Such long distances obviously necessitate a higher cost of our tribal members who ill afford such costs.

We hear of a not too distant national crisis in the form of 8-percent unemployment. Almost daily we read of manufacturing plants being closed down, especially in the automobile and steel industries, which disrupts the normal expectations of our fellow citizens. However, on reservations we have from 25 to 80 percent of our people unemployed. Such figures indicate that only a very few Indians have ever had normal expectations from life.

Several months ago the prime interest rate was in excess of 18 percent, and only this past week has the interest cost dropped below 12 percent.

But these figures have no meaning to our people on the reservations. Due to the trust status of our assets, we cannot borrow money even at 20 percent. And to remove that trust status would be no answer, because our tribal members could not afford to pay the taxes that would be imposed, and we would lose what holdings that remain to us.

Today the cost of a hospital room is figured at about \$200 a day. This cost seems out of hand to most people, and astronomical to others. Indians do not even pay attention to such costs because most could not even afford \$25 a day, and very few can afford health insurance.

Recent figures indicate that the high school dropout rate for Indians runs about 35 to 40 percent, even higher for inner-city ghetto children.

The suicide rate for Indians exceeds that of any other identifiable group in the Nation.

The problems and statistics that we bring before the committee do not reveal a pleasant picture, but it is the reality of Indian life on most reservations. No one can point to any single cause for such conditions, but all the commentators—historians, anthropologists, educators—agree that the changing policy of the Government without tribal input has contributed significantly to the cause of such problems. Therefore, we ask that there be established a permanent Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. We feel that this is the least that Congress can do in light of the fact that the tribes lived up to their part of the bargain, the treaties, by ceding vast amounts of land to the United States. We would hope that the United States would live up to its part by taking this step.

American Indians have served proudly in almost every war that our Nation has fought. We have earned medals from the Congressional Medal of Honor to Purple Hearts. We have bled and died for the Nation, and perhaps did not even know why. We are a part of this Nation. We are a part of the fabric that makes it up. But we have serious problems that most Americans never experience, and we seek your help.

If you have any questions, sir, I will be glad to answer them. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Black.

Mr. Lujan?

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Lance Lujan, I am Director of the Educational Institute for the Development of Indian Law. It is a nonprofit organization dealing in legal research and training.

I want to support Senate Resolution 448 to establish a permanent Indian affairs committee. The institute executive director, Mr. Kikenburg, presented testimony supporting Senate Resolution 405, in October, 1978, extending the Select Committee on Indian Affairs to the 96th Congress. That testimony is attached to my comments, because it provides substantial historical perspective to the need for the establishment and maintenance of a Committee on Indian Affairs in Congress. Mr. Kikenburg's remarks of 1978 are equally relevant now, and reflect the current view of American Indians throughout the country, that a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs is needed.

I believe that history and current experiences reflect that the establishment of such a committee on a permanent basis is in the best interests of the Senate, Indian people, and the United States.

Historically, the so-called Indian problem has been viewed by every generation of non-Indian as transient in nature. In reality, a variety of problems have been passed on to every generation of Indians and non-Indians. What this means is that the problems are permanent in nature, and need a similar permanent committee to deal with the Indian affairs.

The land problems of 200 years ago form the basis of controversy today. Water problems in the West have been a point of controversy. Natural resources, particularly those relating to energy, are a point of longstanding controversy, and are particularly vital, not just from an Indian perspective, but from a national perspective.

An experienced, knowledgeable committee, with experienced, knowledgeable staff, is essential to address these issues. American Indians will take an active, responsible role in dealing with these issues.

Indians must be assured that the United States will approach these issues with the same serious frame of mind. These issues of Indian affairs haunt all of us from the past, and remain, and arise today because political formulators on both sides did not see hard answers to hard questions.

We are being pressed inside and outside of Indian country, inside and outside of the United States on many issues which will have far ranging consequences.

In the field of Indian affairs, I think we know that the beginning for seeking hard answers is the establishment of a permanent committee on Indian affairs, with the U.S. Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Parker?

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

My firsthand experience, as former chief counsel with the select committee, will form the context of my remarks.

In the 95th Congress, when this committee fully considered the question of consolidating and reorganizing the committee system, the report was submitted, 95-2, wherein additional views were included on the issue of whether or not the Special Committee on Aging should be retained. Senators Williams, Pell, and Clark joined in submitting those views. I think some of the arguments raised in that occasion are extremely relevant to the argument before the committee with respect to the Indian Affairs Committee resolution.

For example, the argument was made that continuing the Special Committee on Aging will irreparably harm the committee reorganization proposal. Committees created on a "temporary" basis simply must be terminated sometime.

The response was, "if reorganization will be destroyed by retention of any of the committees slated for extinction, then the fatal blow has been struck many times. The reorganization scheme entered this committee with a list of 15 committees, it is exiting with a list of 20."

I think this reflection over whether or not to consolidate Indian Affairs is simply part of the give and take that always takes place

in bodies such as the Senate. One can make meritorious arguments on either side of the proposition.

I think that Indian people realize that this is an internal matter, this is the Senate's business, it is trying to determine the best way to meet its needs. But at the same time, I think the Indian people are aware that a resolution such as S. Res. 4 is not written on stone.

I think the other point that was made, which was discussed in the Senate report on S. Res. 4, in favor of retaining the Special Committee on Aging, is that the Senate of the United States was never envisioned as a forum for the hasty and speedy disposition of legislation. One of its responsibilities is to understand the needs, aspirations, and potential of our people.

I think that is particularly appropriate in the field of Indian Affairs. The point has been emphasized, I think, effectively, that Indian Affairs legislation and oversight jurisdiction cuts across issues traditionally, assigned to the Judiciary, Energy, Human Resources Committee. I think you can look at any of the major standing committees and find the basis to argue that Indian Affairs jurisdiction should be assigned there.

I think that realistically, if the Indian Affairs Committee is not continued, or established on a permanent basis, we will not simply see the assignment of Indian Affairs as a subcommittee to Human Resources. I think we would see Indian Affairs fragmented throughout the standing committees. That is what is taking place in the House. The Indian Affairs subcommittee was abolished last Congress, and functions on an ad hoc basis in the Interior Committee.

I think that kind of fragmentation leads to a very diffuse and very conflicting policy in an area where that simply does not serve the best interests of the Congress or the Indian people.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Ms. Deer?

MS. DEER. My name is Ada Deer. I am a member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, currently working as legislative liaison for the Native American Rights Fund. Before my association with the Native American Rights Fund, I worked to obtain Federal legislation restoring the Government-to-Government relationship between the United States and the Menominee tribe. I have served as chairperson of the Menominee Restoration Committee, and as a member of the American Indian Policy Review Commission.

Today I appear on behalf of the Native American Rights Fund to support the passage of Senate Resolution 448. The Native American Rights Fund is a nonprofit law firm that represents Indian tribes in court and before Congress. In its 10-year history, the fund has represented tribes all over the country in legal disputes involving tribal jurisdictional powers, aboriginal rights, treaty rights, education issues, and other matters. My past experience and the collective experience of the Native American Rights Fund teach the vital importance of a separate, permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

The U.S. Constitution commits the responsibility of Indian Affairs exclusively to the U.S. Congress. Historically, Congress has

actively exercised its constitutional authority over Indian Affairs. Until 1871, the U.S. Senate confirmed treaties with Indian tribes which established certain rights and obligations between the United States and the particular tribe. Between 1871 and the early twentieth century, the Senate and House jointly concluded a number of agreements with Indian tribes which also confirmed or created legally enforceable rights and obligations. In this century, Congress has enacted literally hundreds of bills in the exercise of its authority over Indian Affairs. These Federal treaties, agreements and statutes constitute Indian law and define the unique relationship that exists between the United States and Indian tribes.

The existence of that historic and constitutionally based relationship, as well as the purely Federal nature of Indian law, indicate the necessity of establishing a separate, permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the Senate.

Because of the unique and complicated nature of Indian Affairs, and Indian law, only a few members of the Senate have taken the inordinate time and effort to become and remain knowledgeable in the field. Continuation of the Senate Select Committee insures that this invaluable reservoir of knowledge, expertise, and indeed, conscience will be perpetuated.

In our 10 years of practice in Indian law, we have seen issues crucial to the welfare and development of Indian tribes begin in court and end in Congress—issues like natural resource protection, and development, land claims, and jurisdictional issues. In some cases, Congress has acted to resolve disputed Indian rights, and thus avoid years of disruptive and painful litigation.

Without a permanent Indian committee, however, those legislative resolutions would be much more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. We need the full-time attention and technical expertise of a permanent Indian committee staff. We need the demonstrable commitment to the historic relationship between Indian tribes and the United States that a permanent Indian committee represents. For these reasons, we wholeheartedly endorse and support S. Res. 448.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

I have two questions. One, why is it, in your view, that not enough Indians have applied to be on the staff? I would think this would excite the whole Indian community, and they would make sure that all the staff positions were filled by Indians.

Mr. BLACK. The National Tribal Chairmen's Association, in meeting with my board of directors, have recommended that that full staff be members of federally-recognized tribes who have treaties with the United States.

The CHAIRMAN. That was not my question. My question is, why have not enough Indians come forward to offer themselves as candidates for these jobs? That is the problem.

Mr. BLACK. I do not know of any Indian, sir, who wants to come to Washington, to make their home here.

The CHAIRMAN. The feeling is not strong enough that in the United States we cannot find whatever the staff is, 10, 20 Indians, who feel intensive enough about it to come?

Mr. PARKER. A very practical response to your question is that there is a very thin layer of talent available, particularly available in terms of those who have the dedication to come to Washington, and to try to work on behalf of the Indian interests. That thin layer of talent is represented on the Select Committee, it is represented on the House committee. But I just do not think the reservoir is there now.

I think in the near future, in the next several years, there will be qualified people to fill the staff positions. But my personal experience is the layer of talent at this point.

The CHAIRMAN. I think the layer of talent is there, but thin. As a question of incentive, if the feeling was passionate in this regard, I am sure the Indian community in the United States could fill these jobs.

Mr. ANDRADE. There is a small pool of people to draw from. There are other people, and it is not necessary it strictly be only Indian staff. Of course, we would like to see it all Indian staff. But I guess our most major concern is if we did not have so many activities in the States where we needed Indian lawyers, if we did not have so many activities at the local level where the tribes needed Indian lawyers at the local level.

There are no Indian lawyers going around unemployed. They have jobs.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not just talking about lawyers, but secretarial help. If there is continuation of this committee, which is very much in doubt, but if there is, I would hope that you would feel sufficiently passionate about it to produce the 20 Indians from around the United States to staff it. And these excuses really do not answer the question.

My other question is, we all want to resolve this issue in a manner we believe best serves the needs of American Indians. Why do you believe a select committee would do a better job than a subcommittee of a standing committee?

Senator CANNON. I might say, that is my concern, too. Because you have all made a very eloquent presentation here for the plight of the Indians, with which we agree. Mr. Black made a very, very fine plea with the way the Indians have been neglected, and I agree with that.

What we are talking about here is the best way to serve them. And Senator Stevenson, who has studied that issue more than any other person I know of, you heard his testimony, you heard his position, he thinks you will be better served under a subcommittee, under a standing Senate committee. We have seen that with the Nutrition Committee, which is now under Agriculture.

And I have yet to hear any argument presented here from any of you as to why the subcommittee would not do it. The only reference was in one of the statements, and said because you have a permanent staff in the select committee.

Well, you have a permanent staff in the subcommittee. So that does not impress me.

Mr. BLACK. If I may, sir, I think that we can prove to you and give you statistics that even though nutrition is in this area in which you speak, we can say that up to 6 months ago we found that Indian tribes and the Indian people were not participating up

to the extent of 55 to 75 percent in the food stamp program, because the States were just not serving them. Unless the Indian tribes can have a forum in whatever you gentlemen select as the best forum in which we can present our views, then, and only then, will we be comfortable.

We have found that tribes have not participated in the farm loan program to the extent of 1 percent of its total budget. And this is the rationale we feel we must have a committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I think we had better recess because there is a rollcall vote going on. I will be back after a few minutes to hear you, and we will probably wrap up in 5 or 10 minutes when I get back.

[Short recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

I think Mr. Parker was just about to respond to the previous question. Before he does, I want to reiterate publicly the debt we owe on helping us resolve the Indian land claims question, which worked out well in Rhode Island, and we hope it is an example in Maine and throughout the country.

Mr. PARKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In response to the last point Senator Cannon raised, I think there is a point which has not yet been made this morning. With the Select Committee, the leadership is able to draw from throughout the Senate in making appointments. Granted, it is only five members. But if it were a subcommittee, Energy, Resources, or whatever, it would be confined to the existing members of that standing committee to makeup the body of your subcommittee. I think that is the significant advantage of having a committee that stands out by itself.

It has been my experience in observing the legislative process that it is difficult to find members to serve on the Indian Affairs Committee because they have so many other major committees they can set on. And, granted, it is just never going to be that high a level of concern, so that drawing from throughout the Senate to makeup the membership overcomes that obstacle in terms of a limited number of people that have the time, inclination, and interest and so on to serve on the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much indeed.

Ms. Deer?

Ms. DEER. I wanted to respond to both your question and Senator Cannon's question in terms of the staffing of the particular committee.

First of all, I think we have to keep this in historical perspective, that the statistics, the high dropout rate of the Indian youngsters and students at the high school level and college level do take a toll. And it was only very recently, 1965, I believe, that the special program in American Indian law was established at the University of New Mexico. And only since that time have we been able to produce in significant numbers Indians with legal training and legal background. And you see some of them here today.

So there is again the question of supply and demand. I think aside from that question, and there are more and more students that want to become involved and are taking training in various fields so they will be able to participate in the legislative process

here in Congress, aside from that is the overall commitment that this Congress should have toward American Indians. And I think all of us have addressed this in our particular comments that there should be Indian staff members.

But I also want to say that non-Indian staff members can be very effective and have been very effective, and we should not automatically make the assumption that this particular Committee should be entirely staffed completely by American Indians.

I would also like to raise the point, the hiring practices of the Congress. We know that the "old boys" network does operate and that at times it has been difficult for non-traditional groups to get in. By that I mean people of color, women. And because there are vacancies that are opened does not necessarily mean that the persons who apply to be hired are hired. So I would like to have that brought into consideration as you think about this.

The CHAIRMAN. I know the justification of what you say, but I would hope the Indian Subcommittee or Indian Committee, whatever we end up with, would lean over the other way and try to have leaning in favor of Indians.

I would also point out that you do not need all lawyers either. I am not a lawyer, and many of us who are in the Congress, are not lawyers. And that is not an absolute requirement. And there are a lot of other jobs such as secretarial, that could and should be filled this way. To my mind, it is a measure of the zest and passion for which you feel a need for an Indian Affairs Committee. If you have not been able to provide the people for the temporary committee, which is doing an excellent job now, I question the passion for which you are pushing for this permanent committee.

And, as you know, I have some sympathy for your views.

Mr. ANDRADE. We also look forward to the day that we have a chairman of the committee itself who is an Indian. We feel it is equally important to consider the just nature of this Congress and the just nature of the history of the whole congressional relations with the Indian tribes.

We have had very few members of American Indians serving as Representatives or Senators or in any other capacity in this Government.

The CHAIRMAN. Put them up as good candidates. It is the problem with women Senators. When I came here 20 years ago, we had twice as many as we have now. It is a question of putting up good candidates.

Mr. ANDRADE. Getting candidates and making it through always relates to the way the staffing patterns go. We have not had ill feelings of not having Indians on the committee. We would like to see more Indians on the committee.

But, again, we would like to see Indians participate across the whole board instead of only being relegated to staff.

The CHAIRMAN. Going back, if I may, to your point of how many Indian candidates presented themselves for the Senate or the House. I think the days of prejudice are going. I cite to you, a former colleague, Senator Brooke, who was black, and was elected by a State that is probably 98 percent nonblack. So if you put up an Indian of attractive candidate quality, I think such a candidate can be elected.

Mr. LUJAN. If I may be allowed a personal comment on the establishment of a permanent committee, I have found that Indian Tribal Governments are viewed as sovereign nations and sovereign governments. And I think that where the Senate puts this particular committee will reflect their view of how they recognize tribal government. If it is in the subcommittee, I would view that personally it is not high enough priority and further down the issue. But if a permanent committee, then it would signal to me that the Senate views the tribal government as legitimate and having all of these dealings with it on a government to government basis.

Thank you.

Ms. DEER. I have spent many hours on the Hill working on various Indian matters, and it is a real problem trying to educate the numerous staff members. And it has been a real pleasure to be able to go to one committee, one staff, and proceed with the discussion of the issue. If this is not continued as we are proposing and supporting, and this is broken down into various subcommittees, it is going to be a monumental task for people coming up to the Hill to educate the staff members and to get the work of the various bills accomplished.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Thank you very much indeed, Ms. Deer, and gentlemen.

I would add that I think Mr. Max Richtman, the present staff director, has done an excellent job and is very popular in the Indian community.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Andrade follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RONALD P. ANDRADE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My name is Ronald P. Andrade. I am the Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians. On behalf of the officers and 150 Tribes of this organization, I want to thank you for giving us this opportunity to present testimony before the members of this committee.

The Indian Tribes of the United States enjoy a unique relationship with the United States Government that is resultant from treaties, Executive Orders and Acts of Congress, and has been reaffirmed time and time again by the highest court of the land, the Supreme Court. It is a relationship peculiar to Indian people and sets us apart from all other minority, ethnic and special interest groups in the country. The National Congress of American Indians is comprised of such Indian Tribes.

NCAI has long recognized the need for a separate, permanent committee on Indian Affairs in the Senate to ensure that the issues and legislation affecting Indian people would be dealt with in a timely and effective manner, and would reflect our concerns. That position has been reiterated with the adoption of a resolution supporting a permanent committee on Indian Affairs during our Mid-Year Conference which was held June 17-20, 1980.

As you are well aware, an enormous amount of staff time and energy goes into the development of one piece of legislation. And when one considers how many bills the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has handled since its beginning in February 1977, it is easy to see how important one committee can be: 128 bills have been referred to it; 59 have been reported out and 39 have become public law. For the 96th Congress 49 hearings have been held with approximately another 12 to be held before Congress adjourns, and of the 49, 18 have been oversight hearings. If Indian Affairs had been under the jurisdiction of any other committee such as the Judiciary or Human Resources or Energy and Natural Resources, we could not hope for even one-half of the work now done by the Select Committee to have been taken care of simply because no one would have had the time to do it. It is well-known that Indian Affairs does not enjoy "high priority" status and tends to get lost in the shuffle of other issues.

The strength of the Select Committee to be effective lies with a staff whose expertise in the complex arena of Indian Affairs and knowledge of the legislative

process as well as the inner-workings of Congress makes it extremely valuable to Indian people. If that expertise were to be scattered about among the various other committees in the Senate or become gone from the Hill, the loss to Indian Country would be incalculable. Furthermore, we feel that the division of jurisdiction between or among committees will serve only to dilute the interest, indeed, the responsibility of the Senate in matters relating to American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Although Indian committees are not unknown to Congress, there has not been a long standing committee throughout its history. We feel that the time is now for the Senate to formally recognize within itself the necessity for a permanent committee that, given the relationship we as Indian people have with the United States for so many years, should have happened a long time ago.

The CHAIRMAN. I have checked with the minority and have come to the conclusion it would probably be wise to print this hearing. I would now ask, without objection, that the hearing record be left open for 10 days for the benefit of those persons, organizations, or groups who would like to submit statements or letters to be printed in the hearing. In this regard, I believe Senator DeConcini will have a statement coming in to us today, and there may be others.

If you want to supplement your testimony in any way, feel free. We have 10 days to do it, and it will be printed.

Thank you and good luck to all of you.

[At this point, the committee considered other legislative and administrative items on the agenda.]

The CHAIRMAN. The meeting will be adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

[The text of S. Res. 448 and statements and letters submitted for the hearing record by individuals, tribes, organizations, or groups are as follows:]

96TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 448

To make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 1980

Mr. MELCHER (for himself, Mr. BURDICK, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. GOLDWATER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DURENBERGER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOREN, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. HART, Mr. BOSCHWITZ, Mr. MATSUNAGA, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DOLE, Mr. MORGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. NELSON, Mr. GARN, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. HAYAKAWA, Mr. STONE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. JAVITS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

To make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate.

1 *Resolved*, That section 105(a)(1) of the Committee
2 System Reorganization Amendments of 1977 (Senate Reso-
3 lution 4, Ninety-fifth Congress, agreed to February 4, 1977)
4 is amended by deleting "Temporary".

5 SEC. 2. Section 105(d) of the Committee System Reor-
6 ganization Amendments of 1977 is repealed.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. DENNIS DECONCINI, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman, I support S. Res. 448, which would establish the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate. Before I give my reasons for supporting S. Res. 448, I want to emphasize that I supported the efforts of the Senate in 1977 to reorganize and consolidate the committee structure, which was accomplished by the adoption of S. Res. 4. It is imperative that this institution make the most efficient use of its personnel and facilities. However, occasionally unique circumstances cause us to create forums so that we can more adequately consider the needs of various groups within our Nation.

In my judgment, the special relationship between the United States and Indian tribes is one of those unique circumstances that behooves us to make the Senate Select Committee a permanent committee. As far as I am aware, no other identifiable group has had the United States Government assume a trust responsibility on its behalf—this in and of itself places the American Indian in a special relationship with the Federal Government, one that is not comparable to the relationship between the Federal Government and other ethnic or minority populations. Thus, if a permanent committee were to be established to assume jurisdiction over Indian issues, I do not believe that the next logical step is to create a permanent committee for Hispanic Affairs, or Black Affairs, nor have I heard these groups advocate these kinds of committees. I am not arguing against the Senate devoting an ample portion of its time and resources towards assisting these groups—indeed, the Senate should. What I am saying is that because of the Indians' unique status a permanent committee should be established so we can meet our historical, constitutional, and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian affairs.

Enactment of S. Res. 448 is very important to Indian tribes nationwide. Most people who are familiar with the relationship between American Indians and the Federal Government understand that it has been a checkered relationship. The Senate, by adopting S. Res. 448, will clearly demonstrate to the tribes that it is sensitive to these past problems, and that it intends to elevate consideration of Indian issues to a position which will assure that the government will not in the future treat lightly its treaty and moral obligations.

Representing the State of Arizona, which has the largest Indian population in the Nation, I believe allows me to speak with a certain amount of expertise on Indian issues. A great many of the issues are complicated and require great amounts of time to research past court decisions, legislation, and administration policy to determine a proper course of action. If the jurisdiction for Indian Affairs were transferred to a subcommittee, I do not believe that sufficient, knowledgeable staff would be available to deal with the many issues at hand. Further, the Committees to which the jurisdiction might be assigned already are over-burdened with controversial issues that would take priority over Indian matters.

My experience over the past four years with the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been very positive. Although I was not a member of the Committee during the 95th Congress, the Committee expeditiously acted on bills I sponsored. Further, the staff was extremely attentive to Indian issues within the State of Arizona. Since becoming a member of the Committee at the beginning of this Congress, I can unequivocally state that the Committee, its members and the staff, continue to be attentive to the interests of Senators who are not on the Committee.

I urge the members of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee to support this measure.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my full support for the purposes of S. Res. 448, to provide for a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

I believe this is a natural and justifiable next step in the Senate's efforts to redress the Nation's bleak record in meeting our special responsibilities toward Native Americans.

The Select Committee was established on a temporary basis just over 40 months ago, at a time when the American Indian Policy Review Commission was sending us over 200 recommendations for broad reform in Federal policies affecting Native Americans.

In the intervening time, a great deal of progress has been made toward implementing those recommendations, and the credit for this progress rests in large part

with the Select Committee under the able leadership of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Melcher) and his predecessor, the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Abourezk).

But a great deal more remains to be done. The agenda of the Select Committee for the balance of this year makes it clear that there are major issues yet to be resolved.

The issues are not only complex and difficult, but in many respects they are unique. They involve claims to ancient property rights, special territorial and governance arrangements established under treaties, management and development of lands held in trust, as well as basic human concerns arising from unique cultures and economic and social conditions among Native Americans.

Two years ago, the Committee on Rules and Administration recommended extending for two years the life of the Select Committee. In our report, we said:

"The wisdom of the Senate in establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been proven (and it) has an imposing agenda which can not realistically be considered during the remaining months on this Congress * * *.

"It would be unwise to terminate a proven, working structure for the consideration of American Indian affairs while the basic work contemplated for the select committee is in midstream."

The testimony of the Senator from Montana and the other witnesses in support of S. Res. 448 convinces me that the wisdom of two years ago is the wisdom of today. The work of the Select Committee addresses ongoing problems and issues that are permanent concerns of the Congress. As such, they justify a permanent committee, in my judgment, to focus full and undivided attention on Indian affairs legislation and problems.

As my colleagues know, the jurisdiction and duties of the Select Committee are to be transferred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources on January 3 of next year under the provisions of S. Res. 4, the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977 as amended.

The rationale underlying this delegation is based upon the broad charter of the Labor Committee, which encompasses the great bulk of social programs in education, employment, health, and the general welfare of individual Americans. The expertise of the Labor Committee, it was felt, most nearly matched the needs of our Native American citizens.

However, developments in recent years demonstrate that some of the most immediate and basic concerns reach beyond the Labor Committee's traditional areas of responsibility and current field of expertise. These include unique problems arising from claims to land, water, and mineral rights. They include unique issues relating to tribal land disputes; restoration of previously terminated tribes; inheritance problems arising from inconsistent Federal and state laws; and disputes involving tribes, the Federal government, and private interests over the development of natural resources on Indian lands.

The transfer of this range of responsibilities to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources would require a significant reorganization of both the structure and priorities of the Committee. To do so at this pivotal time in the reform of Federal policies toward Native Americans would interrupt the steady and consistent momentum of the Select Committee in guiding the Senate and the Congress toward a resolution of problems that were too long ignored.

By elevating the Select Committee to permanent status, we would be making a small contribution toward a binding commitment to Native Americans that we will redress our bleak record of broken treaties, bureaucracy and paternalism, and inconsistent and incoherent policies that have stifled their aspirations throughout most of our history as a Nation.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. QUENTIN N. BURDICK, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer my support for the resolution to make the Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee.

The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs was established by S. Res. 4 during the committee reorganization at the beginning of the 95th Congress.

The committee was created as a temporary committee to deal with the recommendations of the American Indian Policy Review Commission. The Select Committee has made good progress in dealing with these recommendations, but it is still very much needed in the Senate.

As a lawyer, I am aware of the complexities of the legal issues involved in Indian questions. The sovereignty which the Indian tribes have retained and the many treaties with Indian nations result in unique legal considerations.

By making the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent committee, we will insure that we have members of the Senate and the committee staff which develop and maintain a certain amount of expertise in these areas.

The direct relationship between the Indian tribes and the federal government, and our trust responsibilities to the Native Americans, are a special concern which deserves the undivided attention of a permanent Senate committee.

The Indians of the State of North Dakota strongly support a permanent committee. They realize that a separate committee can give better consideration to the whole range of Indian concerns than could a subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

I have long been aware that we have a special responsibility to the Native American people. The Select Committee, with the able guidance of Jim Abourezk and John Melcher, as its present chairmen, has done a good job in meeting this responsibility.

An example of the work of the committee is S. 1181, which I cosponsored and which has recently been passed by the Senate. This bill authorizes the states and Indian tribes to enter into mutual agreements and compacts respecting jurisdiction and government operations in Indian country.

This bill does not represent any major change in the law. What it does is provide some necessary clarification that such compacts can be entered into. It is an example of the special legal problems that can be dealt with best in a permanent Senate committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to make these brief remarks today and urge favorable action on this resolution to make the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent committee.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. BARRY GOLDWATER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF ARIZONA

Mr. Chairman, Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my strong support for a separate Indian Affairs Committee.

It is my pleasure to co-sponsor Senate Resolution 448 which would make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee. In the event this does not come to pass, I would hope we would at least allow for a two-year extension of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The Select Committee so far has established an Indian affairs legislative record which far surpasses the records of previous Congresses and it still has a long way to go, not to mention the work the Committee is currently involved in.

The Senate Select Committee has proven to be a very good forum for the discussion and exploration and mediation of Indian conflicts relative to the Tribes' legal rights and the overriding federal responsibility. The Committee has also dealt with the problems Indians have encountered in the administration of federal trust and social services responsibilities.

Aside from oversight responsibilities, we must address ourselves to issues such as economic development on Indian reservations, Indian health, Indian education, the Tribes' energy resources, and many others. We have water rights to deal with, not to mention natural resources, hunting, and fishing. In addition, we still have Indian land claims to settle and approve.

If we don't have a separate Committee on Indian Affairs, then those Indian matters would be dealt with in a subcommittee, and I frankly don't feel that enough time would be devoted to Indian legislation. We need to consolidate committee jurisdiction over Indian affairs, not fragment it. The Federal Government has a special trust responsibility and relationship with the Indian peoples and I think their issues deserve special consideration and attention which can only be given in a separate and permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

The work which the present Select Committee is involved in is on-going and necessitates the expertise which the Committee has developed. We should have a committee, separate and apart from the Human Resources Committee. The Human Resources Committee covers such an enormous lay of the land already that the Indian affairs issues would be lost trying to compete for attention with labor, education, and welfare.

Mr. Chairman, again, many thanks for letting me have the opportunity to present this statement and I hope you and your Committee will be able to see your way to recommending the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF TED ZUREN, S.J., THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF JESUIT
SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Through four centuries the Society of Jesus has had a continuing concern for the rights and the welfare of American Indian and Alaska native peoples. Now the National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries representing the majority of American members of that society offers this statement in support of Senate Resolution 448.

The American Indian and Alaska native peoples have a special relationship in and with the United States of America, because they are aboriginal residents who received all immigrants to these shores.

They are not another special interest group! They are not another minority group suffering unjustly from the indifference of the dominant society. They are not another cultural or racial group injured by prejudice and discrimination. As the sovereign peoples of this continent they entered into treaties with European sovereign peoples. Ultimately they signed over 400 treaties with the sovereign nation of the United States of America.

They granted land and natural resources to the parties with whom they signed treaties. They retained some areas of land for themselves. Yet, they had to struggle against forces that ultimately overwhelmed them when they tried to keep all the acreage they had justly retained by treaties.

Though no treaties have been signed for more than a century now, the earlier Indian treaties have not vanished. In signing those treaties the federal government recognized the Indians' rights as well as its responsibilities toward them. Moreover, various agreements and congressional actions regarding property, resources and services to be provided increased the federal trust responsibilities undertaken when the treaties were signed.

Thus the federal government has a solemn responsibility to support the native people of this land in their economic, political, cultural, social and spiritual self-determination. They have a right to be themselves and determine how they will continue being themselves and using the land and natural resources they have held for themselves.

The American Indian and Alaska native peoples deserve deeper consideration and fuller respect than they have received. In facing Senate Resolution 448 the United States Senate faces a moment of truth. Its members can reflect that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee exists to consider American relations with other nations, preparing legislation on economic, technical, humanitarian assistance relative to them. Do not the American native peoples with whom our government has signed treaties deserve a comparable committee in the U.S. Senate? Our Constitution provides in its clause on commerce that the federal government carry a special responsibility in regard to Indians. Serious commitments and solemn promises have been made to native Indian and Alaska peoples. Past failures to respect and fulfill these obligations makes more necessary a permanent Senate committee to process and oversee any and all legislative matters pertaining to the problems and opportunities coming to native American peoples in land use and resource developments, education provisions, health care, cultural development, religious freedom, social structuring and whatever needs and concerns may arise.

The past decade has seen significant legislation concerning Indians develop and become the law of the land. The task has not been completed. Obligations remain. Injustices must be righted. Formal promises need to be fulfilled. A permanent Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is essential. Senate Resolution 448 should be passed.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, D.C., June 30, 1980.

HON. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
(Attention: Bill Cochran).

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Enclosed for your information is a copy of a resolution of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes in support of S. Res. 448, to make the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent Committee.

I would appreciate it if you could include this resolution in the record with other testimony on this bill.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

QUENTIN N. BURDICK.

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES, FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION,
MANDAN, HIDATSA AND ARIKARA TRIBES,
New Town, N. Dak., June 24, 1980.

Hon. QUENTIN BURDICK,
Old Senate Building
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BURDICK: Enclosed is a copy of Resolution 80-96 passed by the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes supporting Senate Resolution No. 448 to make permanent the Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

Thank you for your assistance into this matter.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN H. GILLETTE,
Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes.

Resolution #80-96

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and
- WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Three Affiliated Tribes authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities for the welfare and benefit of the tribes and tribal members; and
- WHEREAS, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is a temporary Committee due to expire at the end of the 96th Congress; and
- WHEREAS, the function of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been recognized by federally recognized tribes essential in affording Indian tribes a voice in matters affecting us; and
- WHEREAS, there is need for a permanent Indian Committee in the United State Senate with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian Affairs; and
- WHEREAS, Senate Resolution #448 has been introduced to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation supports Senate Resolution #448 to make permanent the Select Committee on Indian Affairs

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 11 members of whom 7 constitutes a quorum, 8 were present at a Regular Meeting, thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 12 day of June, 1980; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 8 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman (voting) (not voting).

Dated this 12 day of June, 1980.

SECRETARY,

William A. Neel
Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN,

Arthur H. Dutton
Tribal Business Council

SOUTHERN PLAINS INTER-TRIBAL CENTER,
Lawton, Okla., July 1, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Center supports Senator Melcher's introduction of Senate Resolution 448 to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee on the Senate.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND ALMANZA,
Chairman, Board of Directors.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT,
Storrs, Conn., June 24, 1980.

Senator CLAIBORNE PELL,
Chairman, Rules Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: Just over four years ago, the American Indian Policy Review Commission delivered its final recommendations to Congress. During the preceding two and a half years it had conducted the most exhaustive, systematic survey of the conditions of Indian life ever attempted by the federal body.

The intent of Congress in creating the AIPRC was to use the recommendations as a basis for effective legislative and executive action—the second crucial step in Indian policy reform. Key to this second step was the Senate's creation of a Select Committee on Indian Affairs at the beginning of the 95th Congress. It soon was clear that despite an energetic legislative output, the Select Committee could not hope to complete its major work by the end of the 95th and was extended through the 96th Congress—thanks to the favorable vote of the Rules Committee in 1978. Now, again, the Select Committee's future is on the line; and still its legislative task is far from complete.

That there is still much to do should be no surprise in view of the fact that the goal is nothing less than clarifying and streamlining two hundred years' accumulation of now-obsolete, occasionally contradictory, and frequently confusing bureaucratic impedimenta. The Select Committee created a meaningful structural beachhead from which to wage the work of reform; a subcommittee structure is far weaker and less efficient. Rather than be marked for extinction, the Select Committee structure should be preserved—and duplicated in the House of Representatives—if Congress seriously intends to follow through on the effort launched by the AIPRC.

Critics have argued that it is unfair to give Indian people the benefit of a full, permanent committee structure; that soon other minorities will be clamoring for their own committees, and the intent of the Senate's recent effort to trim the number of standing committees will be compromised.

This argument ignores the special legal and political status of many Indian tribes and most Indian land in this country. There has been no doctrine of federal trusteeship articulated for the resources of other minority groups in the United States; and no other minority group is organized into corporate entities whose rights to political sovereignty—however abridged—have been upheld repeatedly.

It ignores the crucial importance of dealing humanely and efficiently with these entities that hold federally-guaranteed rights to valuable natural resources: coal, uranium, natural gas, water, and fish. Former Assistant Secretary of Interior—Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard spoke often of the need to create a "government to government" relationship with the Indian tribes. If this relationship is still a policy objective, it can surely not be realized if important Indian resource concerns languish in subcommittees or, even worse, must continually compete for legislative attention in full committees having contradictory responsibilities.

And there is the serious question of whether Congress is fulfilling the full measure of its trust responsibility to Indian tribes by denying them the benefits of staffing and financial resources available to full committees as distinct from subcommittees.

My research experience with Indian communities and with the Indian policy-making process in Washington has convinced me that the Select Committee structure is vital to any dedicated move toward an enlightened federal Indian policy. I

urge you and your colleagues in the Rules Committee to report favorably on Senator Melcher's resolution establishing a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. BEE, PH. D.,
Associate Professor.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY,
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Washington, D.C., June 27, 1980.

Mr. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PELL: I am writing in support of making the Senate Indian Affairs Committee a permanent committee (S. Res. 448).

We here at the United Methodist Church support S. Res. 448 because we feel that Native Americans have a good amount of problems, brought about mainly by the American government breaking treaties that we had with the Native Americans. Native Americans are at the bottom of the social and economic scale. Because of these reasons we feel that the U.S. government has an obligation to the Native Americans that it can partially fulfill by making the Senate Indian Affairs Committee a permanent committee.

Since Native Americans' problems are so wide spread and diverse, they can most efficiently be handled by a permanent committee. A subcommittee or some other type of arrangement would be quite unsatisfactory. We also support strongly the idea of making the Indian Affairs Committee staff entirely Native American. How else will Native Americans' problems be properly addressed?

If we can be of any help to you in this matter please call. My number is 488-5657. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

AWANDA ROBERTS,
Intern, Interreligious Task Force on U.S. Food Policy.

THE BLACKFEET TRIBE,
BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION,
Browning, Mont., June 24, 1980.

HON. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Chairman, Rules Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PELL: The Blackfeet Tribe would like to indicate its strong support for the proposal before your Committee to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent Committee of the Senate. Indian concerns are unique and cut across a broad range of areas—land, education, health, economic development, energy, etc. There is no Committee in the Senate that has jurisdiction over all of these areas. If the responsibilities for Indian affairs were divided, it would seriously hamper the ability of the Senate and of the Indian people to develop a cohesive policy on Indian concerns. We believe a single committee handling all these matters has demonstrated its ability to work closely with the Indian community and to produce legislation that is consistent and comprehensive.

We hope your Committee will be able to endorse the proposal to make the Select Committee a permanent one. Thank you for your attention to this important matter to the Indian community.

Sincerely yours,

DANIEL S. PRESS,
Washington Counsel,
The Blackfeet Tribe.

AMERICAN INDIAN SATELLITE PROJECT,
Washington, D.C., June 6, 1980.

HON. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: We have spoken in the past about the concerns of the American Indian people, and you have done more than your part in aiding the Rhode Island Indians. Today, I would like to seek out your stand on the renewal of

the Select Committee on Indian Affairs with its upcoming hearing on the 25th of this month.

As you are, and to my knowledge, always have been involved with the human issues concerning our country, I would like to draw your attention to certain aspects of environmental waste and poor educational opportunities for the first Americans. While the government has mandated, through the Self-Determination Act, that the Indian people begin to fully take charge of their own lives, the tools necessary for such action mainly remain elsewhere. Through the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, people from all over America are better served in this effort, and on other pertinent areas also.

While the people wait for the vote from the Committee in a few weeks, I have been asked to seek out your thoughts on this matter and to stand ready to discuss these things with you, should you so desire. As a native Rhode Islander who has approached you in the past and found you sharing similar concerns, I am asking, again, for your opinions on this issue. My father, Roger Wheeler and you, often discussed similar concerns while he was living, and now, as his offspring, I find myself in the same relationship with you.

Hoping that this letter finds you well and that you will have someone from your office discuss this matter with me, I am, as always,

Most sincerely yours,

BARBARA WHEELER GILBERT,
Project Director.

BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
Washington, D.C., June 17, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR PELL: I am writing to you in support of Senate Resolution 448 to establish in the Senate a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Indian peoples have a historical and legal position that makes them distinct from any other cultural, racial or ethnic group in this country.

The United States government has a special trust relationship and a particular responsibility to the Indian people because of the 400 and more treaties it signed with American Indian tribes. By entering into these treaties we have taken on a commitment. The Indians provided the land base of this nation; the nation has a deep obligation to respect the promises it made in return for the land.

In keeping with these obligations, federal assistance should be given to the American Indian peoples as they determine their economic, political, cultural and spiritual development. It is only reasonable that with such high responsibilities resting upon the U.S. Senate, it should have a committee dealing exclusively with the issues that concern American Indian people.

I urge your committee to recommend to the U.S. Senate the passage of Senate Resolution 448 for the establishment of a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs.

Sincerely,

MONSIGNOR PAUL A. LENZ,
Executive Director.

PUEBLO OF ZUNI,
Zuni, N. Mex., June 16, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR PELL: The Zuni Tribal Council earnestly request your support for Senate Resolution 448 introduced by the Honorable John Melcher, to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate.

We cannot elaborate enough on the importance of need, to put this committee on permanent status. It has proved its capable worth on Indian affairs in the years of its temporary existence.

We would greatly appreciate the support you can give.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. LEWIS, *Governor.*

THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF
CHIPPEWA INDIANS,
Sault Sainte Marie, Mich., June 13, 1980.

Senator CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: It has been brought to our attention that the recently established Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs is in danger of termination at the end of this year. We have been advised that Senator Melcher has introduced Senate Resolution 448 to make the Select Committee a permanent Committee and we ask for your support of his Resolution.

The Select Committee in its past activities has done much to provide for the advancement of Native Americans in all facets of inter-governmental relationships, and has provided greatly needed assistance in social programs for Indian tribes.

We appreciate your much needed and kind support for the continuance of this committee.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH K. LUMSDEN,
Tribal Chairman.

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES,
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION,
Parker, Ariz., June 11, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR PELL: The Colorado River Indian Tribes have many times expressed their sanction of the establishing of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate.

We have heard that this measure has been referred to the Rules Committee with a hearing in June 1980. We would like to again ask your support and active concern on retaining this Committee which has responded and supported the Native Americans in a continuing and steadfast manner.

This is to request your support of Senate Resolution 448. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY LAFFOON,
Acting Chairman, Tribal Council.

THE MODOC TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA,
Miami, Okla., June 11, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. PELL: It has been brought to our attention that Senator John Melcher has introduced Senate Resolution 448 to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate. The Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma would like to go on record as supporting Senate Resolution 448.

We would, however, like to propose an idea for your consideration. The State of Oklahoma has the largest Indian population of any state, and also has some very unique problems, especially in the areas of nonreservation status and tribal jurisdiction. For these reasons, and because of the number of diverse tribes in Oklahoma, we would like to suggest that one slot on the permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs be reserved for a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL G. FOLLIS, *Chief.*

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.,
Omaha, Nebr., June 12, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: We are asking you to support Senator Melcher's Senate Resolution 448 which he is introducing.

To make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate would be in keeping with governmental policy in its relation to native Americans.

Your support of this Resolution (448) would be appreciated.

We realize how busy you are and, therefore, it is unnecessary for you to reply.
 Respectfully,

TIMOTHY F. WOODHULL,
Executive Director.

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS,
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,
Providence, R.I., June 10, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: Senator Melcher has introduced Senate Resolution 448 to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate. Unless the proposed Melcher resolution is passed, the work of the Select Committee will terminate at the end of this year.

The Rhode Island Commission for Indian Affairs requests your support on Resolution 448.

Sincerely,

PAULLA D. JENNINGS,
Executive Director.

[Mailgram]

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.,
Nashville, Tenn., June 11, 1980.

Hon. CLAIBORNE PELL,
Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

It is most important that Senate Resolution 448 be passed as this will reconfirm and strengthen trust relationships between the Government of the United States and Indian people.

Self-determination efforts of Indian tribes is just beginning to bear fruit and the lack of a voice in the Congress will have a disastrous affect on the progress of Indian tribes.

I urge you to support Senate Resolution 448, sincerely, Rex Evans, Executive Director, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE,
Auburn, Wash., June 10, 1980.

Senator CLAIBORNE PELL,
Senate Rules and Administration Committee,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: In May of this year, the Tribal Council of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe unanimously adopted the attached resolution supporting efforts to establish a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs within the United States Senate. Now that Senate Resolution 448 has been introduced within the Senate, I am soliciting your support of the resolution on behalf of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

In order for the United States to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities to Indian Tribes within our nation, a permanent forum must be established within the Congress. Toward that end, I again solicit your support in

favor of Senate Resolution 448 to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate.

Sincerely,

MARIE STARR,
Tribal Chairwoman.

RESOLUTION OF THE MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE

RESOLUTION No. 80-12-7

Whereas, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribal Council is the duly constituted governing body of the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation by authority of its constitution and by-laws, approved May 13, 1936, by the Secretary of the Interior, and as amended effective June 28, 1977; and

Whereas, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe within King County in the state of Washington serving an area resident Indian population of 2,227 Indians living on the Muckleshoot reservation and the near-reservation areas of Auburn, Enumclaw, Kent, Renton and Federal Way; and

Whereas, as the governing body of the sole federally recognized Indian Tribe within King County, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribal Council is responsible for providing governmental and human services to the Tribal population and for preserving and protecting rights guaranteed the Tribe through treaties and other agreements entered into with the United States Government; and

Whereas, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is currently a temporary committee within the United States Congress and is due to expire at the end of the 96th Congress; and

Whereas, a permanent forum must be established to enable the Congress of the United States to continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian affairs; and

Whereas, the establishment of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee would provide such a forum; and

Whereas, Senator John Melcher and other members of the Senate plan to introduce a resolution in the Congress of the United States to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent Indian Affairs Committee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe endorses the proposed resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee; and be it further

Resolved that the Chairwoman of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe or in the absence of the Chairwoman, the Vice-Chairman, is authorized to sign, execute and negotiate all agreements and amendments thereto on behalf of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe without further adoption of a resolution in the securing and performance of this activity.

CERTIFICATION

As Secretary of the Muckleshoot Tribal Council, I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Muckleshoot Tribal Council on the 18th day of May 1980, held on the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation, Auburn, Washington, at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 6 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

MARIE STARR,
Chairwoman.

SHIRLEY SNEATLUM,
Secretary.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1980.

Chairman CLAIBORNE PELL,
Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PELL: We wish to submit, for the hearing record on S. Res. 448, the enclosed letter in support of establishing a permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

STEVE LINSCHIED,
Legislative Assistant on Indian Affairs.

To the Senate Rules Committee:

We wish to express our support for Senate Resolution 448, to establish a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs in the Senate. While no one person or organization can represent the views of all Friends, the Friends Committee on National Legislation speaks from the long-standing tradition of friendship with and concern for Native Americans among members of the Religious Society of Friends.

We strongly endorse establishing a permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee, believing it to be an integral part of the development of a sound and consistent federal relationship with Native Americans.

The federal government has a unique relationship with Indian tribes, based primarily on their status as politically sovereign entities. This "government" status is recognized in the U.S. Constitution, and has been reaffirmed in treaties, legislative statutes, and numerous legal decisions. Furthermore, because of this special historical relationship, the U.S. government has assumed a "trust responsibility" towards tribes, generally understood to include the protection of Indian lands and resources, the enhancement of Indian self-government, and economic, social, and cultural self-determination.

Historically one of the major problems with U.S. federal Indian policy has been its marked inconsistency. The fluctuation between widely disparate views of the federal government's policy regarding Indian tribes and peoples has perhaps done as much harm to Native Americans as have racial prejudice, cultural misunderstanding, or even nineteenth-century military campaigns.

Perhaps the finest statement bearing witness to this problem and to the importance of a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs is the Final Report of the American Indian Policy Review Commission. The vacillating nature of Indian policy was well-stated by the Commission:

"From the earliest days of European settlement in what is now the United States, and, more pertinently, since the founding of Republic, the Indians have been subjected to ambivalent attitudes and policies by the advancing non-Indian society and, after 1789, by the United States Government itself. On the one hand, every method has been employed to force them to cease being Indians and to conform to the dominant society, while on the other hand they have been led to believe, in part and from time to time, that the Government would support their right to survive as Indians and to practice their own culture—a determination which, despite every adversity and pressure, they have maintained to this day." (AIPRC Final Report, 1977, Vol. I, pp. 1-2).

Consider also the corresponding challenge:

"Today we must ask the central question: Is the American nation—now 200 years old, and 100 full years beyond the era of the Little Bighorn—yet mature enough and secure enough to tolerate, even to encourage, within the larger culture, societies of Indian people who wish to maintain their own unique tribal governments, cultures, and religions? . . .

"The question goes far beyond that of 'restitution' for past wrongs. From the misdirected present, can the United States Government redirect its relations with the American Indians to enable them to determine their own lives now, and in the future?

"The question rings loudly in our ears today. Nor will it be stilled—today or tomorrow—until it is answered." (AIPRC Final Report, 1977, Vol. I, p. 2).

Completed just over three years ago, the American Indian Policy Review Commission's Final Report reflects the most thorough and intensive study of American Indian policy undertaken in the past fifty years. Its in-depth analyses and numerous recommendations deserve careful consideration.

During the decade of the 1970's Congress enacted a number of important pieces of Indian legislation, including the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 1976, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. These acts represent significant responses to the needs of Native Americans.

Federal Indian policy is at a crossroads. Major steps have been taken in the past ten years. A significant effort to identify problems and propose solutions has been made by the American Indian Review Commission. Now more than ever, the Congress must reaffirm a commitment to its relationship with Indian tribes and people.

In the past few years, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has provided the necessary forum for handling Indian-related legislation and concerns. We commend the Senate for recognizing its responsibility by establishing the Select Committee. We also commend the Select Committee for its active role in addressing a wide variety of important Indian issues. If the federal government is to continue to fulfill its obligations to Indian tribes in the 1980's, there must be Congressional committees which can adequately meet the task.

We strongly urge you to give favorable consideration to Senate Resolution 448.
Sincerely,

DON REEVES,
Legislative Secretary.

STEVE LINSCHIED,
Legislative Assistant, Indian Affairs.

TED ZUERN, S.J.,
*Native American Liaison,
FCNL and Jesuit Social Ministries.*

LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN THE U.S.A.,
NATIONAL INDIAN LUTHERAN BOARD,
Chicago, Ill., June 11, 1980.

Senator CLAIBORNE PELL,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR PELL: I urge your vote to support Senate Resolution 448 to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the Senate.

This committee has already proved its importance to American Indian concerns and that its work is ongoing. To cut off this vital channel would be a grave set back for American Indian people.

Sincerely,

EUGENE CRAWFORD,
Executive Director—NILB.

NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.,
Denver, Colo., July 9, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Thank you for your letter of May 23, 1980 calling to our attention Senate Resolution 448 providing for establishment of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee. The National Health Board is most happy about this resolution which has been introduced, creating a permanent committee with which we may have working relationship established.

I am enclosing a copy of the Nation Indian Health Board's Resolution Number 4-80-16 for your information and dissemination among your peers, providing substantial proof of Indian Committees' interest in this endeavor. You have been most helpful in this endeavor serving as the Chairman of this Committee.

I would like to offer you our voice of appreciation for the job you are doing. American Indians need spokesmen in your chambers and we appreciate what you are doing for us.

If there is anything we can do, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely yours,

JAKE L. WHITECROW,
Executive Director.

A resolution to ask that Congress establish the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a regular standing committee.

Whereas the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs is established by the Congress of the United States; and

Whereas a valuable service to American Indians has been provided by the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, and has had to be renewed periodically; and

Whereas the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has had to seek continued support: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the National Indian Health Board ask that Congress establish the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a regular standing committee of the United States Senate.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that at a regular meeting of the National Indian Health Board held in Bangor, Maine, April 21-24 of 1980, the foregoing resolution was presented and approved by a majority vote of those Board of Directors present.

HOWARD E. TOMMIE,
Chairman.

UNITED SIOUX TRIBES OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Pierre, S. Dak., June 13, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Select Committee of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: We enthusiastically support your introduction of the resolution calling for the Status of Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee.

We feel, as you stated in your letter, that Congress must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities to the nation-wide Indian community in the continuing role between Federal and tribal government.

We realize that the search for solutions to the problems entails great effort and must, in nearly every case, utilize the recourse of legislative action. We concur with you that the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs should achieve a permanent status.

We offer both support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

CLARENCE W. SKYE,
Executive Director.

COUNCIL OF ENERGY RESOURCE TRIBES,
Washington, D.C., June 11, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MELCHER: Attached, for your information, is a copy of a letter that was sent from Chairman Peter MacDonald of CERT to all members of the Senate. It supports Senate Resolution No. 448 to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the Senate.

Sincerely,

ELLEN S. BROWN,
Director, Office of Policy Analysis.

Enclosure.

Hon. JENNINGS RANDOLPH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR RANDOLPH: On behalf of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, a coalition of 26 American Indian tribes, I would like to offer our wholehearted support for Senate Resolution 448 to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the United States Senate.

The United States Congress has a legal and historical responsibility to lay the legislative foundation for a sound federal Indian policy, to resolve serious conflicts between Indians and non-Indians and to provide oversight of the administration of federal trust and social service responsibilities.

The Senate Select Committee has proved to be an excellent forum for performing these functions. Although the Committee has made significant progress since its inception in 1977, it has suffered from its "select" or transient status.

The committee's major work of laying the legislative groundwork for a sound federal Indian policy has just begun. Assigning the responsibility for Indian affairs to a subcommittee would severely cripple this effort. Especially since no committee or even subcommittee in the House is assigned exclusively with this responsibility, the need is even greater for a permanent forum in the Senate to ensure that legislation critical to Indian-related matters is given prompt, equitable and careful consideration.

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes, thus, urges all members of the Senate to endorse the resolution by Senator Melcher and 27 other Senators to make the committee permanent.

Sincerely,

PETER MACDONALD,
*Chairman, the Council of Energy, Resource Tribes,
Chairman, Navajo Nation.*

AMERICAN INDIAN NATIONAL BANK,
Washington, D.C., June 5, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: In response to your letter of May 7, 1980, American Indian National Bank fully endorses your resolution establishing a permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs has served a valuable role in focusing the attention of the U.S. Congress on Indian affairs. It is most important that this separate committee continue in existence to guarantee that the Federal government will meet its responsibility in protecting the rights and serving the needs of American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

Please contact us if we can be of service to you or to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. If you should like us to testify with regard to our experience under the Indian Finance Act or on any aspect of what is needed, based on our experience, to enhance development of Indian tribal economics, please let us hear from you.

Enclosed are several copies of our 1979 annual report outlining the progress being made by the completely Indian owned bank.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

CONLEY RICKER.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION,
Washington, D.C., June 3, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: On May 29, 1980, the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education approved unanimously the establishment of a permanent Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. A copy of the motion is enclosed for your review.

Respectfully submitted.

DR. MICHAEL DOSS,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

DATE MAY 29, 1980

LOCATION Washington, D.C.

MOTION MADE BY John Rouillard

MOTION SECONDED BY Maxine Edmo

I MOVE that the Executive Committee of the NACIE submit a letter of support
to the U.S. Senate concerning the establishment of a permanent Select
Committee on Indian Affairs.

COUNCIL ACTION

FOR: 4

AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

TEMPORARILY ABSENT: 1

NORTHERN CHEYENNE PLANNING OFFICE,
THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE,
Lame Deer, Mont., May 27, 1980.

Mr. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am in receipt of your letter of May 7, 1980, informing me of your effort to make the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent forum in the United States Senate.

I heartily agree with your judgment that the Senate needs a permanent committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian affairs. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe recognizes and appreciates the effective service that the Select Committee has rendered Indian people and their interest over the past three years.

For this reason I would like to lend my support to your effort to convince Congress that it must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs by establishing a separate, permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee with adequate expertise and resources. And I fully endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NORMA WOLFCHEIF,
Planner, Planning Department,
Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

UNITED TRIBES EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER,
Bismarck, N. Dak., May 22, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The United Tribes Educational Technical Center is in receipt of your letter of May 7, 1980. As you know the United Tribes Educational Technical Center is comprised of tribal representatives from: the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of Lake Traverse, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota.

The United Tribes Educational Technical Center has supported the continuation of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs in previous years. While our Board of Directors will not meet until June 6, 1980, it is historically evident that they desire to maintain a strong and direct relationship with the U.S. Congress. This is only appropriate considering the constitutional and legal responsibilities to Indian tribes incumbent upon the U.S. Congress.

Without question, the U.S. Senate would be taking a strong and positive direction in establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee. This action would assure a reasonable and public forum for American Indian tribes and a method for developing consistent and equitable policy relative to Indian affairs.

With kind regards and best wishes in your effort.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. GIPP,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., May 21, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the National Tribal Chairman's Association, I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for initiating action which will make the Indian Affairs committee a permanent forum within our government.

The federally recognized tribes of our country are acutely aware and concerned that Congress must continue to meet its historical, Constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs through a permanent Senate Indian Affairs

Committee with expertise, resources and knowledgeable understanding of the relationship that exists between the Indian tribes and our government. It is imperative that Congress have the capability to resolve in a fair and reasonable manner serious conflicts which continue to arise between federally connected Indian interests and other public and private interests.

We, the National Tribal Chairmen's Association feel that the forum for providing a means of working with Congress to enhance the lives of our people is a gaint step forward in these times of development of our resources, jurisdiction and the self-determination of our tribes to control their destiny.

Thank you for your concern and interest and you may be assured of our support.

Sincerely,

KENNETH E. BLACK,
Executive Director.

NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION,
Olympia, Wash., May 13, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Please accept my thanks and my wholesale endorsement of your resolution to make the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent entity of the United States Senate.

I believe, with you, that the Select Committee has been fair and effective in keeping the Congress and the government as a whole aware of its responsibilities for protection of Indians' treaty rights. A permanent committee could continue this job with even greater strength and assurance.

If there is any way the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission can help, please let us know. Your effort to make this committee permanent has our full support.

Sincerely,

BILL FRANK, JR.,
Vice Chairman.

CENTRAL MAINE INDIAN ASSOCIATION INC.,
Orono, Maine, May 14, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Central Maine Indian Association is extremely pleased to be—

Included on the Committee's mailing list; and

Asked for a letter of support in your efforts to establish the Committee on a permanent basis.

First of all we enclose a descriptive pamphlet which briefly describes Central Maine Indian Association and its constituents. We hope it proves interesting.

As a representative/advocacy agency for our nearly 1600 off-reservation Native Americans we have learned the importance of having an advocacy/access office at the policy level of federal/state/local governmental agencies. To date the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has heard us and responded on two major efforts:

American Indian Policy Review Commission; and
Indian Child Welfare Act.

For this we are grateful.

Much has yet to be done. For instance, the addressing equally the needs of all Native Americans living both on and OFF-reservation. The problems of the OFF-reservation PEOPLE are just as significant as for those who live on-reservation; also, maybe slightly more complex as the off-reservation population is—

Greater in number—65 percent of the total U.S. Native American population (Administration of Native Americans);

In greater jeopardy: No land base; often too small in numbers to affect state/local planning priorities; no significant resources to provide for a common economic development concept/effort; often suffering from: disenfranchisement, lack of education, lack of decent employment opportunities, etc.

If some of these problems could be addressed in a rational manner this would, in the future be of great value to our constituents.

Apart from that, the only way to gain a consistent and even handling of problems is to have an established, permanent advocacy contact person/committee responsi-

ble for such policy and program efforts. We heartily endorse your efforts to do just that by gaining a permanent status for the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

If there is anything further, supporting comments or testimony, needed; we will be happy to provide it.

Sincerely,

DONNA M. LORING,
Executive Director.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN PHYSICIANS, INC.,
Oklahoma City, Okla., May 13, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*U.S. Senator,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: It is our understanding that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is due to expire at the end of the 96th Congress.

The record indicates that the United States of America and its Congress has repeatedly indicated its support of the American Indian via treaties, constitutional guarantees and legislation. The record further indicates that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been very effective in dealing with Indian problems and developing solutions.

If the United States of America and its Congress is to continue its efforts to support the American Indian, then it is our feeling that there should be a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs established with adequate expertise and resources and with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian affairs.

The Association of American Indian Physicians fully endorses and supports all efforts and/or resolutions to establish a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

Thank you, Senator Melcher, for your interest in Indian people. If we can be of service in any way, please contact us and we will assist in any way possible.

Walk in beauty,

WILLIAM WILSON,
Executive Director.

AMERICANS FOR INDIAN OPPORTUNITY,
Albuquerque, New Mex., May 28, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*U.S. Senate, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR JOHN: I want to apologize again for having missed dinner with you, but I'll make-up someday. I am overjoyed to hear about your recommendation to make the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee. We strongly endorse your position and support your effort. I think if the Senate knew of the difficult and complicated work that the committee has to do they too would endorse it.

Please feel free to use my letter in anyway. We are putting your recommendation into our Red Alert to generate more support. Tell me if there is anything else we might be able to do. This truly is an appropriate step for the Congress to recognize its Federal Trust and Social Services Responsibilities.

Thank you for being a friend to the Indian people.

With warm regards,

LADONNA HARRIS, *President.*

ANDERSON RESEARCH CONSULTANTS, INC.,
Naugatuck, Conn., May 12, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
*Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: I understand that the future of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is to be decided in the not too distant future.

I want you to know that I feel strongly about the Select Committee and its work. I don't think the interests of the American people can be served without some specific legislative authority and jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian affairs.

I am convinced that Congress must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs and I urge you to do what you can to create a permanent committee on Indian Affairs.

Very truly yours,

A. T. ANDERSON, *Chairman.*

PRESCOTT INDIAN CENTER,
Prescott, Ariz., June 23, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The Prescott Indian Center supports S. Res. 448.

Sincerely yours,

LAFAYETTE HARRIS,
Director, Community Health Program.

NATIONAL URBAN INDIAN COUNCIL,
Denver, Colo., June 25, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: On behalf of the interests represented by this National Organization, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your presentation before the Senate Rules Committee, supporting the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. FRAZIER,
Chief Executive.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
Pierre, S. Dak., June 24, 1980.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I support and encourage your efforts on behalf of Indian Education, to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent Senate panel (SR-448).

The unique status and circumstance of Indian people in this country merit the continued forum of expression and support available thru the Select Committee.

Clarification of issues and concerns in Indian affairs must continue on the committee level if responsible acts and actions are to be legislated by our senators on behalf of the Indian community.

The vision of a better future for Indian/non-Indian relations mandates a role-awareness responsibility by the Senate of these United States.

I strongly support resolution SR-448.

Respectfully,

EUGENE E. FRACEK,
Indian Education Director.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1980.

To Senator John Melcher and Co-Sponsors of Senate Resolution 448:

We wish to commend and thank you for sponsoring S. Res. 448, to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent Senate committee.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we have sent to the Committee on Rules and Administration for inclusion in the hearing record.

We offer any additional assistance which we can provide to encourage the passage of this important resolution.

Best wishes,

DON REEVES,
Legislative Secretary.

STEVE LINSCHIED,
Legislative Assistant on Indian Affairs.

TED ZUERN, S.J.,
Native American Liaison, FCNL and Jesuit Social Ministries.

ASHLAND, WIS., June 12, 1980.

Re Select Committee On Indian Affairs.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
*Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am writing on behalf of the Bad River Chippewa Tribe to convey the Tribe's support for the continued existence of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The special relationship between the Indian Tribes and the government of the United States makes it imperative that the Senate retain a committee capable of examining the issues in depth. The Tribe believes the Select Committee is the proper vehicle to this end. In the past the committee has reviewed a number of important issues and the Tribe hopes this process will continue.

Sincerely,

JAY S. MOYNIHAN,
Counselor at Law.

[Mailgram]

UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE,
Burlington, Wash., July 21, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*Dirksen Building, U.S. Senate,
 Washington, D.C.*

The upper Skagit Tribal Counsel by adopting Tribal Resolution 80-43 on July 17, 1980 hereby endorses Senate Resolution 448 and the establishment of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee.

LAWRENCE BOOME, SR.,
Chairman, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE,
Rosebud, S.Dak., June 20, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: Thank you for your letter dated May 7, 1980 and please forgive me for not responding sooner.

I do support your concept, the establishment of a Senate Indian Affairs Committee where Indian concerns and issues can be resolved realistically will greatly benefit all Tribes.

Thank you for your efforts and if I can be of further assistance please feel free to call on me at any time.

Sincerely yours,

NORMAN G. WILSON, *President.*

OSAGE TRIBAL COUNCIL,
Pawhuska, Okla., June 27, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1980, concerning the introduction of a resolution to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent forum in the United States Senate.

We are pleased to enclose copy of Resolution No. 25-405, adopted by unanimous vote of the Osage Tribal Council May 21, 1980, the governing body of the Osage Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, endorsing your proposed resolution.

We appreciate your efforts concerning this matter and wish you much success in providing the legislative solution necessary to laying the foundation of a sound federal Indian policy.

Sincerely yours,

SYLVESTER J. TINKER,
Principal Chief.

RESOLUTION
of the
OSAGE TRIBAL COUNCIL

No. 25-405

WHEREAS,

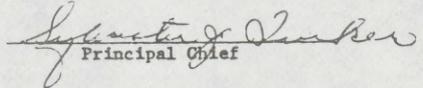
1. The Osage Tribal Council, the governing body of the Osage Tribe of Indians has been advised that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is currently a temporary committee and is due to expire at the end of the 96th Congress, and
2. It is the consensus of the Council that it is in the best interest of the Osage Tribe, other Federally recognized tribes, the Aleuts, Eskimo, and Native American Indian Tribes, to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the United States Senate, and
3. This conclusion is predicated on the fact that the United States is vested with trust responsibilities over the affairs on Indian Tribes and individual Indians and the creation of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the United States Senate would become a valuable forum to aid in the resolution of the complex historical, constitutional, and legal responsibility of Indian Tribes and individual Indians: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

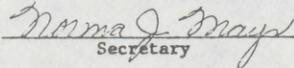
1. It is respectfully requested by the Osage Tribal Council, the governing body of the Osage Tribe of Indians, that the United States Senate establish a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs in the United States Senate, and
2. That the Principal Chief, or in his absence, the Acting Principal Chief, is hereby authorized to sign this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was considered by the Osage Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Pawhuska, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present and that the same was adopted by a vote of Seven(7) in favor, and None(0) against, this 21st day of May, 1980.


Principal Chief

ATTEST:


Secretary

THE NAVAJO NATION,
Window Rock, Ariz., June 6, 1980.

Re Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The Navajo Nation appreciates the work of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs under your leadership as Chairman. It is clear to us that the combination of your leadership as well as, the existence of the Select Committee permitted many pieces of legislation important to Indian people in general, and Navajo people in particular, to be considered and approved during the 96th Congress. It is equally clear to us that were there to be no special Committee of the United States Senate dealing with Indian Affairs (as unfortunately has been the case in the House of Representatives), that important matters of concern to all Americans would be neglected and that the net result would be a result for all Americans, not just the Indian people of this Nation.

It would not be correct to say that there has been complete agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Select Committee on all matters, but the existence of a forum in which Indian issues may be aired is one which is extremely beneficial in itself. Given America's continuing energy needs, and the existence of such vast quantities of energy resources on Indian lands, both in your own state as well as here in the Southwest, it is clear that matters of importance to the Nation as a whole and affecting Indian lands and Indian resources will continue to arise in the years to come. The existence of a permanent Committee will provide a place with both the expertise and concern to deal with such important national issues.

The establishment of a permanent Committee will also have salutary affect of reinforcing the traditional role of the Congress in the U.S. Constitution and which has existed throughout this country's history.

The Navajo Nation strongly endorses the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent Committee and appreciates your support of this important effort.

Very truly yours,

PETER MACDONALD,
Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council.

ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL, INC.,
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN,
Albuquerque, N. Mex., June 4, 1980.

Hon. U.S. SENATOR,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR HONORABLE SENATOR: The All Indian Pueblo Council which represents the Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico request that you support the efforts of Senator John Melcher to speed the Senate Select Committee of Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the United States Senate. A Resolution to that effect is attached.

Your help and understanding in Indian Affairs is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

DELFIN J. LOVATO, *Chairman.*

1980 RESOLUTION No. 15

Whereas the All Indian Pueblo Council comprised of the 19 New Mexico Pueblos has as its primary goals to foster the well being of all Pueblo Tribes and protect the trust relationship between the Indian Tribes and the United States Government; and,

Whereas the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has, for the past three years, served Congress, and the Indian people efficiently and effectively by providing a focal point for issues concerning Indians, the people of this country; and,

Whereas Congress must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs through a permanent Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs with adequate expertise and resources; and,

Whereas it is imperative Congress have the capacity to resolve serious conflicts which continue to arise between federally connected Indian interests and other public and private interests; and,

Whereas the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has proved to be a means for exploring alternative ways of mediating such conflicts consistent with the legal rights of Indian tribes and the overriding federal responsibility; and,

Whereas the Senate Select Committee, through its oversight functions, continues to seek solutions to the varied problems Indians have encountered in the administration of federal trust and social service responsibilities; and: Now, therefore be it

Resolved that the All Indian Pueblo Council supports the efforts of Senator John Melcher to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent committee of the United States Senate and the Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico urge the United States Senate to pass such legislation.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 15 was passed at a duly called meeting of the All Indian Pueblo Council, held on the 22d day of May 1980, at which time a quorum was present, with 18 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

DELFIN J. LAVATO,
Chairman.

Attested:

FRANK TENORIO,
Secretary.

THE CAMPO INDIAN RESERVATION,
Boulevard, Calif., June 2, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Please excuse the delay in answering your letter of May 7. Be advised that I do endorse the establishment of a permanent committee on Indian Affairs as referenced in your letter.

However, I am attaching a copy of a letter written to Senator Pressler which I feel deals with reservation Indian needs, and more particularly our situation here in Southern California.

I feel that I must reiterate my statement to Senator Pressler that the Federal Indian Trust relationship is badly in need of review and revision. Presumably your committee would deal with this problem. I will look forward to hearing from you in regards to your views in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

VALACIA THACKER,
Chairwoman, Campo Tribal Council.

CHEROKEE NATION,
Tahlequah, Okla., May 28, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
U.S. Senator,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am in receipt of your recent letter regarding the introduction of a resolution establishing a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

I want you to know that I am in full support of this resolution, and would appreciate your keeping me informed of its progress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ROSS O. SWIMMER,
Principal Chief,
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

PENOBSCOT NATION,
 TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION,
Indian Island, Maine, June 4, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Governor Pehrson of the Penobscot Nation has requested that I reply to your letter of May 7, 1980.

The Penobscot nation fully supports a permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee and, commends you for your leadership role on the current committee and, in your desire to seek an on-going forum in the United States Senate for the debate and resolution of Indian matters.

We will be pleased to testify in behalf of the resolution and, urge its passage by the full Senate. Please keep us informed on developments.

Sincerely,

ANDREW X. AKINS,
Tribal Administrator.

TAOS PUEBLO,
Taos, N. Mex., June 2, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1980, advising us of the establishment of a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs. We realize the need for a committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to our people. However, we would strongly caution that this committee be sensitive to the voice of Indian people, only when this sensitivity is real will such a committee be of value as a forum in the U.S. Senate.

We fully agree that Congress must meet historical obligations to Indian people. The permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee must possess necessary expertise and sensitivity to accomplish this task. Therefore, we respectfully request that we be consulted when such a committee is being formed. Enjoyed seeing you during our Santa Fe hearings. Thank you.

With good thoughts,

ADAM TRUJILLO, *Governor.*

TRIBAL SERVICES DISTRICT COMMISSION,
Ukiah, Calif., June 5, 1980.

DEAR SENATOR: We are certainly pleased to have interest shown in establishing a permanent Select Committee on Indian affairs.

It is our understanding that for the last several years no elected Member of Congress has wanted to chair an Indian Committee because we are a political liability to politicians, so we salute your bravery.

Our hopes are that such a committee will listen to small Indian groups instead of those that can afford offices in Washington.

Any Indian policy must consider all Indians both federal non-federal in order to be just to all Indians. Certainly existing special programs need much regulatory revision to meet the needs of the Indian Communities, especially those of Health and Welfare, C.S.A., E.D.A., Parks and Recreation, and HUD.

Thank you for the interest in our communities and reservations. We, of course, believe that California and small reservations need a lot of attention.

Sincerely,

BERT SLOAN, Jr.,
Chairman, Cahto Tribe of Laytonville.

TRINIDAD RANCHERIA,
Trinidad, Calif., May 28, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: In response to your letter dated May 7, 1980. I am very pleased to support your resolution to establish a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs. With the complex issues involving the Indian people of the United States the need for a permanent committee is of paramount importance.

I cannot stress the significance of this committee, to work in behalf of Indians in Congress. To work out equitable solutions in a fair and just manner between Indian tribes and their known enemies. To work with Congress and continue to have direct communication with the Tribes, and in mediating conflicts with Indians, non-Indians and the B.I.A.

Thank You,

ROSE JOY SUNDBERG,
Tribal Chairperson.

[Telegram]

PABLO, MONT., June 2, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe request that you delay hearings on proposal for a continuing Select Committee on Indian Affairs until after the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PABLO,
Chairman, Tribal Council.

MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA,
Miami, Okla., May 23, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: On behalf of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, I wish to endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

This committee has done a fine job during the three years it has been in existence and I feel it will continue to be an asset to the Indian people.

Thank you for notifying us of your resolution.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

FLOYD E. LEONARD,
Chief, Miami Tribe.

RED CLIFF TRIBAL COUNCIL,
Bayfield, Wis., May 27, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I support without qualification your effort to make the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent forum in the U.S. Senate. I not only support you, I pray for your success.

It's my understanding that select committees generally die or have their functions shifted to a standing committee, which would certainly water down those functions unless the standing committee didn't have much else to do. (It would be interesting to know the Committee to which we'd be assigned. I'd opt for Appropriations but we'd probably end up in Foreign Relations.)

I've not had occasion to address the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, but if I do have concerns or conflicts, which is likely, I assume it would be much easier to

bring them to a Committee whose single function is to deal with Indian Affairs, than to a Committee addressing Indian concerns on a part-time basis and needing an education each time they do.

I'm aware of your concern and understanding and feel it's critical to Red Cliff's goal of self-determination that the Select Committee on Indian Affairs be made permanent so my people, Congress and the rest of the Nation may benefit from the Committee's experience and status.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. GORDON,
Tribal Chairman.

KIOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA,
Carnegie, Okla., May 28, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The Kiowa Business Committee (KBC) whose responsibility is to conduct the business of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, wholeheartedly endorses your effort to establish, in the United States Senate, a permanent Indian Affairs Committee and highly commends you for undertaking the task.

The urgency of the matter is my incentive to respond quickly to your May 7, 1980, letter seeking endorsement with my letter, which will be followed by an official tribal resolution of endorsement as soon as an official Kiowa Business Committee meeting can be held.

I have been much concerned with the direction that this Administration is moving regarding Indian affairs and more especially the attention our Indian problems are being given as we work to gain an advantage for the Kiowa Tribe through the concept of self determination, which is based upon our federal relationship with the United States.

The Kiowa people certainly appreciate your efforts and endorse the permanent establishment of a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

JACOB AHTONE,
Chairman, Kiowa Business Committee.

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE, INC.,
Lame Deer, Mont., May 27, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am in receipt of your letter of May 7, 1980, informing me of your effort to make the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent forum in the United States Senate.

I heartily agree with your judgment that the Senate needs a permanent committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian affairs. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe recognizes and appreciates the effective service that the Select Committee has rendered Indian people and their interest over the past three years.

For this reason I would like to lend my support to your effort to convince Congress that it must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs by establishing a separate, permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee with adequate expertise and resources. And I fully endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ALLEN ROWLAND,
President, The Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE,
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
Duckwater, Nev., May 27, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: This is in response to your letter of May 7, 1980 regarding your efforts to establish a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs.

As Chairman of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Council, I endorse the efforts to create a separate, permanent Senate, Indian Affairs Committee. The relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes is complex and merits a permanent body in the legislative process which is continually aware of the conflicts between Tribes and competing jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

JERRY MILLETT,
Chairman, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe.

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA,
Laguna, N. Mex., May 19, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I wholeheartedly agree with you that there is a continuing need for the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. I will totally support and endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Your efforts regarding Indian Affairs are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY D. EARLY, *Governor.*

SHOALWATER BAY INDIAN TRIBE,
Tokeland, Wash., May 21, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MELCHER: We wholeheartedly agree and endorse your resolution of establishing a permanent Indian Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate.

We feel this is the only solution as it is our right to be in on the decision making when it concerns our people! How can it be any other way and be equitable?

We thank you for your protective and kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

RACHEL WHITISH,
Chairperson,
Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council.

FOND DU LAC RESERVATION,
Cloquet, Minn. May 20, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: We received your letter dated May 7, 1980 in which you indicate the need for a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs in the U.S. Senate. We are very pleased that you, personally as well as professionally, recognize the paramount need for an exclusive, continuing committee dealing with the unique problems, situations and issues of the American Indians. We feel that at the rudiments of the problems, proper and bonafide attention has not been awarded America's original citizens. With your perception and hopefully the conception of a permanent committee, righteous attention with bonafide action can be generated to at least diminish the problems currently faced by Tribes striving for self-determination.

On behalf of the Reservation Business Committee, and as directed by motion, I want to go on record as supporting and endorsing this most significant call for a permanent Committee.

If further information is necessary or desired, please contact my office.

Thanks.

Respectfully,

GEORGE F. HIMANGO.

UPPER LAKE RANCHERIA,
Upper Lake, Calif., May 15, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: Thank you for your informative letter on the status of your Committee on Indian Affairs.

We hope that you receive the support needed in getting the Select Committee on Indian Affairs permanent status, as it shall benefit all Native Americans concerned.

Attached is a letter of support for the Select Committee on Indian Affairs from the Upper Lake Pomo band of Indians, Upper Lake Rancheria. Copies of the attached letter are being sent to fellow committee members and California's two state Senators.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WRIGHT, *Chairperson.*

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE,
Tucson, Ariz., May 20, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
*Select Committee on Indian Affairs
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The permanent implementation of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has indeed been of tremendous assistance to the Indian Tribes. The establishment of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs on permanent status within the Senate will be of great help to Indians throughout the United States. It will also provide the non-Indians in understanding the Indians, thereby creating much better communicative cooperation among two entities.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council and constituents are in full support of your Resolution in seeking the permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

Respectfully,

DAVID G. RAMIREZ,
Tribal Chairman.

COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA,
Elton, La., May 19, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: In response to your informative letter of May 8, 1980, I am endorsing the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee.

I agree that this mechanism has proven beneficial to all dealing with Indian matter of our country.

Along this interest I would like to suggest a body of Indian leadership be established from identified regions to serve as a working task force to strengthen the communication process. For many years political infighting has been a problem among the many Indian organizations in this country.

Perhaps this approach would have a far greater impact on the delivery of input and exchange both with the Native Americans and the Congress.

Your interest in Indian Affairs is most appreciative.

Sincerely,

ERNEST SICKEY,
Tribal Chairman.

NEZ PERCE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
Lapwai, Idaho, May 19, 1980.

Re: Nez Perce Resolution NP 80-361.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MELCHER: Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee adopted Resolution NP 80-361 during its regular meeting May 13, 1980, urging your support. It calls for a Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent Committee.

The Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho is interested in knowing the outcome of the request to maintain this committee.

Sincerely,

WILFRED A. SCOTT, *Chairman.*

Enclosure.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has been empowered to act for and in behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, pursuant to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the General Council of the Nez Perce Tribe, on May 6, 1961 and approved by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs on June 27, 1961; and

Whereas the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee did receive information regarding a resolution which is to be introduced and which will establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent Committee; and

Whereas the Select Committee on Indian Affairs is currently a temporary committee due to expire at the end of the 96th Congress; and

Whereas it is the Nez Perce Tribe's belief that the Senate needs a committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian Affairs; and

Whereas the Select Committee has, for three years, served Congress, the country and the Indian people efficiently and effectively by providing a focal point of issues concerning Indians and non-Indians; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee support the efforts of members of the Senate to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee meeting in regular session May 13, 1980, in the Tribal Conference room, Lapwai, Idaho, a quorum of its members being present and voting.

BRAD L. PICARD,

Secretary.

Attest:

WILFRED A. SCOTT,

Chairman.

ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN, INC.,
De Pere, Wis., May 16, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

DEAR SIR: In the past the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has been beneficial to Tribal Governments. Having a permanent Committee is highly desired, and would give Indian Tribes a direct contact, not otherwise available.

Is the membership of the present Select Committee on Indian Affairs going to be the same membership of the proposed permanent Indian Affairs Committee?

The Oneida Tribe supports the effort to have a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Respectfully,

NORBERT S. HILL, *Vice Chairman.*

PUEBLO OF ZUNI,
Zuni, N. Mex., May 16, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1980 informing us about the fourteen members of the Senate who will join you in introducing a resolution in the very near future, to establish the Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent Committee.

The Zuni Tribal Council are in total agreement with you that the Senate does need a committee with full legislative authority and comprehensive jurisdiction over matters relating to Indian Affairs. We need only to look back to our past working experiences with the Committee, which has been very good, to know the importance of every effort that should be made to have it continue on a permanent basis.

In appreciation for keeping us informed we again thank you, and if as a tribe we can be of any assistance in your truly fine endeavor on this matter, please do not hesitate to let us know.

With best of personal regards,

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. LEWIS, Governor.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE,
Shelton, Wash., May 16, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Regarding your letter May 7, 1980, the Squaxin Island Tribe is very supportive of a permanent committee status for the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. I was aware of your intention to take this action. I am very pleased to see fourteen other Senators join you in introducing the resolution.

Your concerns expressed in your letter echo what tribal leaders have been saying for a long time. I especially agree that careful and equitable consideration of Indian issues must be guaranteed. A separate permanent Senate Indian Affairs Committee is the best way to meet this responsibility.

The Squaxin Island Tribe does fully agree and endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Thank you very much. We appreciate your support on the Indian issue.

Sincerely,

CALVIN J. PETERS,
Chairman, Squaxin Island Tribe.

ABSENTE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA,
Shawnee, Okla., May 16, 1980.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am writing in response to your recent letter concerning your effort to establish a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs. Your interest in establishing a permanent Indian Affairs Committee is commendable, and I fully endorse your resolution.

It is apparent that you recognize the federal government's inherent and comprehensive legal responsibilities relating to Indian affairs. As you know, our Indian community is in dire need of adequate and consistent representation at the congressional level; and, I feel that a permanent Committee on Indian Affairs, with the proper guidance and leadership, can help to solve the various federal trust responsibility problems which we are currently experiencing.

I am hopeful that you are successful in getting the support of the Senate in endorsing this most important resolution. We wish you much success.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN L. SLOAT, Governor.

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA,
May 15, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: As the Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and by the power invested in me, by the Tribe, I and members of the Great Shawnee Nation whole heartly support and endorse your resolution to establish a permanent Indian Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

GEORGE J. CAPTAIN,
Chief, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE,
Needles, Calif., May 13, 1980.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: We wish to express our appreciation for your letter dated May 13, 1980, regarding the establishment of a permanent Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. We also wish to extend our whole-hearted support of your efforts and our endorsement of the resolution.

We feel that the establishment of a permanent committee such as you have described in your letter is, indeed, vital to the equitable consideration of Indian legislative issues. As we move into the 1980's, we look forward to an increase in the exercise of tribal self-determination in the areas of economic decision-making and utilization of Indian resources. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe has begun to shoulder some of the responsibility involved in self-determination under PL 93-638, and we hope to see the opportunity extended under this law reflected in future legislation. Our hope is that a permanent Committee in Indian Affairs will enable us to continue the progress we have initiated.

We are also writing to our representative in the Senate, Mr. Dennis DeConcini, in support of your resolution.

In closing, let us again express our gratitude for your interest in the legal and moral rights of the Indian people.

Sincerely,

LLEWELLYN BARRACKMAN,
Tribal Council Chairman.

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA,
Wewoka, Okla., May 13, 1980.

Re Proposed resolution to establish a Permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MELCHER: Thank you for informing us of your intentions to introduce a resolution to establish a permanent Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

This is the most foresighted move we've seen in a long time and we wholeheartedly support your efforts. The Committee has done an excellent job in insuring that both Indian and Non-Indian issues are well represented, and you are to be commended for attempting to permanently establish the committee.

If I can be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

TOM PALMER,
Principal Chief,
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE,
PLEASANT POINT RESERVATION,
Perry, Maine, May 9, 1980.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Select Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: The Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Perry, Maine feel there is a definite need for a permanent voice in the Congress of this Country that reflects the concerns of the total Indian Community. A solid avenue of communication by which Indians can dispell rumors and promote a better understanding of Indian beliefs and needs.

We of this reservation wholeheartedly endorse your efforts and extend our sincere thanks for your concerns.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. NEWELL, *Governor.*

FORT BELKNAP AGENCY,
FORT BELKNAP COMMUNITY COUNCIL,
Harlem, Mont., May 23, 1980.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION No. 102-80

Whereas, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is the governing body of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fort Belknap Tribes approved on the 13th day of December, 1935, and

Whereas, under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Community Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security and general welfare of the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

Whereas, the Fort Belknap Indian Community in order to carry out their responsibility deems it necessary that the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs be made a permanent committee of the United States Senate, and

Whereas, the Tribal Government of the Fort Belknap Indian Community deems it essential and an absolute need that the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs be maintained as a permanent committee of the United States Senate, provided, the Committee take more of an advocacy role in supporting Indian tribes' positions on all issues concerning Indian affairs, and

Whereas, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs must be more than a focal point but must be a strong advocate for Indian people, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Tribal Government of the Fort Belknap Indian Community strongly urges the United States Senate to pass a resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as a permanent committee of the United States Senate, providing the Committee maintains and pursues a role of advocacy for Indian Tribes and their people.

CHARLES "JACK" PLUMAGE,
Chairman.

FRANKLIN R. PEREZ,
Secretary.

Attest:

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, do hereby certify that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is composed of 12 members, of whom 11 members, constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened, and held this 22nd day of May, 1980; and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 10 for; 1 not voting; 1 absent; 0 opposed; and that the said resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

FRANKLIN R. PEREZ, *Secretary.*

EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL,
San Juan Pueblo, N.M.

RESOLUTION 1680

Whereas, the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council comprised of the Pueblos of Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Taos and Tesuque has as one of its goals to foster the well being of all tribal members, and;

Whereas, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has, for the past three years, served Congress, and the Indian people efficiently and effectively by providing a focal point for issues concerning Indians, and;

Whereas, Congress must continue to meet its historical, constitutional and legal responsibilities in the area of Indian Affairs through a permanent Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs with adequate expertise and resources, and;

Whereas, it is imperative Congress have the capacity to resolve serious conflicts which continue to arise between federally connected Indian interests and other public and private interests, and;

Whereas, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs has proved to be a means for exploring alternative ways of mediating such conflicts consistent with the legal rights of Indian tribes and the overriding federal responsibility. In addition, the Committee, through its oversight functions, continues to seek solutions to the varied problems Indians have encountered in the administration of federal trust and social service responsibilities. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council supports the efforts of Senator John Melcher to make the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent forum in the U.S. Senate.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered and adopted on the 13th day of May, at which time a quorum was present and that same was approved by a vote of 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

GILBERT M. PENA,
Governor and Council Chairman.

Attest:

SHARON GARCIA,
(For Joe L. Garcia, Executive Director).

PRAIRIE ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL.

RESOLUTION No. 14-80

Whereas the Prairie Island Community Council has the power under the Constitution of the Prairie Island Community to promulgate resolutions governing the conduct of business in the Community, and

Whereas Prairie Island being one of the smaller reservations, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs have been efficiently and effectively been providing us with past, current and future issues on Indian Affairs, and therefore be it

Resolved, The Prairie Island Community Council and its members fully endorse the Indian Affairs Committee a permanent forum in the U.S. Senate, and now be it further

Resolved, The Prairie Island Community Council endorse the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Indian Affairs a permanent Committee.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolutions No. 14-80 was duly adopted at an Executive meeting held May 12, 1980 at Prairie Island Community Center with a vote of 5 for 0 against with a quorum present.

NORMAN CAMPBELL,
President.

M. J. WELLS,
Secretary.

