

February 15, 1973

were, but they are from many states throughout this Nation which we have now a collective group of people who are intelligent. They are shrewd, they know how to accomplish things by the creation of a disturbance. Now this bill has its prime purpose, the formation of a commission which would represent Indians. This bill would, for the most part, set up a new method of arriving at the composition of the commission itself, namely we would appoint three Indians from the three basic tribes of this State, appointed by the Indian tribes themselves because it seems to me if the tribe has got to the point it has lost its identity in representing Indians, we're really in a bad situation. I see no sense of appointing one from the area of Scottsbluff. I see no practical reason to appoint one from Lincoln or two or three from Omaha because they don't represent Indians in the sense of the word that I think we're trying to do. I think what this body wants to know, what do the Indians want and how do they recommend to this body they can achieve it. The present commission is twelve Indians. They have very seldom met on anything because they never could get a quorum. Now if you can't get a quorum with twelve, how are you going to get a quorum with fifteen? You may not even get it with nine, but then the bill says if a member of the commission doesn't attend for three consecutive meetings, automatically he is out and the tribe which he came from recommends another one and he is put on the commission. The bill provides they will receive \$35.00 a day per diem. I have stricken from the amendment, from the bill, for example, Senator Burbach, the traveling expenses. I have no objection to reinserting that. I do think we ought to limit, which is not in this amendment, that this commission cannot meet oftener than once a month and I'm not trying to hurt Senator Burbach, he comes from an area which has more Indians than we have. We are having more progressively because they migrate as they have a right to do, from South Dakota to other areas, into Nebraska because of their belief they probably have greater opportunities there. I among everyone, realize that the most difficult problem we have in this State is the Indians. I think we have a problem because the Indian, because of the whatever you want to call it, he's lost to some extent his pride, he's been pushed around by the white people from a long time back up to the present time. I can't help what happened to him a couple of hundred years ago, but I'm interested in what we ought to do for him irrespective of the cost in order to instill in him as an overall thing the pride and until the Indians, collective Indians, have pride, we're not going to make any progress with them and they're not going to make any progress in themselves. I don't know what to do, I want to do something and I don't think that increasing the commission will do it and I don't think the breaking down of the commission in the area representation basic upon Omaha and Lincoln have the Indians, yes, but they don't have the Indians in my (?) who believe in the expansion of the

(End Belt #5)