

is ultimately nonsense. If you pass retrocession, and I'm going to vote for it, you pass it with the understanding that you're giving certain authority and the "little Indians" are going to do what they want within the authority and power given to them and exhortations to the contrary are just that, exhortations, and promises made one way or the other are just that, probably just as effective as the promises we made to the Indians originally when we packed them off to the reservations and are going to be followed just as religiously. Okay, with that said, why am I voting for retrocession? Well, that goes back to more fundamental things. I guess it gets back to my belief about the whole concept of Indian reservations, our handling of Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the whole package. I personally think Indian reservations are the single, dumbest, most criminal thing this country ever did, the idea that you could have separate countries living within this country, which is effectively what a reservation is, separate states living within other states. There was a war, cowboys and Indians, Indians lost, just like there have been a lot of other wars and when it's over you usually amalgamate one system into the other. Artificially trying to do it otherwise has done as much damage to the Indian, more damage than if you took him out and systematically slaughtered him every once in a while. You tried to create the Bureau of Indian Affairs and you created a condition where you're always rehabilitating for all the damage did with all your various other welfare programs. I hope to see the day when Indian reservations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are completely eliminated and the Indian is allowed to be an American just like the rest of us. Yes, I know they were the original Americans. Well, let us all be Americans instead of Indians and Americans. You will not have that possibility as long as you maintain the concept of "the reservations", as long as you maintain the concept of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Why don't we have the Bureau of Italian Affairs, the bureau of this or that? So, retrocession is simply giving to those reservations more autonomy...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...letting the system take its natural course, letting it manifest itself to the fullest and that involves gambling, contrary to what everybody is trying to suggest. It does and it will, but that is the system we