

SENATOR CARPENTER: I move the adoption of the amendment. Now, Mr. President, this bill and the amendment has broader application than it did at the time the original commission was set up. In my town of Scottsbluff we had a very serious and I mean very serious situation. I think they had the same thing up at Crawford and Fort Robinson; South Dakota. I don't think anybody, including myself, has any desire not to protect the rights, civil rights or otherwise, of everyone irrespective of their identity within this State and this Nation. I don't think that the present Commission represents anybody except a small group of people who were intelligent enough in order to take it over and to prevent us from doing what the original concept was that they should do, and that was namely to appoint a body who we, this body could accept as being representative of the Indians generally in the area to determine what they want and to present somewhat of a concise, compacted body so we could attempt to make a decision and to attempt to at least correct some of the problems. I don't think it is any secret, I attended a meeting yesterday of responsible people and they are in a quandry, for example, what to do because the law in the past could be broken down like, I think it's been broken down in the recent past. I may get off the subject of the bill because I think it's necessary. You see, there is a very great division of who has the authority to do what and after something has happened and something has happened in order to curtail whatever the problem might have been, there is a great division because of the complexity of the problems of the people who are arrested and because the lack of people on the County level who are capable, either because of the lack of ability, the lack of money, the lack of knowledgeable people, or the lack of number of attorneys in order to attempt to bring before a court the problem that's before them. The County Attorney by the very nature, some counties apparently they are paid minimal amounts which is certainly true of my county and certainly true of the counties in the northwest part of this State and many times you have one County Attorney, for example, who has to do all of these things and he is confronted with probably 40, 50 or 60 arrests. In order to take it to court, in order to attempt to have the court determine based upon the fact that he can't do it. Now, I think, for example, the District Attorney bill which has not been heard before the Judiciary Committee but will be shortly, which I hope will be embraced by the preponderance of County Attorneys, I think that it will be. It'll separate the civil from the criminal and then we will have these people, these attorneys, district attorney, appointed by the Attorney General and I'm sure they will be paid enough in order to do what they're supposed to do. They'll be elected in each of the districts in which the courts now exist and will have, of course, the responsibility to appoint associate district attorneys. That's another question, but, we're making some progress, in order to stabilize law enforcement to the point that both parties can be represented by adequate counsel on both sides of an important question. Now this thing in my part of the country, it got to the point in the minds of many people and at least in mine, that you could have the reoccurrence of the vigilantes if the law with itself cannot protect the citizen and that, I'm sure nobody wants to happen but sometimes, my friends, these things happen without any particular stimulation by anybody because when you get to the point where people feel they have the right to fire bomb and those things because they feel they have been discriminated against and maybe they have, I'd be the last one to say that Indians collectively have not been discriminated against. I'd be the last one to say that they, additional rights what they should have which they now don't have. I'm the first one to say they should be subjected to better education and for the most part, all the things that the basic Indian tribes advocate but I think there should be some limitation within the law in order to let them go to excessive means in order to accomplish a problem that doesn't represent, in my judgment, the collective belief of the Indians themselves. In my county the people that caused the disturbance were not from Nebraska in that sense of the word; basically some of them