

since this matter was brought before us that it be discussed. As I was saying when we left for lunch there is much language in this bill that I find offensive and insulting and demeaning, and I'm going to try to get some of it out of the bill. As a matter of fact, so that Senator Schellpeper and others who might be interested would...I would try to strike all of the language in Section 2, after...I think it starts on line 15, Senator Schellpeper, where they state the policy of the state to be one to protect the morals and welfare of society or whatever. Then they want this compact to work to the benefit of strong government for the tribes, or something to that effect. After that, I want to strike everything else in the bill except the emergency clause. I would leave Section 1. I find that language that I'm talking about to be very offensive. The tribes are considered to be, or purported to be sovereign nations. It's ironic that a bill with the kind of insulting language that this one contains in it would be offered by the Nebraska Legislature when it was a judge named Dundee in about 1879 who recognized Chief Standing Bear as a human being within the confines of the Constitution of the United States for the purpose of being able to bring into the courts a motion for a writ of habeas corpus. It had been argued that Indians were not recognized by the Constitution. The government's lawyers said they don't have the right to do anything in this country, not even to draw the fresh, clean air that God put here. And that was the attitude. And after listening to all the disparaging things said about the Native Americans, Judge Dundee had had a request from Chief Standing Bear to address the court. That could not be done during the court session. So he adjourned and then let Standing Bear speak. And I'm going to read just a little bit. I will read from Standing Bear later because my time might run out. But after he spoke, the courtroom was hushed. The people leaned forward. That's when General Crook was there. He was for Standing Bear being given rights, the Indians being recognized as people. According to one of the accounts, women in the courtroom were audibly sobbing. Judge Dundee took the matter under advisement, and after a week he rendered a decision, and this is part of what he said. During my 15 years in which I've been administering the laws of my country, I have never been called upon to hear a case that appealed so strongly to my sympathy. On the one side, we have the representatives of this wasted race coming into this national tribunal asking for justice and liberty. On the other side, we have the magnificent, if not magnanimous, government resisting this application. The Ponca's are among the most