

Whereas President Richard M. Nixon, in his "Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs" on July 8, 1970, recognized that the Indian Tribes constitute a distinct and valuable segment of the American federalist system, whose members have made significant contributions to the United States and to American culture;

Whereas President Nixon determined that Indian Tribes, as local governments, are best able to discern the needs of their people and are best situated to determine the direction of their political and economic futures;

Whereas in his "Special Message" President Nixon recognized that the policies of legal and political termination on the one hand, and paternalism and excessive dependence on the other, devastated the political, economic, and social aspects of life in Indian America, and had to be radically altered;

Whereas in his "Special Message" President Nixon set forth the foundation for a new, more enlightened Federal Indian policy grounded in economic self reliance and political self determination;

Whereas this Indian self determination policy has endured as the most successful policy of the United States in dealing with the Indian Tribes because it rejects the failed policies of termination and paternalism and declared that "the integrity and right to continued existence of all Indian Tribal and Alaska native governments, recognizing that cultural pluralism is a source of national strength."

Now Therefore be it *Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States recognizes the unique role of the Indian Tribes and their members in the United States, and commemorates the vision and leadership of President Nixon, and every succeeding President, in fostering the policy of Indian Self-Determination.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senator McCAIN and Senator TIM JOHNSON in submitting today a resolution to commemorate the anniversary of a little-noticed but critical event that took place 30 years ago this summer.

In July 1970, President Richard M. Nixon delivered his now-famous "Special Message to the Congress on Indian Affairs" that revolutionized how our nation deals with Native governments and Native people from Florida to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii.

With centuries of ill-conceived and misdirected federal policies and practices behind us, I am happy to say that the Nixon Indian policy continues as the bedrock of America's promise to Native Americans.

In his Message to Congress, the President made the case for a more enlightened federal Indian policy. Citing historical injustices as well as the practical failure of all previous federal policies regarding Indian Nations, President Nixon called for the rejection of both the "termination" policy of the 1950s and the "excessive dependence" on the federal government by Indian tribes and people fostered by federal paternalism.

Nixon observed that "[t]he first Americans—the Indians—are the most deprived and most isolated group in our nation. On virtually every scale of measurement—employment, income,

education, health—the condition of the Indian people rank at the bottom."

Thirty years later, Indians continue to suffer high rates of unemployment, are mired in poverty, and still rank at or near the bottom of nearly every social and economic indicator in the nation.

Nonetheless, there is cause for hope that the conditions of Native Americans are improving, however slowly.

The twin pillars of the policy change initiated in 1970 are political self determination and economic self reliance. Without doubt, the most enduring legacy of the 1970 Message is the Indian self determination policy best embodied in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, amended several times since then.

This Act, which has consistently been supported, promoted, and expanded with bipartisan support, authorizes Indian tribes to assume responsibility for and administer programs and services formerly provided by the federal government.

As of 1999, nearly 48% of all Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and 50% of all Indian Health Service (IHS) programs and services have been assumed by tribes under the Indian Self Determination Act.

With this transfer of resources and decision making authority, tribal governments have succeeded in improving the quality of services to their citizens, have developed more sophisticated tribal governing structures and practices, have improved their ability to govern, and have strengthened their economies.

Self determination contracting and compacting have improved the efficiency of federal programs and services and at the same time have devolved control over these resources from Washington, D.C. to the local, tribal governments which are much more in tune with the needs of their own people.

As steps are taken to provide tribes the tools they need to develop vigorous economies and generate tribal revenues, our policy in Congress and across the federal government should be to encourage and assist tribes to expand self determination and self governance into other agencies and programs, and in the process help Native people to achieve real and measurable success in improving their standard of living.

The challenge of the Nixon Message was not only to the federal government but to the tribes themselves: that by building strong tribal governments and more robust economies, real independence and true self determination can be achieved.

Our experience has shown that any cooperative efforts between the United States and the tribes must include a solemn assurance that the special relationship will endure and will not be terminated by the fits and starts of

periodic economic success enjoyed by some Indian tribes.

President Nixon wisely realized that the mere threat of termination results in a tendency toward an unhealthy dependence on the federal government which has plagued Native people for decades. As President Nixon himself knew, Native people are not hapless bystanders in this process. His Message recognized that the story of the Indian in America is one of "endurance, survival, of adaptation and creativity in the face of overwhelming obstacles."

This persistence and tenacity by Native people have been the foundation in forging a more enlightened Indian policy and with the assistance of the United States will, I am confident, result in true self determination for Native people in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nixon Message and the combined efforts of Natives and non-Natives alike in making Indian self determination a reality.

#### NOTICE OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 29, 2000, in Room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, to receive testimony on Presidential primaries and campaign finance.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Hunter Bates at the Rules Committee on 4-6352.

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 30, 2000, in Room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct an oversight hearing on the operations of the Architect of the Capitol.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Mary Suit Jones at the Rules Committee on 4-6352.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 23, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to continue to receive testimony on the national security implications of export controls and to examine S. 1712, the Export Administration Act of 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.