

Congressional Record -- Senate

Wednesday, September 16, 1987 100th Cong. 1st Sess.133 Cong Rec S 12214

REFERENCE: Vol. 133 No. 140

TITLE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76 -- **TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY OF NATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION** AND TO REAFFIRM THE CONTINUING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIAN TRIBES AND THE UNITED STATES
ESTABLISHED IN THE CONSTITUTION

TEXT: Mr. INOUYE, for himself, Mr. Evans, Mr. DeConcini, Mr. Burdick, Mr. McCain, Mr. Adams, Mr. Boren, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Cranston, Mr. D'Amato, Mr. Dole, Mr. Ford, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Levin, Mr. Pell, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Reid, Mr. Riegle, and Mr. Stafford) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. CON RES. 76

Whereas, the original framers of the Constitution, including most notably, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, are known to have greatly admired the concepts, principles and governmental practices of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy; and,

Whereas, the Confederation of the original thirteen colonies into one Republic was explicitly modeled upon the Iroquois Confederacy as were many of the democratic principles which were incorporated into the Constitution itself; and,

Whereas, since the formation of the United States, the Congress has recognized the sovereign status of Indian Tribes, and has, through the exercise of powers reserved to the Federal Government in the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (art. I, s8, cl. 3), dealt with Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis and has, through the Treaty Clause (art. II, s2, cl. 2), entered into 370 treaties with Indian tribal nations; and,

Whereas, from the first treaty entered into with an Indian nation, the Treaty with the Delaware Indians of September 17, 1778, and thereafter in every Indian Treaty until the cessation of treaty-making in 1871, the Congress has assumed a trust responsibility and obligation to Indian Tribes and their members to "exercise the utmost good faith in dealings with the Indians" as provided for in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, (1 Stat. 50); and,

Whereas, Congress has consistently reaffirmed these fundamental policies over the past 200 years through legislation specifically designed to honor this special relationship; and,

Whereas, the judicial system of the United States has consistently recognized and reaffirmed this special relationship: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING), That:

(1) The Congress, on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, acknowledges the historical debt which this Republic of the United States of America owes to the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indian Nations for their demonstration of enlightened, democratic principles of government and their example of a free association of independent Indian nations;