

**Cancelled—**

# **Self-Determination Lack of Interest Deemed Cause**

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (AIPA) — “Indian self-determination has been cancelled because of lack of interest” was the observation of a BIA official following an aborted Sept. 24 markup session by the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee on the Indian self-determination legislation.

Chairman Rep. Lloyd Meeds, D-Wash., adjourned the session after failing to obtain a quorum of the Indian Subcommittee members. Meeds noted the absence of any Republican members and took potshots at the Republican administration which has publicly chided Congress for its failure to move on the Indian legislation since 1970.

Meeds could hardly defend his own Democratic Party's interest in passing landmark Indian legislation since only one Democrat was present when he

angrily adjourned the session.

That Democrat was Rep. Ron de Lugo of the Virgin Islands

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# Self-Determination . . .

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who, unlike other subcommittee members John Melcher, D-Mont., James Jones, D-Okla., Wayne Owens, D-Utah, Sam Steiger, R-Ariz., Manuel Lujan, R-N.M., John Happy Camp, R-Okla., David Towell, R-Nev., and Don Young, R-Alaska, does not have one Indian in his district.

Two other members of the subcommittee, Ralph S. Regula, R-Ohio, who has no Indians in his district and Roy Taylor, D-N. C., home of the Cherokees, had been in attendance at the session prior to a short recess for a vote on the floor of the House. They never returned to the mark-up session.

Meeds' blast at the Republican administration had some merit in the minds of many on-lookers because the old Nixon administration congressional lobby machine never pushed strenuously for passage of the Nixon legislative package.

Interest and activity on the

part of the Democratic leadership in both houses of Congress was instrumental in passing the Indian Financing Act and the Senate passage of the Indian Self-Determination Act, so observers believed.

And one high Ford administration official has confirmed this view to AIPA.

Meeds, Senate personnel and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials are concerned that if the legislation does not make it out of the House prior to the Oct. 15 congressional recess, the self-determination legislation will die in this session of Congress.

That would mean that the bill would then have to go through the entire hearing process again in the 94th Congress.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Congressman Lloyd Meeds is scheduled to speak at the Tundra Times' annual banquet at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage on October 26, 1974.)