in how to get an effective voice for Indian adults; for instance in the
Ponca City school systems, does anyone have any idea how you get an
Indian on the Ponca City school board, on the Ardmore school board,
or the Red Rock school board? You get down to a real delicate problem
because there is no way for Congress to tell the people of Red Rock
who to vote for school board. Well, this is the answer. There are
enough Indians who are politically active to elect maybe one or perhaps
more; but in an area where there is--or Indian citizens or voters are a
minority, it is very difficult to say to the local board of education
that you must allow one of your members to be an Indian. I don't know
how we are going to do this. So when we say we want him in an advisory
capacity, I agree with you; but how else do you have to get someone in
with the direct change man (?). Frankly I do not know. Maybe the
federal government will make the administration by a group that is set
up according to departments set forth in the act appropriating funds.
If you have any ideas about how you want to have this direct force
established, I would like very much to have them from you. Now, some
of you referred tonight to the statement made by Senator Gravel about
following the BIA. I was present when Senator Gravel made the statement
and I talked with him about his doubts, and considerable doubts, since
that time. Senator Gravel is of course an Alaskan. He has a very poor
impression of the BIA based on his own contact and association with
them through the years, and his concern right now is that if one of the
so-called Alaska Native Land plans are settled, that if this money is
turned over to the BIA and is spent in behalf of the Alaskan natives,
that they will never be given the opportunity to really (words not clear).
Some of you may not know how much is involved in this Alaska Native Land
Claims (inaudible) question, but I think (inaudible) that it very likely
that ten (?) or so thousand of Alaskan natives are going to receive land