

1 SENATOR DORGAN: Mr. Hayes,
2 thank you very much. First of all, we have a
3 very specific schedule here for this task force.
4 We are scheduled to take a break at 11:15 and
5 we're going to do that, but there are three
6 counsel members from the Standing Rock Sioux
7 Tribe that have come today. They would normally
8 speak at the end of the day, and they've had two
9 suicides of 15-year-olds and they must go back
10 for some services.

11 And, I would offer them to use five
12 minutes so that one of the three counsel members
13 of Standing Rock wishes to do that. I know
14 they've traveled here, they wish to say a word,
15 but we do have to break at 11:15.

16 But I want to first of all thank this
17 panel. What an extraordinary panel. Thanks not
18 only for your testimony but your work. Thank you
19 very much.

20 And let me say that Jesse Taken
21 Alive, Robert Two Bears, and Robert Taken Alive
22 are here from the Standing Rock and I believe
23 Jesse Taken Alive is coming up. If you don't
24 mind five minutes. We'll give you the
25 opportunity to express your presence here, and I

1 know, Jesse Taken Alive of your long work on
2 these issues. So, in five minutes, we appreciate
3 your willingness to do that and we're sorry that
4 you can't be with us at the end of the day. You
5 may proceed.

6 JESSE TAKEN ALIVE: Thank you,
7 Senator, for your many, many years of work.
8 I've been given the honor to serve our people since
9 1991 in our tribal, rural communities. Four years
10 as tribal chairman and we've developed meaningful
11 productive relationships.

12 First of all, let me begin by saying,
13 we've all heard this quote over the years in the
14 books from one of our tribal leaders at home from
15 Hunkpapa Lakota, Sitting Bull. He said, "Pick up
16 the good and leave the bad alone." What he
17 didn't say is, be like them, and this is,
18 essentially, what is being talked about.

19 My message to this panel is,
20 please believe and understand that the answers
21 that we seek are tribally driven. They're
22 tribally driven. We've heard some testimony this
23 morning and some suggestions, and I hear those
24 and have heard those time and time and time
25 again. So please, take that into consideration,

1 answers are tribally driven.

2 Resources and treaty words and
3 payments come from Washington D.C. That's very
4 important to know. Otherwise we'll continue the
5 struggle, we'll continue to see our children
6 become statistics, if you will, be it dropping out,
7 whatever the case may be. Answers are tribally
8 driven; resources and treaty awards and payments,
9 payments because of the land that's being leased,
10 they come from Washington.

11 Anytime we have a behavior referral
12 within our school system we re-victimize
13 (phonetic) that child because education comes
14 from Europe. We look at our data over the
15 generations, 70 percent dropout, almost as high
16 if not higher than graduation rates. Our focus
17 must be on all the children. I'm very proud and
18 will always support those who succeed, but those
19 who are unable, we need to focus some attention
20 on them. So, education comes from Europe.

21 The point I make with this, we're
22 talking about education reform within Indian
23 Country. I couldn't appreciate more Eric
24 Holder's comments about education, and that's
25 what we're talking about. We've got our experts,

1 if you will, we've got our relatives and friends
2 with the necessary education from America to make
3 these necessary life saving changes. So,
4 education comes from Europe.

5 Anytime in Indian Country we want to
6 submit something that's productive, that works,
7 that produces results, unless it's evidence
8 based, my friends, my relatives, it gets shoved
9 to the side. These practice-based initiatives
10 must be looked at and respected and funded
11 because they do work, they are working.

12 Again, Sitting Bull said, "Pick up
13 the good, leave the bad alone." He did not say
14 be like them. He did not say that. And our
15 children are looking at that.

16 The other piece to this: Our
17 Treaty promises; health, education and housing.
18 Treaties payments of course are payments for the land
19 that's being leased. America needs to know that.
20 We did not sell land. Our Indian nation, we did
21 not sell it; we're renting it. Somehow this
22 message has to get to Congress; otherwise,
23 they'll be saying what's been said for
24 generations unfairly: Indians get things free,
25 why don't they be quiet, they whine, all those

1 stereotypes that aren't true at all.

2 Finally, Mr. Mandela passed away,
3 Nelson, and you watched the TV. He's being
4 domesticated and sanitized in his death. He
5 stood up for things that his people lived with
6 for centuries, for generations.

7 I'll close with a quote. It was made
8 by one of our tribal leaders back home. Nelson
9 Mandela said, "Education is the best way to
10 peacefully change the world. Education can also
11 inhibit and be an agent of domination, which
12 always brings unhealthy psychological behavior.
13 Can we Indians and non-Indians step back and
14 review the all of it and honestly ask, has
15 education been a peaceful instrument for American
16 Indian people?

17 If Nelson Mandela stood for anything,
18 he stood against the injustice of political
19 ignorance but he also understood and created the
20 fruits of peace. So, he was known and
21 appreciated by the world for his calm and ever
22 growing voice against racial injustice. His
23 existence taught us that peace is the best way to
24 be with others and self. To honor the warrior
25 spirit and humble teaching of Mandela, we have

1 our responsibility to engage in education that
2 may some day afford a peaceful outlook versus a
3 disturbance in the heart and soul of our
4 children.

5 SENATOR DORGAN: Jesse Taken
6 Alive, you have, as always, been direct and on
7 point and very, very thoughtful. Thank you very
8 much.

9 JESSE TAKEN ALIVE: Thank you,
10 Senator, for this opportunity.

11 SENATOR DORGAN: Okay. There
12 will be a 15 minute recess and we will be back at
13 11:30.

14 (A brief break was taken.)
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