



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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There's a civil rights nightmare waiting to happen with Senator Inouye's S.578 amendment to the Homeland Security Bill.

Citizens Equal Rights Alliances (CERA) representatives from many states will meet in Washington DC, May 18-22 to oppose Senator Inouye's bill. It would deprive several million people, some of whom live near – and others that legally own property in – "Indian Country" of their constitutional rights, under the guise of making Indian Tribes a part of Homeland Security because some reservation land is on U.S. borders.

Originally the "Hicks Fix" movement headed by Inouye had crafted a bill known as TGEEI (Tribal Governance and Economic Enhancement Initiative.) Its goal was to use new legislation to overturn several Supreme Court decisions, which have gone against tribes and clarified their limited sovereignty. It was named for the case of Nevada vs. Hicks in which the State of Nevada won a jurisdictional dispute with the Fallon Shoshone tribe involving the right to pursue a criminal onto reservation land. The Supreme Court ruled 9-0 in favor of the State of Nevada, which has inspired Inouye, and tribes with abundant money from casinos that can use an unconstitutional tribal loophole Senator McCain created in his recent Campaign Finance Reform bill to craft legislation to gain more jurisdiction and take away the constitutional rights of non-tribal members living on their own deeded land in what is called "Indian Country".

Media representatives are welcome to attend two CERA meetings to learn how racist tyrannical Federal Indian policies are harming the lives of tribal and non-tribal United States citizens that live in or near areas newly defined as "Indian Country".

For more information on the "Hicks Fix" and TGEEI (Tribal Governance and Economic Enhancement Initiative), please visit our website: www.citizensalliance.org

Sunday, May 18, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Capitol Hill Suites – Conference Room 108
200 "C" Street S.E.

Tuesday, May 20, 2003 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
National Press Club – Zenger Room
529 14th Street N.W.

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