Mr. RIDGELY. And if I understand the gentleman, the Asians now in the islands can not come into this country because of their being there at the time this law goes into effect?

Mr. KNOX. They will be citizens. It is a decision of the Supreme Court.

Mr. WILSON of Idaho. They would be citizens if born here.

Mr. KNOX. They become citizens if born under this jurisdiction.

Mr. WILSON of Idaho. They would be citizens if born in Washington.

Mr. KNOX. We cannot change that.

Mr. RIDGELY. And over 60 per cent of the population of the islands are Asians.

Mr. KNOX. More than half.

Mr. RIDGELY. Then we have a pretty wide open door for the admission of the Asians as citizens of this country.

Mr. KNOX. Let me say to the gentleman that all the Asias who come to this country, very few are females. The Chinese come to Hawaii with the intention of remaining a few years and acquiring what is to them, in their own country, a competency and then returning. So do the Japanese.

Their whole purpose, and I believe their dream and object of their life, is to return and do return. I am not giving exact figures, but they are approximate. Out of 50,000 Asians in Hawaii there are not 5,000 females.

Mr. WILSON of Idaho. Will not our Chinese-restriction laws apply to Hawaii as soon as those laws become effective?

Mr. KNOX. The laws of the United States cover that subject; and I will say to the gentleman from Kansas that the Asiatic births in Hawaii are exceedingly small in number and scarcely worth counting.

Mr. WILSON of Idaho. And if the gentleman will allow me to refer to subdivision 6, under the restriction of qualifications of voters for representative, page 74, I notice a provision that they shall be able to speak, read and write the language of the United States or the Hawaiian language. I think that is a very admirable provision, and I want a statewide education in the Hawaiian language. I think education is a new departure in Congressional legislation.

I do not know of Congress ever having made an educational qualification before. I think that will ultimately restrict, perhaps, the voting of the native-born Chinese. I would like to have the gentleman's opinion as to why that provision was inserted in the bill, it being a departure in Congressional legislation.

Mr. KNOX. Well, it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that it was wise, and it was the unanimous desire of the people from Hawaii who were here, who had had experiences and had observed the people there, that the provision should be in the bill. They thought it was a safeguard and the best that could be adopted.

Mr. GILBERT. May I ask the gentleman a question?

Mr. KNOX. Oh, certainly.

Mr. GILBERT. I want to refer to section 1977 of the Revised Statutes of the United States:

All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same rights in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, inherit, purchase, lease, sell, and dispose of property and generally to enjoy every benefit of the law to which white citizens are entitled.

And so forth—and to the full and equal benefit of all laws—and so forth.

Now, that section, of course, remains in force under the provisions of this act. I do not understand, and I would like to have you explain, how the statute can remain operative and at the same time by this act make a discrimination between the two races.

Mr. KNOX. We extend the laws of the United States.

Mr. GILBERT. But do you extend this statute there, too?

Mr. KNOX. Precisely.

Mr. GILBERT. Now, where does the bill make any discrimination which you think is a distinction?