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Guest (s): Rep. Dale Alford (D-AR)

Title: Sovereignty

Note: Questions were paraphrased and/or shortened by the transcriber. For the exact question, please consult the audiotapes.

Morphew: Introduction...question of sovereignty...

Alford: Well, in the first place, to discuss this subject, I think that we do have to review briefly the basis for the establishment for the whole American system of government. In the first place, we, as all patriotic Americans would agree that this is the greatest democratic system of government that's ever been devised in history. When the constitution of the United States was established this was signed as a contract between thirteen little independent nations, each one preserving its sovereignty. As a matter of fact, for example, the great empire state of New York was very reticent to sign the constitution of the United States for the one reason, and that is that she was so jealous and so zealous of the powers that had been reserved to the state or this one little country, which is now the state of New York, that she signed only with great reservation. And I think if we review the political scene today this is quite a paradox as we now review it in the light of the twentieth century. If I may continue for just a moment here, I don't wish to take up too much time but I think we do have a duty here to call attention to some facts, and that is that the constitution of the United States is the instrument, the greatest legal instrument on earth that binds these countries or states together. And we of course are talking about the thirteen original nations or the thirteen original United States and in remarks with our own people in discussing the constitutional crisis of this country, I have often referred to this example: when this document or contract, as between thirteen little nations or the original thirteen states, was signed into being or was created, we can liken this to a rancher or to a farmer who has a herd of cattle and he sends a cowhand or a ranch hand or a farm hand, if you please, to the market to sell the herd or to sell the cattle. Now when this farm hand gets to the market, instead of selling just the cattle he sells the whole ranch or sells the whole farm, then are we going to say that this rancher who is actually the owner of the land and the owner of his ranch or farm has no right to say that this contract is null and void? Now, I give this example as just purely an example of the usurpation of power that we have seen particularly from the agency of the federal government that was created by this contract, as between thirteen original states or nations. The usurpation of power that we have seen, for example, through the Nelson

case and states rights in Pennsylvania or the Supreme Court's case as *Brown v. Board of Education* and many others, and this is one of the great threats that we have to our American system of government today as we see it and that is that we are certainly sacrificing the thing that has made this nation what it is, and that is the preservation of our state sovereignty. Now, of course, the state sovereignty then, I heard our distinguished governor, for example, on one occasion refer to it in speaking to a group of county officials, and he made this illustration which I thought was very good on a local level: he said, as the governor of your state you would not want me to usurp the powers of the county judge or the county sheriff or the county tax collector or tax assessor. And I think this is the system of American government that has made us really the only nation on earth that is a government of the people and for the people. Now, if I may carry the subject of sovereignty on just a little bit. Personally, I am very concerned and there are many congressmen and senators as well on the scene that are quite concerned about the, not only sacrificing our individual liberty, as we have seen on the local level. For example, we in our area feel that our board of education has no right to tell the Board of Education, let us say in a state that's far removed from us, Nevada or South Dakota, for example, what they should do in their particular local school district. For example, in my home school district where my children are enrolled in school, I do not think that my particular school board has the right to tell my neighboring school board what they should do. This is very elementary, but it is the preservation of the basic liberty and the rights of the individual citizen of America under the constitution of the United States. Now, let us carry this just a little bit further, and this next step is even more tragic than the one, than the example we have just given because we have been talking about the 50 states of the nation, creating through the original thirteen states, the federal agencies of government. They did not create a super-state. They did not create a super-government. They created agencies of the government, namely the executive or the president and his aides, the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Congress of the United States, are agencies of the various sovereign states or commonwealth. Now, in like manner, we have seen in recent months an intensive campaign by some of the highest officials in our nation, and this has been a tragic and shocking thing to me for I had the very rare opportunity one morning along with Mrs. Alford, she was with me, and we attended a hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room, a public hearing, where we had the opportunity of hearing the Secretary of State of the United States and the Attorney General of the United States, state emphatically that we should repeal the Connally reservation. Now, the Connally Reservation, Mr. Morphew, were six words that were added as an amendment when the United Nations charter was being voted upon relative to the establishment of the International Court of Justice, commonly known as the World Court. Now, I am sure that many of our people hear so much about the World Court and about the Connally Amendment. The Connally Amendment is simply this: as determined by the United States. Six words added there, and that preserves the sovereignty of the United States of America. We have been talking about the sovereignty of the states, the individual states of our country. Now we are talking about the sovereignty, not of mere states if we would say 'mere,' but we are talking about the United States of America, the greatest nation on earth. That we should enter into any kind of a law that would repeal those words which simply preserve for the United States government the right to determine whether or not a court consisting of fifteen men known as the World Court

shall determine domestic issues of the United States of America. As a representative of the people, I do not feel that, in any way, that I can sacrifice this reservation. For example, all of us are well aware of the serious situation that exists today in Latin America, particularly relative to the Panama Canal Zone, and there are those individuals in the world today that want to make the Panama Canal a neutral area, that area where our forbearers just in recent years sacrificed their lives and their fortunes to establish that canal so that we would have an outlet from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Every schoolchild knows this, and now we see an intensive campaign that all of these things, including the canal zone, for example, would be decided by a World Court. And isn't it foolishness to realize that we would sacrifice this sovereignty and such great power in the hands of fifteen individuals, only of whom is a citizen of the United States of America. And Mr. Morpheus, two of those individuals represent communist nations. What kind of justice can we receive at the hands of a foreign court, and so therefore, I call upon every person within the sound of my voice to rally to the cause of the sovereignty of the United States of America. And if I may be so bold on your program, I plead with them to write their Congressmen, to write their United States citizens that we must preserve the Connally Amendment so that the powers and the sovereignty of the United States of America will not be sacrificed to a World Court all in the name of one world government.