

joined by the intertribal groups in Pueblos, in New Mexico, we discuss the legislation, and take it back to our respective communities.

The CHAIRMAN. Were they requested or given any opportunity to appear before the committee of the other body when S. 1843 or its predecessor legislation was considered?

Mr. ATENCIO. To our knowledge the Santa Domingo Pueblo has never been contacted or consulted in the formulation of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Washington.

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When were you contacted about the testimony which you gave today?

Mr. ATENCIO. I think in the middle or early fall of 1967.

Mr. MEEDS. When did you decide to come and testify?

Mr. ATENCIO. We have been working on this bill since then, discussing and trying to interpret to our tribal people whom as you see we had to discuss the complicated bills, and they have always been concerned and requesting to have an opportunity to present their position.

Mr. MEEDS. When did you decide to come and present it?

Mr. ATENCIO. This was decided when we were assured that there would be a hearing, last week.

Mr. MEEDS. When was that, sir?

Mr. ATENCIO. That was last Thursday.

The CHAIRMAN. If my colleague will yield. Let the record show there were no hearings on this legislation in the other body in 1967. The hearings were held in the previous Congress.

Mr. MEEDS. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ATENCIO, you are the tribal attorney for this group?

Mr. ATENCIO. No; I am not an attorney, but I am one of the tribal spokesmen.

Mr. MEEDS. Could you tell me how a trial is held? Say that one of your people is accused of a violation of what we would consider to be a criminal violation under ordinary circumstances, and he is charged and brought to some kind of a determination, as to whether he committed this crime or not before your tribe. Would you explain to me the procedure that you go through?

Mr. ATENCIO. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Meeds, I would like to yield this then to one of our other tribal spokesmen. He has lengthy knowledge of the proceedings.

Mr. MEEDS. That is fine.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Aragon.

Mr. ARAGON. Mr. Congressman, Mr. Chairman, I served as a lieutenant-governor four terms. According to any procedure or any case, a criminal case trial, the governors handle it. And we have been officers which are sort of a jury group. The governors sit there as a judge, and the lieutenant governor and his officers may consider any offense on any crimes, and will decide who will be guilty. And we do fine and give certain limits, when they should pay.

Mr. MEEDS. These eight people sit in public, where anybody can listen to them in the tribe?

Mr. ARAGON. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. What is the extent of the punishment which they can mete out? What is the worst thing they could do to an offender?

Mr. ARAGON. The punishment—sometimes we fine them so much.