

This will eventually change and we are only doing our best with what we have right now, to set up a foundation that our young people one day will have, and improve on as they go along.

These are the points the Zuni Tribal Council hope you will earnestly consider before making your decision on H.R. 15122:

(1) Pride in accomplishment creates confidence, self-assurance, and cooperation in people. As a sovereign government recognized under the Constitution of the United States, let us do our own thinking and doing. If this law is passed, without excluding titles I and II, then you are taking the "paternalistic" attitude the Bureau of Indian Affairs has already been made the goat with, but they had reasons. They work directly with us. Superintendents and area directors know our problems, and should be utilized. Besides, passing this bill would seem more like democracy is thrown to the winds and we are being dictated to.

(2) The time element involved is much too short. Many tribes will have to drop everything to concentrate on this matter and a sloppy job will result. We are talking from experience now, and the matter is too important to jeopardize. A minimum of 5 years should be considered.

(3) A financial hardship will be placed on many tribes. Some tribes cannot even scrape up matching funds to participate in many good projects they desire to do, let alone hire and pay judges right now, as well as jurymen.

(4) Our legal aid component under OEO is a wonderful program in educating our people in the procedures of law, the simple as well as the more intricate. We have a fine cooperative working relationship with both State and Federal agencies of law and order.

We cherish our rights and freedoms, and are very close to our lands, what little we have left. We take pride in the fact that our tribal government has endured all these centuries and we firmly believe that if we did not in our own way and in our governments, indicate these to the individuals, we would long ago have disbanded as tribes, and sought a better way somewhere else. We also are proud to share democracy with all latecomers who came here seeking the freedoms and liberties they did not have in their own countries. Let us work together to preserve these. Let us prove that we can build around the good things we have and we assure you that it will conform to everything required.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Governor, did you prepare this statement?

Governor LEWIS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Where did you get your education?

Governor LEWIS. I graduated from the Phoenix Indian Vocational High School in 1933, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. May I commend you, not only on a statement that is well put together, but also a statement that has many basic principles that are necessary to carry on the representative form of government.

You speak Zuni as well as English?

Governor LEWIS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the common language between the Pueblos themselves?

Governor LEWIS. I believe Spanish.

The CHAIRMAN. Most of the people, then, are trilingual; is that