

today. Should Congress adopt the act in its present form, titles I and II will result in the alienation of the democratic tradition of the Indians to exercise its sovereign government now practiced by the Pueblo Indian Tribes within the region of Rio del Norte as the Spaniards had named the Rio Grande River. It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, we as representatives, seated here before you were sent to Washington, D.C., to convey to your committee our position in reference to above-mentioned titles. This position, Mr. Chairman, is explained at length by the document titled "The History of San Felipe Pueblo People," which we now respectfully submit to this committee for the record.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be made a part of the record at the end of the statement.

Mr. SANCHEZ. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to the first paragraph of page 9 of our statement here for testimony.

Mr. Chairman, and honorable members, at this point one may well ask, "Of what relevance is this buried legacy to the present and future?" First, there is still much that the Indian can contribute to America's culture and enrichment. Second, recognition by legislators, administrators, and the American public of the true nature of our Indian heritage has great importance in freeing the Indian from a haughtily and stupidly silly stereotype.

It also may diminish the persistent themes of pity, superiority, and the white man's burden, which have been twisted into vicious weapons of legislation against Indian culture.

Third, the respect for different cultures may bring about a reasoned and humane policy which will fulfill Indian desires to achieve a higher living standard and still maintain his ethnic identity.

Fourth, the Indian needs of stability and rights to their government should be left to the tribes to rectify through their unique aspect of the Indians' member in special political bodies, or tribes, which largely take the place that States and municipalities occupy for other American citizens.

We respectfully invite your careful consideration of the historical facts set forth in this paper. What has been said as to our pueblo is equally true of our fellow Pueblo Indians in New Mexico. I am sure when you recognize the significant spiritual and cultural basis for our system as we know and practice it today as we have for centuries, you will better understand and appreciate why we of the Pueblos prize our heritage so deeply and would travel this great distance to discuss our fears over S. 1843 with you here today.

We thank you for your time and patience, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

The Chair would like to know if you gentlemen and the Governor were all present when this statement was agreed upon?

Mr. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, yes, sir. We called the tribal council in and said we think we need to prepare some sort of statement to advise our Congressmen, so they will have a better knowledge of our Indian heritage.

The CHAIRMAN. You have been present here this morning, and each of you heard the questioning of the former Governors, and those who attended them at the witness table.

Mr. SANCHEZ. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.