

the committee might want to question me on, and I saw no need having Mr. Cleary represent me in that regard.

Mr. EDMONDSON. All right, sir, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF JAMES HOLLOWELL, PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS, GUARDIANS, AND ALLOTTEES OF THE AGUA CALIENTE INDIAN LANDS AND ESTATES

Mr. HOLLOWELL. My name is James Hollowell. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of California and the State of North Carolina and in the U.S. court of military appeals.

I have been practicing law in Palm Springs since April of 1958 and have specialized in Indian affairs and have represented approximately one-third of the local tribe for the past 6 years. For the past 2 years I have served as president of the Association of Conservators, Guardians, and Allottees of the Agua Caliente Indian Lands and Estates.

I have already given my exhibits to Mr. Sigler, your counsel, so I will just make reference to them here. A copy of the constitution and bylaws has already been offered as my exhibit "A."

The purpose of this association is to advance and improve the capabilities of the members of the association in guarding and conserving the estates of the wards and conservatees under their control and management by coordinating the development of Indian land to its best and most profitable use.

While this purpose is broad, the intent of the association at its inception was to unify the presentation to Palm Springs and the world at large of the lands of the Agua Caliente Indians so that they could be put to their most profitable use in the most efficient manner.

At our inception we were immediately met with opposition from the tribal council. After that meeting, members of the council refused to belong to our association and maintained that the association was duplicating efforts of the council and Bureau. Unfortunately, the Bureau at the time of the inception of our organization, was making no efforts whatsoever to actually promote the lands of the Agua Caliente Indians. As a matter of fact, the few efforts that were made before and after the inception of our association were inept in that the Bureau, through directives and policies in Washington, set such ridiculous standards for the leasing of Indian lands, that for a good period of time after the inception of the conservatorship program and the establishing of our association, the Indian lands were unleasable because of the impractical conditions placed thereon by the Bureau and the Secretary of the Interior.

Such things as a 5-year nonoptionable lease and a 25-year nonmarketable lease are examples of that of which I speak.

On behalf of the association and its members, I would like to state that we have no ax to grind. We are not appearing here today in order to promulgate the system and thus our respective positions as fiduciaries. We have appeared here today for one reason and that is to rectify as best possible, the damage which was done to many reputations by the false and slanderous report prepared by Robert L. Cox and Barry K. Berkson and, second, to attempt to communicate to this committee a true factual picture of the conservatorship program as it has worked in the past, so that this committee can more intel-