

gentlemen, to be a coincidence. With the full knowledge of all the facts, the task force has deliberately misrepresented to the world that I have participated in some sort of illegal fee-splitting.

I have confined my remarks generally to the false accusations made against me and some of my clients. The true picture of the conservatorship program insofar as it relates to the cost to the Indians will be discussed by Mr. Cleary.

I had wanted to have present here today, a certified public accountant who could advise this committee on the inaccuracies of the audit reports which were prepared under direction of the task force. However, early in April, Mr. Cox advised me that the reports would not be available for examination and this position was not reversed until last Friday when two letters were sent by Cox to myself advising that three of my audit reports were then available. The letter of authorization did not even extend to the conservators' attorney, therefore, it was felt that the Bureau would not permit an auditor to examine the reports, nor did time permit, since we had only a few working days to get ready for today's hearing.

This committee might be interested in the fact that despite the accusations made in May, reiterated in September in the Cox interim report, and again in March by the final task force report, and constantly throughout the past year by the newspaper of alleged improprieties, illegal activities, and gouging done by myself, the majority of my Indian clients have awaited until today's hearing to ascertain the full story before making up their minds, and this despite the fact that I have been devoting so much time to this matter, working in preparation for today, that I haven't had a chance to go into those matters with them in detail. Gentlemen, Indians make very loyal friends and I am sure you Congressmen know that.

My next exhibit is "F," which Mr. Sigler has, and it is a declaration by Attorney Mahaney in regards to the Palm Canyon Country Club lease transaction, wherein myself and many other attorneys have been charged with possible conflict of interest. Although Mr. Cleary is covering this phase of the task force report, this declaration is offered into evidence to show why I received more fees than some of the other attorneys. The lessee, Palm Canyon Country Club, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the landlords were all equally anxious to process the amendment to the lease. Mr. Mahaney, who represented the lessee, requested help in expediting the matter and it was given to him by my office, and the lessee paid for these services. The task force made no effort to follow up on their exhibit in this regard or they would have found out that some of the money I received was for the use of my office's Xerox machine by Mr. Mahaney. In addition to the sums paid to me for helping Mr. Mahaney, he paid, generously paid my secretary \$50 for working overtime and helping his secretary in preparing papers.

My next exhibit is "G," which are copies of two letters for the first time informing me that I could examine the audit reports of three estates in which I am the fiduciary. This came far too late for me to take effective action. However, through my efforts during the past year, I was able to relate sufficient information to Mr. Cleary wherein he could effectively explain to you, wherein the audit reports are of no value or use whatsoever.