

The committee wishes to make clear that it does not regard enactment of this bill as a precedent for settling claims before the Indian Claims Commission by conveying land rather than by paying money. Three facts make the Taos Pueblo case unique: (1) The land is essential to the preservation of the Indian religion, (2) despite the extinguishment of the Indian title in 1906, the Indians have continued to use the land and are using it today, and (3) the special needs of the Indians for the use of the land have been recognized by the Government throughout the past 62 years. The committee is aware of no other Indian tribe in a similar situation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee has amended the bill to reduce the acreage from 50,000 to 48,000 acres. The 2,000 acres deleted are in Wheeler Peak wilderness, and the deletion was recommended by the pueblo in order to avoid any problem associated with modification of the wilderness.

An amendment recommended by the Secretary of the Interior and concurred in by the pueblo has been included. It requires the pueblo to use the land for traditional purposes only, and otherwise to maintain the land as a wilderness. This is compatible with pueblo desires and plans, and will assure administration that is compatible with adjacent national forest administration. The Secretary of the Interior may contract with the Secretary of Agriculture for conservation services that can be furnished by the latter.

The Indian Claims Commission has also been directed to determine the extent to which the value of the land conveyed to the pueblo by this bill should be credited to the Government in the pending claims litigation. The limitation on use referred to in the preceding paragraph may affect the value.

COST

Enactment of the bill will involve no Federal cost.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The reports of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Justice are as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., April 26, 1968.

Hon. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for a report on H.R. 3306, a bill to amend section 4 of the act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108).

We recommend that the bill be enacted if amended as suggested below.

The bill provides that approximately 50,000 acres, more or less, that are within the Carson National Forest shall be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblo de Taos, subject to administration