

Senator METCALF. Mr. Secretary, I respect and admire this nature worship that the Indians have, but the Flathead Indians have this same spiritual affinity to the Bitter Root Valley, which is a watershed, and the Crow Indians have this same spiritual affinity to the whole area of the Yellowstone River, and you don't do this when you create a national monument.

When you set aside a battlefield, you set aside the national shrine. You don't give them all of southeastern Montana when you set aside the Custer Battlefield.

The Blackfeet Indians have this same worship in Glacier National Park and I would suggest, if this bill passes in the way it came out of the House, there are Indian tribes all over America just waiting at the barrier to have bills introduced to get thousands of acres of land that they can justifiably claim has a spiritual relationship to their tribe.

Mr. UDALL. I don't share that fear and don't sense that is something that is developing. The Indian people are pretty sophisticated today, their leaders are. They are watching this legislation, it has been kicking around for 4 or 5 years. I was surprised when Senator Hatfield asked me the question, no other Indian group has come to me with a claim such as this.

Maybe some of the others are getting ready to, but I don't know of it and I think most of them realize the Bitter Root Valley and other valleys have been developed and long gone now into private ownership.

I don't think anyone expects this Congress to reach back and take back private land or take land that is developed, cut over with roads, I don't think they expect to be taken and given to Indian tribes. But I think you have a special situation here that you have to evaluate.

Senator METCALF. Senator Anderson.

Senator ANDERSON. You have not had any reports of Indians wanting land in comparable situations?

Mr. UDALL. I say none have come to me. They have not wanted to sit down and talk to me, they have not written letters.

Senator ANDERSON. Isn't the Nambe area tribe the same as this?

Mr. UDALL. They may have some ideas or be doing something.

Senator ANDERSON. Has Cochiti come to you?

Mr. UDALL. I have talked to Cochiti. This is a different matter.

Senator ANDERSON. They want the land.

Mr. UDALL. They talked to me about land near the Cochiti Reservoir. This is another matter. The years I have been in the Secretary's Office and the Congress, we have passed a lot of bills giving leftover lands and adding them to Indian reservations. This did not have to do with Indian religions. You undoubtedly know more than I do about what is in the mind of the Pueblos in New Mexico.

Senator ANDERSON. The Cochiti came before us with the same problem. That was in 1943. I was on the House Indian Affairs Committee and there the problem arose because part of that area was sacred land. John Collier, a very fine man, came and said they should not ask for this and persuaded the Indians to give it up.

There are all kinds of these cases. This is not an isolated case and I believe it sets a very strong precedent.

Mr. UDALL. The only thing I would come back to, that is, I think 3,000 acres sets a precedent just as much as 48,000.