

Senator HANSEN. I want to thank you very much. I don't think I have further questions. I am trying to learn as much as I can and you have been most helpful.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Our next witness is William Schaab.

Mr. SCHAAB. With your permission, I would like to ask if some of the people who have flown in from out of town to testify in favor of the bill might give their statement now.

Mr. Hobert, who comes from New Mexico, has an appointment there tomorrow, and Mr. Phipps, of Philadelphia, is due back there tomorrow.

Senator ANDERSON. That will be all right.

Mr. SCHAAB. We will proceed with Mr. Hobert, Mr. Phipps, and then Mr. Belindo.

**STATEMENT OF REV. LEE G. HOBERT, PRESIDENT, NEW MEXICO
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, LAS CRUCES, N. MEX.**

Reverend HOBERT. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rev. Lee G. Hobert. I am president of the New Mexico Council of Churches. I speak representing the council and Archbishop James Peter Davis, archdiocese of Santa Fe, in behalf of the Indians of Taos Pueblo and to support their claim as set forth in H.R. 3306.

For over 600 years the Indians of the Taos Pueblo maintained the integrity and dignity of their heritage.

Respect for the things of nature was an inbred part of their character.

When asked by the first European missionaries about the nature of their religion—did they believe in God—they replied, "What do you believe when you see fresh turkey tracks in the first snows of autumn?"

Nevertheless, by the standards of our ancestors these people were considered cultureless, uneducated and, therefore, savages. Thus the perhaps well-intentioned but mistaken decision to take their lands and make them a part of the Carson National Forest may have seemed right at the time.

However, the years have made reality indelibly clear. They have shown that they know by instinct, as it were, what we have to learn. Their respect for water, timber, and all of the natural resources is a part of their very being.

Our air and water pollution problems make clear the lack of the kind of value systems possessed by the Indians of the Taos Pueblo.

Our survival as a nation may well depend upon first honoring the integrity and rights of people such as those of the Taos Pueblo, and then learning from them that sense of nature's eternal worth that may turn the value systems of our land right side up again.

As president of the New Mexico Council of Churches I was invited to participate in a trip to the heart of the Blue Lake area. I took pictures of the trespasses by the lumber industry. If it is needed for the record, I have such with me. Having been raised in the Weyerhaeuser reforestation lands in the State of Washington, I was sickened by the apparent total disregard of the stewardship and conservation laws that must be followed by the lumber industry if we are to avoid a rape of the land.