

I worshiped at Blue Lake in the sanctuary of the Taos Pueblo Indians. May I suggest I use the word "sanctuary" in that frame of reference that we do, and that the sanctuary includes more than just the altar. If the Blue Lake is thought to be the altar, then certainly the region surrounding it becomes the sanctuary. The representatives of the Indian souncil shared with us songs and an interpretation of the meaning of their religious beliefs. Their understanding of the psalmist's "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork," is so far beyond the comprehension of most of us that even the most sensitive would be pushed to fathom it. We who have shut out the heavens with our skyscrapers and smog, and covered the earth with cement, act as though we had all but forgotten God.

The opportunity that is before this Senate committee is a unique one. You cannot only rectify the major injustice borne by the Taos Pueblo for these many years, and thus redeem all who have been a party to this mistake; but you can also lift up the immeasurable worth of the values they attach to the resources of nature, values that our Nation appears to have all but lost.

At this time in our Nations' history, when young people rebel because they have no values challenging them; when desecrating the land, water, and air resources seems to be a major activity of our population; when cultural integrity seems perilously close to vanishing; we need not only to restore the 48,000 acres of the Blue Lake area to the Taos Pueblo Indians, but we need to focus the attention of our Nation on the strength of character, the perseverance, the fortitude, the responsible methods demonstrated by these people who genuinely deserve our thanks.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and to testify in behalf of the Taos Pueblo. We trust that the bill before you will be reported favorably by this committee and enacted by the Senate so that the faith of the petitioners may be justified and the values that can result both to the Indians of the Taos Pueblo and to our Nation may be realized.

Senator ANDERSON. I worry a little bit about the statement:

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.

What sort of point are you making here?

Reverend HOBERT. I don't think the burden of concern is the two areas that are in blue on the map. I am aware of the technicality of those two but in terms of my experience in the attitude of we Europeans in treating the American Indian—and I am not referring to the legislation you have enacted but I am referring to the attitude of we Europeans generally toward the American Indian. Because we had the background of so-called culture, historic education, et cetera, we judged these native Americans by our standards and because they didn't measure up we considered them uneducated and therefore we called them savages. Our attitude is demonstrated in terms of Indian wars. When we killed the Indians it was a victory and when they killed us it was a massacre.

The point I am making is, in light of that attitude, perhaps we felt ourselves to be justified in expropriating a portion of their lands that had a value which we did not recognize, because their value systems and ours did not compare. I think the testimony of the Secretary earlier