

with the United States. The lands were not taken by miners and settlers, as occurred in the Black Hills and the Cimarron Strip. They were taken during the Spanish-American rule, and free use of other land has been granted.

As for the attorneys representing the Indians in this claim, no elaboration on their motives are necessary.

That leaves the Indians themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is pertinent that the committee recognize the individuals from Taos Pueblo who are pursuing this claim, and who have committed tribal funds belonging to all the Taos Indians. It is principally, if not solely, the members of the council who are the protagonists.

Mr. Chairman, the ceremonials at Blue Lake, while not documented, are not so secret that it is impossible to determine that it is the members of the council who are the principal beneficiaries, if that is the proper word, of the rituals conducted at Blue Lake. They are the principal participants.

It is not denied that grazing of Indian livestock will be increased, if H.R. 3306 is passed. More lands will accrue to the tribe. The restraining influence of the Forest Service against increasing livestock numbers beyond capacity will be seriously weakened, if not removed entirely.

And it would be removed entirely, under Secretary Udall's suggestion that the lands be placed under the Department of the Interior.

All of the Pueblo's livestock are owned by 10 to 15 individuals. The livestock owners must belong to the Tribal Grazing Association in order to graze their livestock on the special permit area. It is the council that determines who may belong to the association.

And, strangely enough, Mr. Chairman, it is the members of the council who own practically all, if not all, of the livestock. Practically all, if not all, of the livestock owners are council members. I'm told that Severino Martinez, the former Governor, and one of the leading principals in this cause, owns the lion's share of all the livestock in the Pueblo.

Since most of the Pueblo does not participate in the ceremonies at Blue Lake, and only 10 to 15 individuals own any livestock, I would venture to say that if the people could be polled, without fear of harassment by the council, the majority would choose the money that is coming to them for loss of their lands in the city of Taos, and for the 130,000 acres of alienated Indian lands.

The majority, in all probability, would endorse the management of the Blue Lake area by the Forest Service.

Senator ANDERSON. May I ask a question?

Senator METCALF. Surely.

You don't mind being interrupted?

Mr. LITTLE. Certainly not.

Senator ANDERSON. In the preceding paragraph you say: "All the Pueblo's livestock are owned by 10 to 15 individuals."

Does the tribe have any livestock?

Mr. LITTLE. I am unaware of that. This is just what I was told, that 10 or 15 individuals, and some people use the figure 10, own all the livestock that is owned in the Pueblo.

Senator ANDERSON. I have had the same story told me about the number of people who own this livestock.