

The members of the council are not elected, are they, in the ordinary sense?

Mr. LITTLE. I have conflicting information on that.

I have read one source that said they had a very fine democracy there. However, Congressman Fernandez, in his testimony on the floor of the House, was quoting some Pueblo Indians, who had come to him with this information, that they didn't have a very good democracy there, and it was a fact that the council really, in effect, decided who the new council members were going to be.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Ervin of North Carolina had a bill a while ago about the Indian council. He had some trouble defining it properly.

But is it true that the Indian council is a self-perpetuating group, and when one passes away, they put another man in?

Mr. LITTLE. This is the allegation that is contained in Congressman Fernandez' statement.

As I say, he received it from members, and apparently these members of the tribe who he received it from were returning veterans, mostly.

I would say these statements are pretty rough, and I don't mean to have implied that we are trying to demean the religious beliefs of the council, or anyone who wants to hold these beliefs.

If just one person wants to go to Blue Lake in the future and hold these old beliefs, we think he should have his religion fully protected, and his privacy respected.

On the part of the precedent, I deal with that somewhat here.

I think you gentlemen did very well indeed with that yesterday.

Senator ANDERSON. You mentioned here Hugh B. Woodward, who died in the last——

Mr. LITTLE. Why don't I read that? Mr. Woodward was a very fine gentleman.

There has been much effort on the part of Government officials to deny that passage of H.R. 3306 will create a precedent. With the passage of time, these Government officials will have departed, and their denials in the face of new claims will lose their force.

The act of granting title on religious grounds will stand alone, and will be looked upon as a new precedent for future claims, and as a precedent for granting land instead of money.

Mr. Hugh B. Woodward, a highly successful businessman and lawyer who practiced law in New Mexico for over 50 years, advised the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service that if the Blue Lake bill passes:

Your Department and the Department of the Interior are going to be confronting the matter of these largely fallacious claims for additional land or money in lieu thereof as long as some shrewd attorney can get a contract on a contingent basis which will bring him very large fees if he is successful.

There is one other statement in here I will paraphrase.

It comes with the report, this report from the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. It says that the Pueblo needs the land more than the public.

In my statement, I say that this statement is refuted by the water needs of the downstream users, alone. Just the water needs refute that statement. This water is vital, not only to these downstream users, but it is vital to the pueblo itself.