

city of Albuquerque. The Sandia Mountains on the edge of Albuquerque's city limits have "religious significance" to this tribe.

The Navajo and Hopi Tribes both claim San Francisco Peak, the Mescaleros claim Fort Stanton, and most of the Santa Teresa grant is claimed by the San Carlos Apache.

All of this is contrary to Bureau of Indian Affairs general policy, which hopes to see the day they can abolish reservations.

Precedent cannot be denied. No argument to the contrary can hold up in the face of the regard our courts put upon precedent. Our whole system of jurisprudence is based upon precedents.

It would unquestionably be opening the floodgates to a myriad of claims from other Indian tribes and other special interest groups, and I point out that the land claimed by the militant land-grant leader Ries Tijerina is in this same Carson National Forest.

The San Juan Pueblo has already made clear its intention to secure vast acreages it claims on almost identical grounds. They also don't want money. They want the land.

Sandia Pueblo, near Albuquerque, claims 200,000 acres, including most of the city. These tribes are just laying in wait. I could go on at length.

I have some newspaper clippings I am going to enter, to show the past history of these various other Indians.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, and without objection, these clippings will be incorporated in your statement at the conclusion. Go right ahead.

Mr. GUNTER. Mr. Little covered in his statement the area use by the Indians. This was one further thing that I might point out.

In researching some of the historical evidence, we find that the early settlers were encouraged by the Taos Indians to settle close to them, for the protection that it gave the Taos Indians from the marauding tribes; and that these early settlers used the Indians as guides and scouts to determine the whereabouts of the Apaches, who were the pests of the caravans, and the Taos Indians were principally the type of Indians who seldom ventured out of this protective shield.

Elliott Barker, whom we all know well in New Mexico—

Senator METCALF. We know him well, too, on this committee, and have a great regard for his background.

Mr. GUNTER. He is a distinguished and honored citizen of New Mexico, the man who built the first trail into some of this area. He testifies that the Indians did not and could not go into the area. Mr. Barker testifies the Indians did not show any interest when fire threatened the area. No worse threat to a watershed exists than fire.

The Indians state this water is the source of their life. I submit that they still don't show proper interest in the area where they contest with the Forest Service over whether or not the area should be sprayed at a time, 2 years ago, when spruce bud worm was killing many of the trees.

I personally observed what I would estimate to be 7 percent of the trees dead in this area now, due to the bad infestation, and the delayed treatment.

This area we are dealing with is one of the highest yielding watersheds in the State of New Mexico. It annually yields—and I corrected my statement to say a hundred acre-feet of water per section