

But there isn't any proposal by the county commissioners to tax this land; is there?

Mr. LACOME. Senator, I think that would be mostly up to the assessor. As a county commissioner, I am not quite qualified to answer that question, due to the length of time I have been in there as commissioner.

Senator METCALF. Well, I would hope that there would be, even though just a use permit.

Mr. LACOME. I concur with Senator Anderson. I am pleased that a member of the regular administrative authority is here to testify and present your views, and we are grateful for your testimony.

When we get back from answering the rollcall, we will hear from our good friends, the members of the tribe.

(A short recess was taken.)

Senator METCALF. I am very sorry but I must return to the floor.

I would like to note that we have in the audience Miss Linda Bernal, who is related to one of our witnesses and working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs here. Though she has no testimony, she is going to help her fellow tribesmen at the witness table. I do want to assure you, my old and good friends from the tribe that I have visited with over all the years I have been in Congress, both as a Member of the House of Representatives and as a member of this body, that I am looking forward to your testimony. I will be back as soon as possible. Believe me, I have enjoyed our relationship over the years.

Mr. BERNAL. Thank you very much, sir.

Senator METCALF. I am very sorry but things move rather fast.

(A short recess was taken.)

Senator METCALF. The subcommittee will be in order.

The witnesses now appearing are the delegation from the Taos Pueblo, Mr. Romero, Governor; Mr. Paul Bernal, secretary; and would you identify the other witnesses at the table.

**STATEMENT OF QUERINO ROMERO, GOVERNOR, TAOS PUEBLO;
PAUL J. BERNAL, SECRETARY OF THE PUEBLO COUNCIL; MR.
MARTINEZ, MEMBER OF THE PUEBLO COUNCIL; AND WILLIAM
C. SCHAAB, COUNSEL**

Mr. BERNAL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the Taos delegation to testify at these hearings today.

On my far right is Governor Romero, Governor of the Indian Tribal Village. To my right is Mr. Martinez, who is the oldest council member and has been the spokesman for many, year years. I am Paul J. Bernal, and my legal counsel is Mr. Bill Schaab.

Next is Miss Linda Bernal, who is employed by the BIA in Washington, D.C., and Mr. Valentino Cordova. The last two I mentioned do not hold any authority position, but they might testify in support of the bill passed by the House of Representatives recently.

Senator METCALF. Now I want to emphasize and have the record show that you are represented by your counsel, Mr. Schaab, who previously testified.

Mr. BERNAL. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. Then go ahead in your own way.

Mr. BERNAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have my Mr. Martinez testify in his own Indian native language, and I will interpret for him.