

the council elect the next man, and no other person is voted on for many years?

Mr. BERNAL. It is initiated through the authority of holding. Mr. Romero, for an example, has been the lieutenant governor twice, and then when he first served in this capacity, he became a council member, and now that he is the governor, why, he is still a council member.

Any one member of his tribe who should be given this kind of authority capacity in the tribal government becomes a council member whenever he serves in this capacity.

Senator ANDERSON. The answer is no.

Now let me ask again: Has there ever been a democratic election for a member of a council?

Mr. BERNAL. Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Cordova to answer that question for you.

Senator METCALF. Surely. As I said, I want anybody that can explain this whole situation to do so.

Mr. CORDOVA. Mr. Chairman, my name is Valentino Cordova, and I am a member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe. I am sort of in exchange here with the Office of Education, but I actually work for Arizona State University.

Senator METCALF. If you can do as well as Chuck Taylor you will do pretty well.

Mr. CORDOVA. I think what you are asking my governor, or our secretary here, the question is not understood in our democratic sense of the word. In other words, the Taos Pueblo government has long been established before the coming of the white man. If you want your question answered specifically, we are following the Spanish setup of government that was imposed upon the Indian tribes, the Pueblo Tribes.

In other words, this was a form of elders, who had the right to vote, and this way of voting and election of your governor and his staff has come down through the centuries. I think that our people at this point are not sophisticated enough to impose upon ourselves the democratic form of government yet, and it might take a couple of centuries, until we get to that point.

Senator METCALF. Well, we have taken a dim view, and looked askance on some of these traditional forms of tyranny and so forth that have come down through the years.

Now do your people vote, as registered electors in State elections?

Mr. CORDOVA. Yes.

Senator METCALF. Well, then, if they are sophisticated enough to vote for the Governor of a State, or the Representative to Congress, or a U.S. Senator, they are certainly sophisticated enough to vote for their tribal leaders.

Mr. CORDOVA. Let me qualify my "Yes" statement to your question, Mr. Chairman. I vote and probably maybe 30 of us from this reservation vote. Most of the young people, my age, you might say, have gone on to school, and are sophisticated in this manner. However, in our tribal form of government, and I have gone through the initiation rights, we recognize the power that the Tribal Council holds. I doubt if there are any young people at this point in the majority who will dispute this power that the Tribal Council holds. In other words, we will uphold it, and we will probably carry it on, when our time comes.