

Senator METCALF. That is a powerful argument for democracy in the tribe, if some of you young leaders are fearful of disputing the authority of this self-perpetuating tribal group.

Well, anyway, I have learned the answer, I think, to my question, that you do not have what we consider under the Supreme Court decision, and what you understand, as I understand, a popular vote for your tribal officials.

Mr. CORDOVA. No.

Senator METCALF. Now, the second thing I want to know about is this grazing. We have an allegation that only 10 people or only at most 15, have grazing rights. Now, are those tribal grazing rights, or are those individual grazing rights?

Mr. BERNAL. Do you want me to answer that question, Mr. Chairman?

Senator METCALF. Please. Yes, the question is there and somebody ought to answer it.

Mr. BERNAL. All right. The 10 cattlemen or stockmen you are talking about with grazing rights, the community grazing lands belongs to all people in this reservation, consisting of 1,400, and a little over.

Senator METCALF. How many?

Mr. BERNAL. About 1,400. Community grazing lands are available to these people, and no way has been defined to use these community grazing lands, because the stockman is a stockman, and he needs to use these lands for his own purposes. And he is subject to maintain the area, and to build a fence, and to take care of these lands, and to see that all the protection is initiated in these grazing lands.

Senator METCALF. Well, how many of these 1,400 people, who share these grazing land rights, actually graze cattle on this area?

Mr. BERNAL. I don't think there are—not too many people are grazing. You know, the stockowners, the stockmen.

Senator METCALF. Can you estimate?

Mr. BERNAL. About 20.

Senator METCALF. Twenty. Well, that is more than they said, but about 20. But those are individual grazing rights, and they are not tribal cattle?

Mr. BERNAL. No, these are individual cattleowners, and they are not belonging to the tribe.

Senator ANDERSON. As a matter of fact, don't you select certain people to have these rights, and all the rest of them—

Mr. BERNAL. No, we never do, Senator.

Senator ANDERSON. Have you more than one group? Have you any community rights at all?

Mr. BERNAL. We never would deprive anyone. Everybody has the same rights, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. No.

Mr. CORDOVA. Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. I wasn't clear on that, and you have cleared it up.

Mr. CORDOVA. Mr. Chairman, there has been an allegation made that these people in political power are also the owners of cattle, solely those people.

My father happens to be the Lieutenant Governor of Taos Pueblo, and we have never owned a cow. So I think this allegation is untrue. I think it depends on the individual ability of an Indian to acquire whatever economic resources he does have.