

Of course, I am no expert on land claims. I'm not a lawyer. I'm only a private citizen trying to speak up when I feel an injustice is about to be perpetrated on the people of New Mexico. It is a real risk to any private citizen to attempt to lock horns with the cunning and clever "mouthwork" of a professional attorney.

Mr. Schaab quotes again that the Indian use of the area dating back to the 1300's was found by the Indian Claims Commission. I pointed out in my statement that this reputed finding was the testimony of one so-called expert and that there is much historical evidence to refute the testimony of this single witness who is another of the anthropologists with a source of information at stake.

The reference to my misinterpretation of Elliott Barker's statement can be explained only by an understanding of the geography of the area and making a distinction between travel to the Blue Lake itself and travel into the balance of the area. Also, there is more than one route to Blue Lake.

I make no denial of my feeling that the Indian Claims Commission did a poor job. Just because they are a government agency does not make them immune to error and when it is recognized that they are biased toward the Indian side of most questions, I feel it is within my right to question their findings.

On the matter of the flood control dam I enclose a newspaper clipping which makes it clear that the Taos Pueblo leaders did exert pressure on the flood control authority before giving the easement. Such direct conflict of statements certainly does seem to indicate the tribal leaders will go to almost any lengths and that if there is any untruth it must be on the Indian side of this issue. Mr. LaCombe, the Taos County Commissioner who also was at the hearing, informed me that this is not the only instance where the tribe has exacted such a statement from a local government group before it would grant an easement or some permission to use its land. On this point the Indian leaders are definitely giving their council incorrect information.

I have, in fact, read a letter from a water user in Arroyo Seco named Luciano C. Garcia addressed to Senator Mechem complaining of more of this same type of pressure. Mr. Garcia recites how the Indians would not even allow the water users to clean the ditches unless they agreed to support the Indians Blue Lake claim. Other water users wanted to repair and improve the ditches but were not allowed to do so unless they agreed in writing to support the Indian claim.

The records are full of this type of behavior on the part of the Indians and serve to point out that the Indians, at least their leaders, are not always as reliable as all the "do gooders" in this country would have you believe.

Regarding my quotations on the book, "Cycles of Conquest" by Professor Spicer, I enclose copies of the pages of his book that I quoted from. I leave the interpretation up to you as I do not know what Dr. Spicer said about my interpretation of his book. I feel it is important to point out, however, that Dr. Spicer himself is quite likely biased in favor of the Indians since he is a member of the "National Committee for the Restoration of the Blue Lake Lands to the Taos Indians" and his name appears on the letterhead of this organization.

It is a recognized and understandable position that nearly all archaeologists and anthropologists have sided with the Indians in most issues to keep on the good side of them otherwise their source of information would be drastically reduced.

With regard to the last statement by Mr. Schaab directed at my testimony and his clever invention of the term "Spy Trip", I must reply strongly to Mr. Schaab that I was there and he was not. I saw clear cut evidence to support my statement. I stand on my findings and must go from here on to some of the area covered in the testimony presented by Mr. Little on this matter of desecration of the area by the Indians themselves.

Mr. Schaab states that he cannot explain the discrepancies between our findings and the statement that the Indians say they left the area cleaned up after their ceremonies. I wish to point out that Mr. Schaab's contention that the trash was left by white trespassers is simply not reasonable. The facts to consider are these: First the area is closed to all except members of the Taos Tribe through August 30 and therefore, the time lapse between our visit and this date was only