

I insist that, with the exception of the 3,000-acre Blue Lake area, religion is being used as a subterfuge to get the larger tract of land. The use they make of it and the things they do in the area are simply not consistent with religion as a dominating factor.

Mr. Schaab insists that they would derive very little economic benefit from the land, and hence it must be the religious aspect that makes them try so hard to get it. I disagree. The area has potential hydro-electric power sites; it has possibilities for mineral development; it has timber resources; it has possibilities for ski course development; it has high recreational values and the Indians could, and undoubtedly would, capitalize on this by charging for admittance, for trail riding, scenic tours, camping and for fishing in the lakes and streams. Furthermore it would give them free rein to kill game as they please to the great detriment of surrounding areas. Mr. Schaab is, indeed, naive if he really thinks there are no ulterior motives involved.

But whether or not the lands have economic values, to give this tract to the Taos Indians would be to set a very dangerous precedent both for other Pueblo Tribes and for groups of Spanish-Americans, so called, to make claims for tracts of National Forest and BLM lands under one pretext or another. The religious aspects would be ignored for their invalidity is too apparent.

Mr. Schaab states, "Mr. Barker is obviously interested in destroying Indian cultures rather than in their preservation." Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Schaab is referring to cultures such as the massacreing of almost all the settlers in Taos in 1680, and joined by other Pueblos killing of hundreds of people, including priests, missionaries, women and children, in Santa Fe and other settlements, burning and destroying their property and driving all settlers out of the New Mexico territory; or if he refers to the Taos Indians' unprovoked murder of Governor Bent and a dozen others in Taos in 1846; or to the setting of a forest fire by a tribesman hunting deer out of season, and reluctance of the Indians to help put it out; or to the killing of a doe deer with suckling fawns and running a Forest Ranger off with a rifle when he approached, and subsequently trying to kill two of my Deputy Game Wardens first with a rifle and then with a butcher knife when attempting to make an arrest (the Indian was finally subdued by manual force at the risk of their own lives when they would have been justified in shooting him in self defence). Or to such acts as a member of the Tribe shooting does and fawns at night by use of a spotlight to feed minks at his employer's mink farm and other such practices, then he is right, I am opposed to preservation of such cultural practices.

On the other hand if Mr. Schaab is referring to lawful religious practices and ceremonies, skills and tribal cultures of any kind whatsoever then his statement is completely unfounded. I served thirty-two years in responsible Federal and State positions and seven years as Executive Secretary of the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association and State Representative of the National Wildlife Federation and the record will not reveal one word spoken nor one action taken by me that would in any way substantiate his charge that I am opposed to preservation of Indian cultures. His statement is preposterous and completely without basis of fact.

Respectfully,

ELLIOTT S. BARKER.

Senator METCALF. During Mr. Gunther's and Mr. Little's testimony, there was an allegation, a charge that there was very little use of this area, that only about 40 people used the Blue Lake area for religious ceremonies during August. Would you respond to that?

Miss LINDA BERNAL. Mr. Chairman, I wish to answer that question.

Senator METCALF. Surely.

STATEMENT OF MISS LINDA BERNAL, TAOS PUEBLO TRIBE

Miss BERNAL. I am Linda Bernal, and I am with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but I am here as a member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe today. I went up to Blue Lake this summer, about August, let's see, the 23d through the 26th, and there are allegations that there may be 40 people go up to the ceremony always, 40 to 60, I think the number was. But this is absolutely untrue, because Indians galore go