

and under our ways, can help us in the case of a fire, or any other conservation practice.

Senator METCALF. Well, the next question is related. What are you doing, or going to do, or propose to do about insect control?

Mr. BERNAL. In regard to the insect control, which a number of times has been brought up, the Bureau of Indian Affairs are capable, and can find a solution, can provide this to this area, protect for infestations in the trees.

Senator METCALF. Have you done anything about insect control as a tribe?

Mr. BERNAL. We have not done it, but the Forest Service has done the infestations control during the past.

Senator METCALF. Have you cooperated with the Forest Service in insect control?

Mr. BERNAL. We did cooperate with the Forest Service, as long as I have been able to interest the Taos Pueblo Council of this program, and I have been encouraging the tribal council to do this, and I am not speaking for anyone who had done anything away from it, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much.

Now I am going to yield the floor to my good friend from Wyoming, and relinquish the questioning.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I have been very interested in the testimony here this afternoon, and I don't want so much to ask questions of you as to make a few observations that seem to me to be in order. Because I think it would be easy for you to misunderstand the thrust of our questions and the interest we have, I thought it might be well just to make some observations.

The question has been asked, what use have the Pueblo de Taos put to the Blue Lake area? I don't know what is behind that question. I had the feeling there might be some desire to suggest that a high percentage of the Taos Pueblo did not use this area, and that maybe a few people, or a small percentage of the Pueblo were trying to get a large area over which they would have rather exclusive use for domain.

Now without addressing myself to that possibility, I would like to say, insofar, as the religious symbolism of this whole area is concerned, I don't think that question has any place here. I don't think it is up to you to have to say how many or what percentage of your people participate in a religious ceremony or activity.

I think that you are entitled to your religion just as we are to ours, and I happen to belong to a church, and if all of the people in my church were to be judged on the basis of my attendance, I am afraid there would be a lot of us flunk out, I don't think we should try to suggest that unless 50 or more percentage of your people attend that the setting aside of this area for the purpose that you suggest is fair. I just wanted to make that observation, because I think that the area can be important to you. I believe it is important to you. I don't think that the importance of the area, and its significance to you and to your religion, ought to be based upon how much you use it, or how many of your people make this religious pilgrimage up into the Blue Lakes area.

Secondly, the question was raised about how the tribal council is chosen. Now if we are interested, insofar as our concern about the