

adequacy and constitutionality and the rights of the tribal council, there may be some pertinence to that question. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Government of the United States should not try to go so far as to say to all Indians, "Unless your tribal council is chosen in a democratic fashion, we won't recognize it."

We have some Indian tribes in Wyoming, and I respect their culture. I think they have much to give this country of ours, and I believe you people have much to give. I think there is much in your religion and in the government that you practice that we could very well emulate.

I admit that, with reference to the manner in which the tribal council is chosen—it may not be democratically chosen—and I would suggest that the hierarchy of some of the churches in this country are not democratically chosen.

I think we can call to mind a very important religious group of people in this country, and throughout the world, and I don't believe that those in control of at least one important church that I can think of are chosen democratically at all. I have never heard about anybody voting for them, and yet, I certainly think that that church makes a very important contribution. I am not one to leave or to have you people leave here with the impression that you ought to have to rearrange the manner in which you choose members of your council.

I have no doubt at all but what the people who sit on your tribal council are just as dedicated and just as sincere in trying to do the very best job they can for your young people as any other religious group is, and I wanted to say these things, because they do disturb me. I don't mean to imply by what I have said that my very distinguished colleagues, for whom I have the highest respect, would disagree with me at all on this area, but because I thought that you might misunderstand, at least my feelings. I wanted to speak out, and to have it become part of the record so you would know at least how one man feels.

Mr. BERNAL. Thank you very much, Senator.

Senator METCALF. Just a brief comment.

Inquiry and interrogation as always is not directed for any purpose other than for the information of the committee, and testimony came in as to the nonuse of this area. I think some important and significant testimony was made that it was used to a greater extent, and I think that the chairman, at least, has concurred with the statement made by Senator Hansen, that if one person feels that there is a religious significance to this area, that person's right should be protected.

We are all concerned with the preservation and perpetuation of Indian culture and Indian ritual that is a part of the traditions of America. We want to preserve that in the southwest as we want to preserve it in the northwest. We are concerned also, of course, about the political activity of the tribe, as against that religious activity, and I am glad that the Senator from Wyoming has brought this up.

The purpose of the hearings is to get information, and the purpose of questions is to clarify material in the minds of the people who are not as familiar with the area as you are, and certainly no one should take offense at the direction of the interrogation or the kind of questions that are asked in order to clear up the kind of testimony that is presented. I am glad to have the opportunity to make a statement—

Senator HANSEN. Thank you.