

It has come to our attention that the information contained in the May 6 memorandum, which was one of the enclosures, has been quoted extensively, particularly on local radio programs, to the effect that the moneys mentioned in the memorandum were payment for the lands which are the subject of S. 3085. This is not the case.

The payments mentioned in the memorandum are for lands which were conveyed to the Taos Pueblo by a patent issued in 1864 by the United States and which were lost to the Indians by virtue of non-Indian settlement thereon. The interlocutory order of the Indian Claims Commission, dated September 8, 1965, decided that the Taos Pueblo Indians had not been compensated in any amount for the lands of which the 50,000 acres involved in S. 3085 are a part.

It would be appreciated if you would inform your field officials of this letter and assist in correcting the erroneous impression that the moneys mentioned in our May 6 memorandum were payment for the area involved in S. 3085.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT L. BENNETT,
Commissioner.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C., May 6, 1966.

MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Commissioner, Economic Development.

From: Assistant Commissioner, Administration.

Subject: Amounts awarded the Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico, under the acts of June 7, 1924, 43 Stat. 636 and May 31, 1933, 48 Stat. 108.

Reference is made to the informal request of Mr. Jerry P. James, Branch of Real Property Management, for information regarding the above-stated subject. The Pueblo Lands Act, June 7, 1924, 43 Stat. 636, established the Pueblo Lands Board for the purpose of quieting the title to lands within Pueblo Indian land grants, and for other purposes.

Under section 6 of this act, the United States was to pay compensation to the Pueblos named therein in the fair market value of the lands and water rights found to have been lost to them.

Congress appropriated funds for carrying out the provisions of the act of June 7, 1924, and payment of the awards of the Pueblo Lands Board to the Pueblo of Taos as follows:

Act of—	Statute reference	Amount
Mar. 4, 1929.....	45 Stat. 1562, 1569.....	\$48,497.00
Mar. 4, 1931.....	46 Stat. 1552, 1566.....	27,631.85
Total.....		76,128.85

This amount (\$76,128.85) was set up and carried on the books of the United States Treasury under the heading "Compensation to Taos Pueblo, New Mexico, for Loss of Land and Water Rights".

The "Receipts and Disbursements, Balances etc. of the United States", as reported by the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants, Treasury Department, show the following expenditures from this fund:

Fiscal year:	Amount of expenditure
1931.....	\$1,000.00
1932.....	16,528.41
1933.....	13,631.98
1934.....	6,449.77
1935.....	441.20
1936.....	1,689.33
1937.....	1,590.84
Total.....	41,331.53