

legalized, such action would be accomplished by S. 1625. This is not an issue that should be decided on the basis of emotion.

Second. No livestock except those owned by the Taos Indians are permitted to graze the area and this use is free. Only Indian-owned livestock are permitted to graze along the 25 miles of the Rio Pueblo de Taos from Blue Lake to the Pueblo. Much of the mountain area is too rough for grazing. The Forest Service has reseeded many acres of Indian-owned lands which are located northwest of the Taos Pueblo outside of the national forest. These lands, formerly in sagebrush, were reseeded on a cost basis under a cooperative agreement with the Indian Service. In this manner, the Indians have been able to graze their livestock on their own lands for greater periods, thus relieving overgrazing on the watershed of the Carson Forest used by the Indians. The vegetation and soil conditions in the Blue Lake area have improved considerably in the last decade.

Third. The Wheeler Peak-Blue Lake area of the national forest produced a high yield of water, amounting to from 400 to 500 acre-feet per section. Not only is this water used by the Indians, but by several other communities in the Arroyo Seco-Taos area and by the Rio Grande Valley. Non-Indian residents need to have the assurance that resources of the large Rio Pueblo de Taos watershed will be conserved and protected.

Fourth. We think that a giveaway of 48,000 acres, as provided in H.R. 3306, is out of proportion. These national assets are estimated to be worth at least \$2 million and should not be given away in settlement of a claim of \$297,684.67. If the Congress decides to grant even the 3,150 acres, as anticipated in S. 1625, the value of this property should be credited against the claim.

Fifth. We oppose any land transfer because of the precedent it will establish, disclaimers inserted by the House to the contrary. We are confident that several other requests for land grants will be made if this bill is passed.

Frankly, Mr. Chairman, we wonder where these demands and claims will end. Moves are afoot for natives to claim 40 million acres in Alaska plus \$500 million, and other benefits. Another bill (H.R. 19072) would add 110,000 acres from the Grand Canyon National Park and Monument and 70,000 acres from the Kaibab National Forest to the Havasupai Indian Reservation. We are told that there were fewer than 1 million natives in the United States when the first Europeans arrived. Some tribes moved about. Some were stationary. Conceivably, however, they could lay claim to a good part of the country if they were allowed. Granting lands to the Taos Pueblo would be another move in that direction.

Summarizing, we believe the Forest Service has a good record of management for this special area and every possible consideration has been given to the Indians. Efforts of the Forest Service in resources management are recognized as highly beneficial and worthwhile. They should be as valuable to the Indians as to the general public. We see no valid reason for this transfer and hope the subcommittee will not see fit to act favorably upon it.

Thank you for the opportunity of making these remarks.

Senator METCALF. And so now, the witness that we have been looking for, and anticipating, is Mr. Kenneth B. Pomeroy, chief forester