

of the American Forestry Association; and, Mr. Pomeroy, you have been very helpful to me on many, many occasions, and we welcome you again on this one.

**STATEMENT OF KENNETH B. POMEROY, CHIEF FORESTER,
THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**

Mr. POMEROY. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, most of what I had intended to say about the Taos problem has already been said by others, so with your permission, I would like to file my statement for the record, and summarize the four essential points.

Senator METCALF. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. POMEROY. First, it is clear that the Pueblo de Taos has a claim that has not been completely satisfied. The Federal Government should compensate the Indians for their claim as soon as possible.

Second, compensation should be in money, as provided by the Indian Claims Act. To depart from this procedure by making payment in kind; that is, substituting land for money, will establish a precedent of far-reaching consequences.

Third, the natural resources of this watershed should be protected as they have in the past. This is necessary in order to meet the needs of all downstream water users.

Fourth, use of forage on public land always has been treated as a privilege and not a right. If Congress now authorizes the Pueblo de Taos Indians to pay non-Indians for relinquishment of grazing permits, it will establish a precedent of much interest to all other users of the public lands.

In summary, the American Forestry Association recommends that H.R. 3306, S. 1624, and S. 1625 not be enacted because of the various precedents involved. We suggest that the Pueblo de Taos Indians be given free and exclusive use of the 3,150-acre area in the vicinity of Blue Lake used for religious purposes. We also recommend continued free use of the remainder of the present 32,000 acres, and that both areas be administered by the Forest Service.

Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Senator Anderson?

Senator ANDERSON. I think that is a very splendid suggestion. It can be useful, and should be used very thoroughly. I have known Mr. Pomeroy's work for a long time, and I have found this the most satisfactory statement of its size I have seen in a long time.

Mr. POMEROY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator METCALF. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Pomeroy, you have been very helpful in succinctly summarizing some of the problems that have been presented to us, and you have given us your usual cooperation and courtesy, and we are grateful for your patience in waiting to be the last witness.

Mr. POMEROY. Thank you, and might I say this off the record?

(Discussion off the record.)

(The statement referred to follows:)