

This is one of the most significant aspects of the entire proposal because there has been a marked trend during the past two decades to terminate Federal supervision over Indians. I am in favor of such a program because I think it is the only way in which Indians will eventually become self-sufficient. But whenever Federal supervision is terminated, there are demands that tribal assets be divided among the Indians. Such a division of the Blue Lake tract would undo all the conservation measures now being practiced.

PURCHASE OF GRAZING PERMITS

Use of the forage on public lands has always been treated as a privilege available to all qualified users. It has never been viewed as an exclusive right of an individual person or company, although there have been repeated pressures during the past 50 years to make it a "right" instead of a "privilege".

If the Congress 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 users of the public lands.

SUMMARY

In summary, The American Forestry Association recommends that the Pueblo de Taos Indians be paid in money for any unsatisfied claims against the United States.

We have no objection to permitting the Indians free and exclusive use of the land in the vicinity of Blue Lake for religious purposes.

We are opposed to provisions in H.R. 3506 to grant the Indians trust title to 48,000 acres. We are also opposed to provisions in S. 1624 and S. 1625 to give the Indians title to 3,150 acres surrounding Blue Lake.

Finally, we urge the Congress not to imply that grazing is a "right" by authorizing the Pueblo de Taos Indians to buy grazing permits of non-Indians.

Senator METCALF. Is Mr. Greeley here? Can you get the information that we requested, in 10 days?

Mr. GREELEY. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. Then the hearing will be kept open for 10 days for further statements.

Senator HANSEN. If I could, just before you do adjourn this hearing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to say in the presence of our friends from the Southwest that I share the great admiration and respect for the senior Senator and member of this committee, Senator Anderson, that has already been expressed so ably by our chairman.

It has been my pleasure to work with Senator Anderson. I had great respect for him when he served in a different capacity as Secretary of Agriculture, and certainly, as I have come to know him better, my appreciation and great respect for him has only increased, and I am privileged to serve with him, sir.

Senator METCALF. The hearing record will be kept open for 10 days, and let me say to all of you that these hearings have been drawn out, and you have been very, very patient, everyone has been cooperative, and I am very grateful to my distinguished colleagues, both to my left and my right, for their courtesy and other contributions to this hearing. I think a fine record has been made. I have learned a great deal about the problem involved.

I have some additional statements for inclusion in the record at this point.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF LADD S. GORDON, DIRECTOR, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

Mr. Chairman: The transfer of lands from the U.S. Forest Service to the Taos Indians will result in an injustice to the people of New Mexico as well