

APPENDIX

(The committee has received numerous communications both for and against this legislation. A representative group of these letters follow:)

LAS CRUCES, N. MEX., September 9, 1968.

Senator CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: I understand that hearings on the Taos Indian Land Claim are to be held in the very near future. I oppose this Claim and I hope that the citizens of New Mexico can depend on you to help stop it.

If we owe these people any thing, pay it. If hearings show that they are being deprived of a place to worship then we should take steps to correct the situation. But under no circumstances should they be given 50,000 acres of the National Forest. I'm sure that you know far better than I what kind of a precedence such action would set.

Hearings and a Senate vote will soon be held on gun registration and I urge you not only to vote against gun registration but actively work against such a law.

Sincerely,

ALVIN DAVIDSON.

T. V. GORMAN, RANCHER,
Eagle Nest, N. Mex., July 27, 1968.

Senator CLINTON ANDERSON,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATORS As former residents of Wichita Falls, Texas and now permanent residents of Eagle Nest, New Mexico, we have owned and operated a ranch of 1,800 acres in Moreno Valley for thirteen years. This acreage adjoins 10,000 acres of privately owned mountain pasture which we lease from R. L. LeSage of Dallas. All of this land has a common boundary with Kit Carson National Forest in which the Taos Pueblo Indians already have the privilege of grazing cattle from spring until fall each year. We, too, have a grazing permit in one small area. Witt Park, in the National Forest—a right which we purchased with the ranch according to the state laws of New Mexico, and for which we pay a yearly grazing fee to the Forest Service (local office in Taos, N.M.). My first-hand experiences in (13 yrs.) cattle operations on these three places with Indians of the Taos Pueblo has prompted me to write this letter which supports my views regarding the distribution of government lands to these Taos Indians.

Since the lands in question are already in use and grazed by these people during every accessible month of every year (altitude and snows will always prevent use during winter months), I fail to see where the Taos Pueblo could gain in grazing unless some permits, such as mine, are revoked—a right for which I have paid to graze 46 head of cattle for two to three summer months according to deeds filed with the State of New Mexico since 1870. But the monetary value seems insignificant when compared to the abolishment of the right to buy grazing permits with the lands to which they are attached, and have been, for 100 years, a right which will be abolished with the passage of this bill regardless of state laws.

We do not oppose the gift to the Taos Pueblo of a limited number of acres in the Kit Carson National Forest which surrounds their ceremonial grounds at Blue Lake, but we do oppose, as an outright gift, the rest of the lands included in the bill—some 50,000 acres. Our reasons and opinions have been formed from the following experiences which can be substantiated at the Forest Service Offices in Taos and with the Brand Inspectors in the area of Northwestern New Mexico: The lands of the National Forest which adjoin us are not fenced, and each year the cattle from the Pueblo, designated to graze in other areas, graze