

LOS ALAMOS, N. MEX., July 3, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: I wish to voice my opposition to H.R. 3306, which would transfer title of some 48,000 acres from the National Forest to the Taos Indians. I favor the transfer of two to three thousand acres, the immediate vicinity to Blue Lake, to the Taos Pueblo for their religious affairs. But to increase this to the amount called for by the House bill is not in the best interests of either the Indians or of all others on the watershed of the Rio Pueblo.

I am quite familiar with the area in question, and was at one time a resident of Eagle Nest. I feel that the Forest Service people have done an outstanding job in the preservation of the area, but I have noted cases of over-grazing in some critical areas. This could lead to the destruction of the watershed if not controlled.

I honestly do not have much faith in the Taos Indians in conservation matters, and feel that not only watershed and range would suffer irreparable damage under their ownership, but that the bighorn sheep restoration program of the Department of Game and Fish would suffer.

I do not feel that the government can right all old injustices, either by land title transfers or by monetary payment, and such attempts will only meet with failure, and with weakening the natural resources of the country. The best thing to do is to insure that the present generation, regardless of background, has the opportunity for each individual to improve himself, dependent on his own ability and ambition.

Sincerely,

CHARLES L. WARNER.

ROCHESTER, N.Y., August 3, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Having read the article "Restore The Taos Lands" in the Washington Post July 30, 1968, edition I support the "House Passed Bill" to restore to the Taos Indians 48,000 acres in the vicinity of Blue Lake, New Mexico.

I urge that this bill be passed in this session of Congress! American Indian justice and national integrity demands the immediate passage of this bill.

The United States represents freedom and justice for all the people of the world. Our government must include freedom, justice and fair representation for all American Indians.

Sincerely,

JANE RODE LeCLAIR.

P.S.—Please, let us not disgrace our nation with another miscarriage of justice as we did with the Six Nations of Seneca Indians of New York State.

SIPAPU LODGE,
Vadito, N. Mex., July 1, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: This is in opposition to giving the Taos Pueblo Indians the land that HR 3306 proposes.

You are familiar with the conservation and other aspects of this proposed land grab. And we appreciate your clear thinking and work in the past in preventing such a land grab.

It is my understanding that Indians pay no property taxes on their lands. The Forest does pay 25% to the County in place of taxes. Taos County is just completing a much needed reassessment survey which will in all likelihood raise property taxes for all citizens in the county. It is just not right to further burden the taxpayers in an already depressed area by giving this land to the Indians. It is my feeling that all Indian lands especially those acquired since the original reservation was established should be made subject to property taxes same as