

these precedent-setting bills which will be open invitation to similar demands from other tribes.

JAMES M. BOYD.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., September 17, 1968.

Senator CARL HAYDEN,
Senate Building,
Washington, D.C.:

A serious problem faces us through steady pressures of reduction of our land base for timber operations throughout the United States. The rural economy is being affected by many of these withdrawals. H.R. 3306 already passed, transfers 48,000 acres in New Mexico to the Pueblo de Taos Indians from the Carson National Forest. We feel the Multiple Use Act program in effect can take care of all the public and their interest. The opposite is not true of withdrawal for special purposes. We urge that you oppose S. 1624 and S. 1625 so that all may use these lands.

A. MILTON WHITING, KAIBAB LUMBER CO.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX., August 14, 1968.

Hon. CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: The following item in The New Mexican, Santa Fe, N.M. for August 8, 1968, just came to my attention:

"Anderson wrote The New Mexican that his principal objection is that the Taos Indians want to transfer the land (Blue Lake) from the Forest Service to the Interior Department 'merely because they have had some arguments with the Forest Service.'"

How can that be true? The Taos Pueblo Indians want the land to be returned to them, to be theirs, and there is no arrangement under the Forest Service whereby this can be done. They don't want just a use permit, they want the land returned to them. It was theirs, they had used it from time immemorial, and it was taken from them wrongfully. And the only way in which they can own the land is to have it held in trust for them by the United States Government, and the only way this can be accomplished is under the Dept. of Interior.

Over the years Taos Pueblo has refused to accept compensation for the land taken from them. I think they are to be admired for their dedication over the many years to have their land returned to them.

This is one time when the United States Government could do the *right* thing—return land to its rightful owners. The House passed the bill to restore the 48,000 acres to Taos—now the Senate should do likewise.

Sincerely,

L. B. SANDO
MRS. L. B. SANDO.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX., July 21, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: Once again I find it necessary to ask for your support of pending legislation, not so much for the sake of your conscience as for my own. You have undoubtedly read the testimony pertaining to Blue Lake and know that Taos Pueblo is in the unenviable position of defending its religious freedom. Certainly this is not a new voice. Others before us have heard it and that is why we are here today, after all. Their faith is no less important and for this reason alone, we should be instrumental in perpetuating it. To do this, then, we must let the Taos Indians have title to their 48,000 acres of Blue Lake land.

Respectfully yours,

DIANA H. BRIDGE.