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May 19, 1955

G. C. Gardner

Meeting with delegation from Hopi Reservation
May 16, 1955, 1:30 p.m., in Mr. Reid's Office

Present: David Monanya, George Mesniseuma, Ralph Towangeyawma, and Thurmond Banyacya from the Hopi Reservation; and Messrs. Reid, Rudolph, and Gardner from the Bureau.

The delegation listed the subjects they desired to clear up:

1. Hopi tribal participation in IRA
2. Grazing
3. Roads
4. Drafting of conscientious objectors
5. Public Law 280

Mr. Reid opened the meeting by telling the group that we were glad to have them in the office to go over some of their problems with them, and he turned the meeting over to their chairman for discussion. The tribal discussion was led by an elder spokesman, Dan Katchongua. The delegation's viewpoints are summarized:

1. They did not like the rules and regulations, especially the ones pertaining to grazing. They had lived in the vicinity of this reservation a long time, were taught by their forefathers to farm, and were all willing to work and had their own stock. Their way of life was handed down by their forefathers and they got along real well. The white man came with rules and regulations, and now they aren't free to make a living.

2. They questioned the authority for organizing under the IRA. We were told that a majority of the people did not know what they were voting on and it was not explained to them. The younger educated group understood and were running the show.

3. Bureau people had not consulted properly with them, and local officials would not spend the time explaining things to them. Washington officials had been invited out three times to their knowledge but had never showed up.

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4. Official information was mailed to them and not having an education, they could not understand what was in the letters.

5. A meeting had been held with Mr. Waggoner of the Area Office to oppose permits on grazing. The permits had been gathered up and handed to him and he had taken them when he left. In a few days, Superintendent Clyde Pensoneau had met with them after the second invitation. He left the grazing permits with the people but did not satisfy them.

6. They were going back to the old way and were not going to recognize the Government's way of doing business by permits.

Mr. Rudolph explained to them the organization under the IRA and how the condition of the range and the people as a whole had improved since grazing regulations were placed in effect. Also, he explained that the law specified that the Secretary of the Interior set up rules and regulations to govern the use of the range. He was complimentary of the progress that had been made to date in that area. Their spokesman requested that a meeting be arranged with all the members of the staff and a representative of the newspaper, so they could at last get the answers to their questions. They were advised that it would be almost impossible to schedule a meeting of this kind. However, Branch of Tribal Affairs scheduled meetings for them with Roads and Law and Order. Mr. Reid told them the Commissioner would be able to see them on Wednesday, May 18.

Summary: This group is known as the traditional group and is principally from the Hotevilla village. They are opposed to Bureau control and to the younger group of the reservation who are in control of the Council. They want free use of the range without specified limits on livestock.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. Mrs. Perkins of the Branch of Tribal Affairs left with them to schedule further conferences.

(Sgd.) Grever S. Gardner

G. C. Gardner
Program Officer