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Stevens

~~Bur of Ind. Aff.~~

Shungopavy Arizona

19-11-11

INTERIOR DEPT.
SECRETARY'S
MAIL CENTER
JAN 20 1950
TO OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS

January 16, 1950

Second Mesa

President Harry S. Truman
Washington D.C.

INTERIOR DEPT.
RECEIVED
JAN 19 1950
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

Stevens

Dear Mr President Harry;

We are enclosing copy of Hopi
Indian of Arizona words to Congress

We know you tell them, speak
us for right as you will find
these enclosed words.

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1950
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Your family and our family
live in one country. Please keep our
family in our homes the way
we know.

We see your face in pictures.
We read your words to people. We love you
Help us little people. Please let us
know when you received this letter.

Vict Tomahaflawa
Hopi Indian of Arizona
Second Mesa Shungopavy Arizona

Filed by L. B. L.

Hopi Indian Nation
Shungopovy, Arizona
December 28, 1949

Congress of the United States
House of Representative
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned, Hopi tribal advisors of the villages of Hotevilla and Shungopovy, speaking for the head men of these two villages which represents all Hopi tribe do hereby call your attention to several important matters with regards to the Navajo-Hopi long-range program which was recently vetoed by the President and which we understood will be taken up again in the House of Representatives in a revised form.

Ever since we heard about this Navajo-Hopi bill we have repeatedly rejected the whole bill for the reason that these programs were made for and by the Navajo Tribe without our knowledge, consent nor approval. We have sent our letters of protests and our petition to Rep. Toby Morris, Chairman of Subcommittee of Indian Affairs; Rep. John R. Murdock and Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona and to others. In our letter to the President of the United States dated March 28, 1949 we have clearly stated our opposition to the bill. We have requested for a hearing but so far no one came to us to explain these measures to our people.

On December 8, 1949 we invited Supt. James D. Crawford, Hopi Agent at Keams Canyon to our meeting at Shungopovy village. We explained to him our reasons for opposing the bill. We told him our religious beliefs and our traditional history all of which were recorded. We want to have this written up and placed in the hands of the House of Representatives before the revised bill is acted upon.

We requested that the name Hopi be taken out of the Navajo-Hopi bill. We wish to remain as Hopi people and not Navajos nor a white man. We want to remain on our own traditional form of government which we have been following long before any white man came to our shores. Just recently we have received the original bill and we found no provision made for the protection of the Hopi Tribe. We also found that the long-range program was intended only for the Navajo people based upon the Treaty of 1868. Those who favor such a bill are government employees, the people of the State of Arizona to get control of our resources, our water rights and eventually our land. We know this because we were taught these warnings in our religion. Should this bill ever become a law it would simply mean the subjection of the Hopi people to the Navajo Tribe and to their Treaty of 1868. This is absolutely wrong and against our will. It will mean that in the land boasts of the four freedoms the Hopis are being denied the right to speak, heard and express their opinions on matters vital to them.

Filed by L. D. L.

It would be the most disgraceful act on the part of the government of the United States and the Navajo Tribe to pass such legislation. We will never submit ourselves to such plans of these two parties. Navajo asked for these programs so let it be only for that tribe. Why include the Hopi in this bill against his will?

This bill will take away our rights and our authority to our own resources, property and our homeland. It will be just plain robbing the peaceful people. It will not solve the so-called 'Indian Problem'. We say it is a white man's problem for it is the white man who created these problems in quest for material wealth and security. Putting the Indians under state jurisdiction will not solve this Indian problem. It will only create more problems for the white man.

The only solution is to allow the Hopis and all other Indians in this land to ~~allow~~ them to work out their own destiny in their own way. Let them have their own land and stop all these wild theories, new ideas or expert plannings of the Indian bureau and give Indians a living chance to decide for himself in making his own existance. Let us come together and settle this land question first! Just who really and truly own this land? Who was here first? We say this is our land and our home. We have our sacred stone tablets which was given to us by the Grreat Spirit, Masau'u and upon which is written the boundary of the Hopi,land. We are ready to prove this. Our head men are anxious to settle this first. We have suffered long enough and the time has come for us to speak and act. It is time that the general public listen to our voice. This is a plan laid down for this land by our forefathers and by the Great Spirit, Masau'u. It will be fulfilled.

The short history of ^{the} a whiteman plainly shows that his policy has been to exterminate the Indians and to confiscate his property. Today we face the most critical time in the history of mankind. What the Navajo and government of the United States do to the most peaceful, self-supporting and truly democratic people in this country will be done also to them. This is the divine law of this land.

We have every right to be Hopis, to live as Hopis and to worship as we please. We have lived in true democracy, a democracy in which there is no written laws, no police, prisons, paid politicians and taxation. We believed this is good and right for us so we will not abandon it. We will not sell our heritage, our homeland and our birthrights for a few pieces of silver. We still await for our true 'white brother' who will come and read our stone tablets. He alone will clean this land of all wicked forces and settle matters for a common man. So we urge you gentlemen to give our words a very serious consideration for we speak truths and facts.