

Weather in Brief

Considerable high cloudiness tonight, possibly a few showers. Cooler Friday. Details page 6.

THE TRUTH Independence



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GALLUP, NEW MEXICO 87301, THURSDAY

Outsiders Split

Joint Use Hearings Spur Offer By Navajos To Talk With Hopis

An Expression of Opinion
By Congressman Sam Steiger

PHOENIX— The Hopi-Navajo Boundary Bill that I've introduced in the Congress and that is now scheduled for hearings on April 17 and 18, will establish which areas of the so-called "joint use areas" (in dispute for over 30 years) will be available for use by either the Hopi or the Navajo. The reason that there is now a great deal of emphasis on this matter by both the Hopi and the Navajo is because of the presence of this bill and the fact that hearings on it have been set.

The Navajo now says that they want to negotiate with the Hopi. I would prefer that the issue were resolved that way. On the other hand, I would also point out that prior to the announcement of the hearings on my bill, the Navajo would never talk to the Hopi about it.

If I were a Navajo I wouldn't want to talk about it either, since I have the full use of the two million acres

in dispute. Any negotiations I enter with the Hopi might mean that I would lose a portion of the two million acres.

If I were a Navajo or the tribal chairman of the Navajo, I would struggle against any kind of settlement, which is exactly what is happening.

The boundary mentioned in the bill was provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. If it is not satisfactory to both, we can probably adjust it in the hearings. The point is, that for 30 years nobody has been willing to face the problem.

Whatever traditional rivalry has been between the Hopi and the Navajo is really not at the basis of this problem. This problem is the result of the federal government's failure to take any responsibility when they ostensibly resolved this problem by announcing, years ago, that these lands in dispute would be, in their language, "held in joint use" for the Hopi and the Navajo. Instead of designating which lands were for

which tribe, they walked away from it. There are 100,000 plus Navajo and 6,000 Hopi and the Navajo just moved in and took over the land.

In short, this land dispute is the result of a vaguely worded ill-conceived federal court judgment which has gone unattended by a whole series of Departments of Interiors, Bureaus of Indian Affairs, and by a whole series of Congresses.

I'm a member of the Hopi-Navajo Boundary Dispute Commission which was formed some 12 years ago. I've been in office for six years and we've never had a meeting.

You must realize how intense the feelings have gotten in this matter and that somebody's going to start over this matter unless we do something.

Everybody has ducked this issue for a long time including the Congress and, while there is nothing but political jeopardy in it for any Congressman who plays a role, I think it is high time that somebody did take the bull by the horns.

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Idaho Indians

...face cultural conflicts.
Story page 10.

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Councilman Says Indians' Water Rights Are Sought

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PINON, Ariz. — Councilman Donald Mose today lashed out at non-Indian interests he says are trying to stir up a war between the Navajo and Hopi tribes. Councilman Donald Mose is from Pinon, Ariz., which is in the midst of the disputed area. He has been directly involved in the problem as a result of the unsettled land status between the Navajo and Hopi Tribes.

"The basis of the whole problem is water rights for the Central Arizona project,, Mose asserted. "Arizona Congressmen, the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Hopi Tribal attorney John Boyden and others have combined their efforts to stir up discord among the Navajo and Hopi people."

"The Navajos have made it plain that they are determined to protect their water rights. By using the Hopis to divert attention from the water rights issue, outside interests hope to isolate the Navajos and picture them as trouble-makers," Mose continued. "By doing this, these people intend to create a climate against the Navajos in any action they take to assert their interests in the water in the lower Colorado basin," Mose said.

He observed that this is the "old game of divide and conquer used by the BIA for many years against the Indians."

Mose said the issues of fencing and impoundment of livestock, in the areas over which the Hopi and Navajos have gotten into disputes have been blown out of all proportion. He claims there have been efforts to cause violence so that outside enforcement forces could be brought in and accusations that the 130,000 Navajos are abusing the 6,000 Hopis.

"Despite the efforts to create the war there has been no violence, and there should not be if the Navajo and Hopi people keep their heads and refuse to be led into a confrontation," Councilman Mose said.

Mose said the Indians have prior rights to water which were established by the Winters Doctrine which allowed Indians to

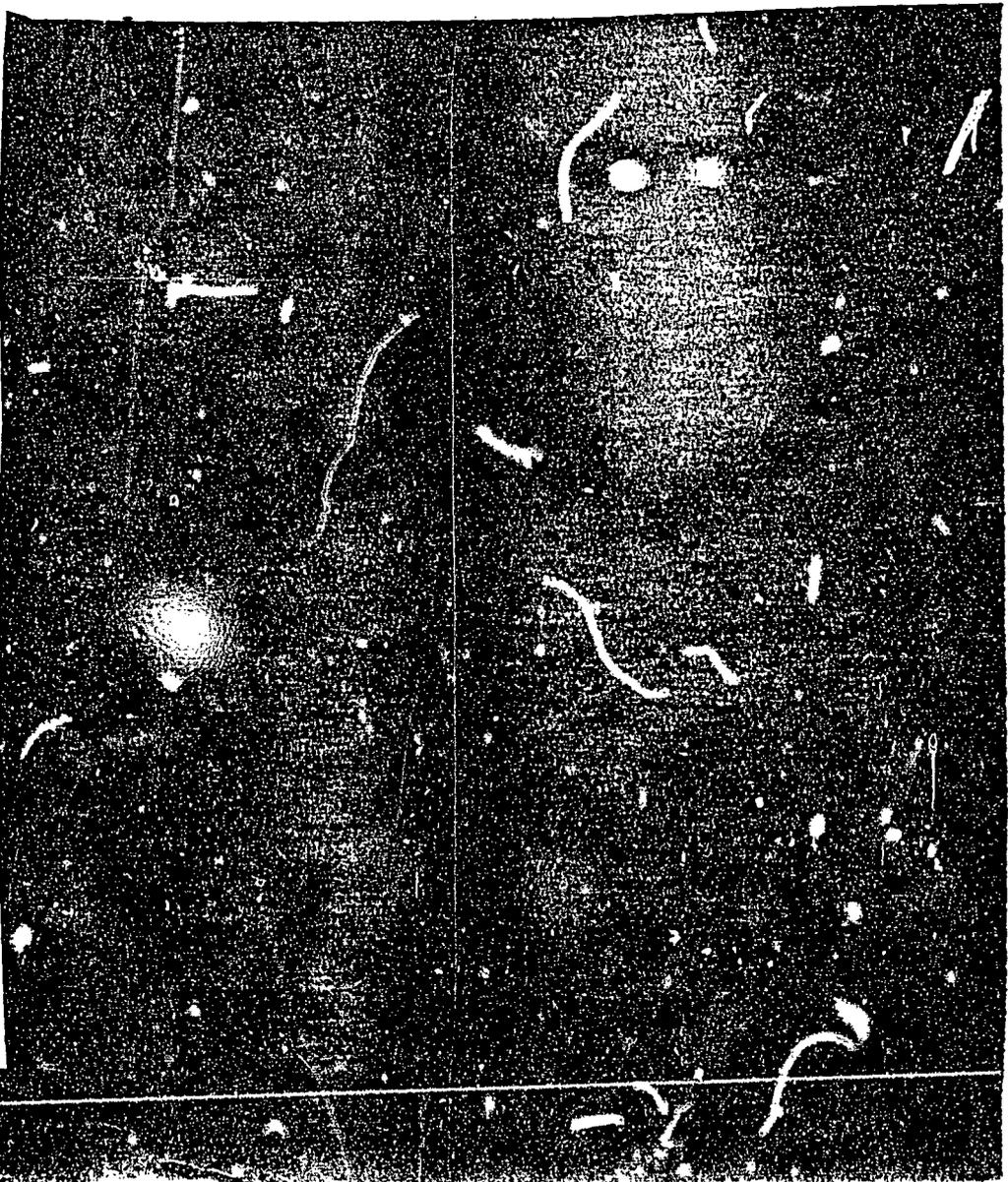
assert their rights to water rising or flowing through Indian reservations. He added that the Hopi tribe probably has rights to water under this doctrine, but are not being informed on this.

He noted that the major problems facing the two tribes, in the present instance, was not the land problem and not the reapportionment problem.

tionment problem.

"The major problem is to recognize our true interests in forming a united front against those who want to exploit us. We must let all Navajos and Hopis know that only through unity and cooperation can we fight for what is essentially the survival

(Continued on page six)



Split...

(Continued from Page 1)

of both tribes."

The councilman stressed that since Chairman Peter MacDonald has taken office the Navajos have led the way in accomplishing many things which have benefited all Indians. He noted that the Emergency Employment Program was first planned for \$5 million yearly total, but was raised to 18 million at MacDonald's insistence for the benefit of all Indians.

"MacDonald's moves to unify all Indians simply scores the pants off of the bureaucrats and special interest groups. No longer can they use us against each other. They could find all Indians coming to the support of even the smallest of tribes in their conflicts with the government, states, or those who would exploit them. This cannot be allowed to happen so now the Navajos must be discredited and isolated," Mose said. He added, "Because of this it has become essential to discredit the Navajos."

Mose questioned the role of Hopi attorney John Boyden in this affair. "Why hasn't Boyden done something about Hopi water rights? Why isn't Boyden telling the Hopi tribe anything about their water rights? The land over which all the fighting is being done will not be worth living on nor will it support life when all the water runs out."

He noted, "Boyden appears to be working hand-in-glove with the Arizona Congressmen, and it would serve Arizona's water interests to use the Hopis to distract public attention from the water issue."

Mose is one of 74 elected delegates to the Navajo Tribal Council, the ruling body of the Navajo Tribe. The Navajos are the largest Indian tribe in the country with over 130,000 members on a reservation covering an area larger than the state of West Virginia.

Mose said the Navajos and Hopis are not going anywhere. He said they have lived side-by-side for generations. "Why should we fight each other and hurt each other and serve the interests of others by doing so?"

"They are trying to get us to fight over something that was a mistake of the government when the 1882 Executive Order Area was established by the president many years ago by drawing lines on a map

on a Washington wall without surveys or determining who lived there. It is not the Hopis' fault. It is not the Navajos' fault."

Mose said since then nothing has been done by anyone in government to work out a solution to a bad government decision. "The federal court left a solution up in the air, and then the BIA made the problem worse by imposing a freeze on all development. I should like to point out that I am saying the federal government should attempt solving the problem, but I would like to add that the government should serve as a disinterested reviewer of what the tribes agree on."

"The two tribes could solve the problem. There are solutions available and the Navajos are willing to reason once they realize that the two tribes can benefit each other more by a united front on vital issues such as water."

Just before the present controversy erupted, Mose said that the two tribal chairmen, Peter MacDonald of the Navajo tribe and Clarence Hamilton of the Hopi tribe, had been holding meetings to negotiate the problem. He said that Hamilton had even addressed the Navajo Tribal Council and was warmly received.

"It is a strange coincidence that as soon as Chairman MacDonald and Chairman Hamilton started to seek solutions for these problems that the monkey wrenches started being thrown into the picture."

Mose questioned whether Hopi attorney John Boyden was seriously interested in finding a solution even if it would benefit and satisfy both the Hopi and Navajo people.

"Who is Boyden really representing?" he asked. "The Hopis should look out for this man. I think he is working with other water, economic, and political interests. I am sure these interests are not beneficial to the Hopi tribe."

In reference to possible solutions to the land problem, Mose said that if the government would support definite plans for relocation of Navajos living in the disputed area to good land, acceptable to these Navajo people that he felt the Navajos would cooperate. Such a proposal would and should involve input by the Navajo people to be relocated, as well as the Tribal Council.

"As it is the BIA, the Assistant Secretary of Interior, Harrison Loesch, the Arizona Congressional delegation, and John Boyden, put together Congressman Sam Steiger's bill to take away our land without any plan favorable to the relocation of Navajos living there."

"This was done in secret without consultation or information to the Navajo tribe," Mose said. "If the handling of this particular bill was not designed to promote trouble between the tribes, then why weren't both the Hopi and Navajo leaders, and the people involved, brought into it?"

Mr. Mose further stated, "Where is this new policy called, 'self-determination'? I was led to believe self-determination meant that Indians were finally to determine their own futures which included peaceful co-existence with fellow tribesmen. Senator Steiger's bill is a clear example of non-Indian determination detrimental to their future growth."

On the subject of the formation of the all Indian legislative district in Arizona (which some Hopis have objected to as putting them at the mercy of the Navajos) Mose said he felt this action was also stirred up to add to the trouble between the tribes.

"If the Hopis want a representative to the Arizona State Legislature, they should be able to put up a candidate. The Navajos are willing to work with the Hopis on this. We are all Indians; we have similar problems; we understand these better than non-Indian representatives; why shouldn't we be reasonable and cooperative?" Mose asked.

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