

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Commissioner Brophy

DATE: December 26, 1945

FROM : Walter V. Woehlke

SUBJECT: Mr. Zeh's Hopi report.

In the letter of transmittal, Mr. Zeh asks whether you want him to return to Keams Canyon for additional information. I doubt whether worth-while results could be obtained immediately. The three meetings brought to light nothing new. As to the specific charges, it is not clear from the report whether Roger Quochoytewa supplied evidence or whether the agency staff answered the allegations. If Roger has not had the opportunity publicly to support his specific charges, he should have a chance, but the discussion of the general economic situation should not be reopened.

The general situation should be taken up again when A. L. Wathen reports on the feasibility of his scheme for pumping Colorado River water onto the mesa from above Lee's Ferry for gravity distribution to central Arizona. This plan might affect the Hopis and the Navajos in Districts 4, 5 and 7.

In the meantime, the Solicitor's Office is working on the legal phases of the Hopi-Navajo problem in connection with the question as to who is entitled to the minerals. When this opinion comes down and the Wathen plan is far enough advanced to determine whether it contains any possibility for water in the Hopi country, then the Hopi problem should be attacked vigorously.

Woehlke
Woehlke.

Simmons

