



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INDIAN

P. R. S. NO. 333 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2-Ind Hopi June 20, 1957

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your letter of June 3 to the President regarding the controversy as to the ownership of lands set aside by Executive order dated December 16, 1882, has been referred to this Department for consideration and reply.

The Executive order set aside the lands "for the use and occupancy of the Hopi (Hopi) and such other Indians as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to settle thereon."

This reservation is completely surrounded by a reservation belonging to the Navajo Tribe. The Hopi Indians claim that the 1882 reservation was set aside for their exclusive use and that the Navajo Indians are unlawful intruders with no right to be there. The Navajo Indians claim that they are "other Indians" whom the Secretary of the Interior has seen fit to settle on the 1882 reservation, within the meaning of the Executive order, and that they have valid interests in the reservation.

S. 602 and H. R. 3700 "To provide that the United States hold in trust for the Indians entitled to the use thereof the lands described in the Executive order of December 16, 1882, and for adjudicating the conflicting claims thereof of the Navajo and Hopi Indians, and for other purposes", authorizes an adjudication by a three-judge district court, with a right of appeal directly to the Supreme Court, of the conflicting claims of the Navajo and Hopi Indians to these lands. The litigation will be in the nature of a quiet title action.

The recognized governing bodies of both the Navajo and Hopi Tribes have asked for this type of legislation and the bills were drafted by the attorneys representing the two tribes, in consultation with representatives of this Department.

We believe the only feasible and equitable solution to the problem is the enactment of legislation along the line of S. 602 and

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S.L. 3700. S.L. 3700 has passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The Indian Affairs Subcommittee is considering S.L. 3700 and S.L. 3707, but has not taken any formal action on them.

Your interest in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have further questions about the matter, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest - Roger Ernest
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Henry C. Jones, President
The Trailblazers
Leland Lodge, Box 716
Banner, California

cc: Area Director, Phoenix, Arizona (w/copy of incoming letter)
Area Director, Gallup, New Mexico (w/copy of incoming letter)
Superintendent, Navajo Agency (w/copy of incoming letter)
Superintendent, Hopi Agency (w/copy of incoming letter)

LEB:tlc/hjd