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Scope and Content

The Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute Documents, 1854-1984, are not a comprehensive body of material dealing with the land problem and relocation. Rather, they are composed of items collected by, and generated by, Jim Wright and Merlene DuBre in the course of documenting the plight of the refugees created by P.L. 93-531, the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974. For one thing, the chronological span is not nearly as broad as the title suggests; although the history of the dispute is well covered, the bulk of the collection dates from the 1970s and early 1980s. Most important of all, the user should be aware that the Navajo and Hopi viewpoints are not equally represented here. For several reasons, including the greater cooperation given by the Navajo Tribe, the disproportionately large number of Navajos affected by compulsory relocation, and the investigators' personal sentiments, this collection deals more with the Navajos than the Hopis.

The material in the collection is quite diverse, and has been arranged in five series on the basis of either subject or format. The first series deals with relocation, a fate in store for as many as 9,000 Navajos and Hopis living on land partitioned to the other tribe. Included here is information about the Navajos' unsuccessful attempt to acquire the House Rock Valley-Paria Plateau area in compensation for land lost to the Hopis; correspondence from central figures such as Peter MacDonald, Abbott Sekaquaptewa, Sam Steiger, Barry Goldwater, and James Abourezk; and various publications of the Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission. Among the odds and ends is a certain amount of propaganda reflecting both the Navajo and Hopi points of view about relocation and the land dispute.

Most of the information about the land dispute, the progenitor of compulsory relocation, may be found in series 2. The newspaper files contain copies of articles printed by regional and national newspapers from 1854 to 1984. Important legal landmarks appear in the legal files, including the crucial *Healing v. Jones*, 1962. From the legislative files, it is possible to get some idea of the complex background to P.L. 93-531 and P.L. 96-305. And finally, the unpublished reports present an interesting potpourri of articles on many facets of Navajo life and the impact of relocation.

The third series documents the grants and the behind-the-scenes work which supported the project of gathering information on relocation. Correspondence related to the grant is included, as are proposals, reports, financial records, travel vouchers, and other housekeeping details. Most important in this series is Folder 22, a three-ring binder containing transcriptions or descriptions of about half of the taped interviews with relocatees and other participants in the land dispute.

Series 4 consists entirely of tapes, mostly in cassette but with some reel-to-reel as well. About 200 tapes may be found here, the vast majority devoted to interviews with federal and tribal officials, congressmen, lawyers, and Navajo and Hopi people affected by the land dispute and relocation. These tapes are unique, presenting a picture of the controversy which is surely unavailable anywhere else.

The fifth and final series is of oversize material, broadsides which are too large for standard archival storage. Most are posters protesting relocation

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