DAN E. GARVEY
GOVERNOR

HAL MITCHELL
SECRETARY

Executive Office
State House
Phoenix, Arizona

May
Sixth
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Honorable Carl Hayden
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I am enclosing copies of two letters addressed to Robert O. Kelly, Arizona's surplus property purchasing agent, concerning a faulty title in the deeds which were recently given us by the War Assets Administration to Ft. Huachuca and several of the auxiliary airfields. Our immediate concern, however, is with the Ft. Huachuca Artillery Range and Luke Auxiliary Airfield No. 7.

In addition to the information contained in the two enclosures, Mr. Kelly conferred with Army Engineers in Los Angeles last week. In addition to the lands mentioned in the enclosed, he found that 3,853 acres in the artillery range is also involved, in Public Land Order No. 16, which comes under Executive Order 9526, which states that this acreage will revert to the Department of the Interior at the end of the duration of the war plus six months. That time, of course, has not yet officially elapsed. There are, therefore, three things which it appears we need to know:

1. The status of the land in the Artillery Range transferred to the Department of the Interior before the deed to Ft. Huachuca was recorded by the State.

2. The status of this land after recording of the deed.

3. The status of the land covered by Public Land Order No. 16, under Executive Order 9526.

USFH-00002101

Senator Carl Hayden
No. 2

May 6, 1949

Mr. Kelly informs me that the Army Engineers feel that the War Assets Administration is at fault for giving deeds to land which that agency did not control. The situation at the auxiliary airfields mentioned above is similar to that at Ft. Huachuca. It would seem that the present need is to get the three Federal groups concerned together in conference, that is, the Army, the Interior Department and the War Assets Administration, and insist that they get the problem ironed out among themselves, in order to correct the fault which now exists in Arizona's title to the several properties.

I understand the lands involved or most of them were conveyed or are in the process of being conveyed to the Department of the Interior to be reconveyed to the War Department. We went through with our part of the bargain, but the Federal government agencies did not complete theirs.

The proper conveyances and exchanges should be made immediately, in order that the War Assets Administration be put in a position to give us clear deeds before it passes out of existence.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Dwight Griffith

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