Boyden, John S., 4-8-1955, Letter to Elder Spencer W. Kimball. Copy from Tribal Government Services, Hopi Tribe, Kykotsmovi, AZ.

[redacted] years back we both sat in the Council House of the Navajo Indian Tribe when they reached a decision not to employ me as their attorney. Of course, I did not then realize that I was to be employed by the Hopi Indians on the other side of an all important boundary question between the two Tribes.

In preparing the question I have become firmly convinced that the Hopis are on the right side legally and morally, although as a practical matter it will be very difficult to upset the status quo. I cannot help but feel that divine providence had something to do with giving me the opportunity to be upon the right side of this question representing a people deserving of my best efforts.

Believing you might be interested in the question, I am enclosing a copy of a Brief that has been prepared in an attempt to reverse or modify a previous Solicitor's Opinion of the Department of Interior.

There are two or three historical references in the Brief indicating that it was necessary to establish a reservation to protect the Hopi people from the Mormons, who were settling on the Hopi lands. I did not make an answer for the Mormons for two reasons. First, such answer would have no bearing upon the issue involved in the Brief. Second, I have earnestly endeavored to avoid the injection of my personal religious beliefs into the legal work of my Indian clients.

It would have been a comparatively easy matter to have cited the incident occurring in 1865 when Jacob Hamlin, the Mormon, made his sixth visit to the mesas and tried to persuade some of the Oraibi people to come to Utah and live with the Mormons. The Museum of Northern Arizona in an article "The Navajo Wars, 1823-1870" reprints a comment

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...m James A. Little who wrote on the life of Jacob Hamlin, as follows:

> "However, it must be said of him that he was a very honest and righteous man and always just in his deals with the Indians. Consequently he had great influence with them, but in spite of their belief in him, could not be persuaded to move to Utah.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John S. Boyden

JSB:cw

Encl.