

SIXTH WEEK

Presiding: Nelson Damon Roll Call: 48 Invocation: Harold Drake

Discussion continued on Proposal to Amend the Present Navajo Irrigation Project Legislation

Harold Drake: Briefly outlined the field trip made to the Navajo Irrigation project to inspect the lands under consideration for addition to the project. He wished to have further discussion on the proposed resolution.

Frank Luther: Stated that the resolution had been read to the Council and he wished to have it re-read in order for the Councilmen to have a better understanding of it.

Carl Beyal, Legislative Secretary, read the proposed resolution which had been read last week.

Frank Luther: Made a motion to approve the resolution as read.

Tyler Harris: Seconded the motion to approve as read.

Vote: For: 48 - Opposed: 0 Approved.

Progress Report Concerning Aneth Economic Development Program

Henry Taliman: Stated that the Resources Committee had been working on this item; however, all reports on recommendations had not been received at this time. He believed additional time would be required to compile all of the recommendations. He felt that the oil well activity in the Aneth area had definitely curtailed the use of the range for livestock purposes. He estimated that 800 active wells were in the area. Mention was made of the possibility of issuing grazing permits to the people in this area to the land made available in the McCracken Mesa Exchange Area. He recommended some type of assistance be provided the Indians in this area to offset the loss of their range, farm lands and stock water supplies.

Howard Gorman: Stated that this controversy had been in existence for several years. It was caused by the development of the oil and gas activities in the Aneth area. He stated that the families were compensated \$500 each for the loss of their range and other resources and this was paid from Tribal funds.

He recommended that the Tribal Land Investigation Department and the Tribal Resources Committee negotiate with the oil companies and the State of Utah to attempt to resolve this problem. He stated the State of Utah receives 37½% of the income from this area and could possibly use a portion of this revenue to assist the people. The funds are to be used for the betterment of the Indians in the State of Utah. The Bureau should take an active part in attempting to resolve this matter. He mentioned a strip of land between the McCracken Mesa and the Aneth Area might be made available for use for several years and thereby relieve the Aneth Area, until the range conditions could be improved. He did not believe the Navajo Tribe should pay for all the damages in this area. He believed the Bureau and the oil companies had a responsibility in assisting in resolving this problem.