

Thursday morning, December 12, 1957

The Chairman:

Will you please call the roll?

Carl Beyal:

Calls the roll. 70 Council members present.

The Chairman:

We have a quorum, so we will proceed with our Council activities. I want to briefly state that all of you who might be on Committee work and who are not present when the roll is called, I wish you would make that known to the Secretary or the office so that you will not be overlooked in getting a day or so deducted from your time. That has happened already so if you will let us know about it, we will see that you are taken care of.

At this time I would like to ask the Reverend Mr. Clark to give us the invocation this morning

Reverend Clark

Delivered the invocation.

The Chairman:

We have quite a number of very important subjects that we would like to have the Council consider, which Council members from various parts of the country have brought to me for possible discussion during this Council session. They are all worthy and very important subjects and should be discussed and should be cared for by the Tribal Council in session, but we are always confronted with the subjects that we have for discussion all of this week, which are all of emergency character so when the time does come to discuss these very things and we must take them up, I feel that in the not too far distant future, possibly by the middle of next month, as our office forces have said, that we can take up what we have here and get these things on their way and take up others, but those things that have been brought to my attention either in writing or individually, have been registered and filed in my office and will be placed on the Agenda and I feel grateful for your bringing those to my attention and grateful for the work in the field, that you are really working for the Tribe and, of course, we feel that it falls to our lot as a candidate we have said we would try to help and this is the first time I have had several letters from the various parts of the country saying the work the Tribal Council, the Grazing Committee and the Chapter Officers are doing is that they are very diligent in

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working with the people and I want to express my appreciation to the Council again that you are working for your people. On account of this other request coming to us, or rather something that came to us of great significance, it was brought to our attention by the Ford Foundation that we delegate a number of Councilmen to visit the various countries as a group to go through those countries whose Governments are standing on their own feet and taking care of themselves better than in the past when no help was extended to them. It was felt that our Tribe was in that state where they are just beginning to feel the importance of self-reliance, and I believe when you see the other countries, how they are doing it, you might get some inspiration to do it for the Navajo people. This would be to go out to all the countries under the guidance of the Ford Foundation and it was suggested that we send some delegates, ten in number or above, to visit Puerto Rico, Pakistan and other countries, including the Phillipine Islands, and make a trip around the world. Some of us may still think the earth is flat, but it is round so I thought I could make a report to you on that today and tomorrow and that will determine when we will set the next Council meeting, as there are a lot of important things for your discussion that have been brought to me and we are only discussing emergency things at this time so we have until tomorrow to finish it and we will continue to discuss the proposed Resolution that was brought to you yesterday at noon and the explanation of it and we have a delegation from New Mexico and also we have our consultant Dean Person and I will call upon Mr. Person to give us an analysis of the water situation we are discussing and we hope we will terminate this discussion shortly so that we can go on to another subject.

Dean Person:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Tribal Council: I have reviewed the water supply situation for the Navajo Project under the two proposals for operating the San Juan River which has been proposed in the October and December meeting at Window Rock and Santa Fe. In both of these proposals, the existing Navajo rights on the San Juan River will not be affected. Under both of these proposals, the Navajo Reservation with a capacity of 1,705,000 acre feet will be used. The first proposal was the diversion requirement of 508,000 acre feet for the Navajo Project at 110,000 acre feet for the San Juan-Chama Project would have first and equal priority of the San Juan River water. With equal priorities, the two projects would share shortages in direct proportion to the diversion requirements. Under this proposal, it was planned that an additional 224,000 acre feet of water from the San Juan River would be used for municipal and industrial purposes and this block of water would have a priority second to the Navajo and San Juan-Chama Projects.

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Now, under these operating conditions, with the Navajo and San Juan having first right and the municipal and industrial water having second right, the only shortages the Navajo Project had in the 27 year period 1927-1954 would have been 9% in 1951 and 5% in 1954. These shortages are so small they could be considered negligible.

Now, the shortages that would have occurred on the 224,000 acre block of industrial water during this 1928-1954 period would have been 57% in 1947, 100% in 1951, 5% in 1952 and 100% in 1954. In other words, in 1951 and 1954 the industrial block of water would not have got any. During the other 23 years, there would have been no shortages on the industrial block of water. Now, shortages of 57% has occurred one year and 100% has occurred two years in this 27 year period on industrial water and definitely these would be intolerable shortages and preclude any possibility of selling this block of water.

The second proposal was the Navajo Project and the San Juan-Chama Project and the industrial block of water would all have equal priority. This would mean all of these projects would share in the water supply shortages in direct proportion to the water requirements. Under these operating conditions, with all projects having an equal right, the shortage that would have occurred during the 27 year period from 1928 to 1954 would have been 15% short in 1947; 35% in 1951; 1% in 1952 and 34% short in 1954. During the other 23 years of the twenty-seven year period, there would have been no shortages.

Now the irrigation project shortages of 35% and 34% has occurred twice in this 27 year period and would be considered relatively minor shortages. We have a lot of good irrigation projects in the West that have occasionally as much as 50% shortage.

Now, for the industrial water, which would have also a shortage of 34% and 35% during two years of this 27 year period, these shortages would be considered tolerable shortages. That is, you could live with them and I think under these shortages the 224,000 acre feet of industrial water could be developed and sold when the need for this water arises. We do believe a large industrial water demand will develop in the San Juan River Basin. These industrial developments in the area will bring both direct and indirect benefits to the Navajo people. Since the operating conditions under which all projects have equal rights results in making a considerably greater water supply for industrial users, we believe this proposed operating condition would be the most desirable from the standpoint of the Navajo people. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, that completes my report. (Applause)

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The Chairman:

I would like to report at this time something that is not too good a report from one of our schools where 60 children were examined for some sickness and they found out that many there had hepatitis. You remember that epidemic afflicted our people in the Tuba City area, which came as a blessing in disguise because that is how we got in touch with the Cornell-New York University people who are doing such excellent work at this time. Those of us who have children should be cautious because this could be contagious.

We will ask Mr. Larry Davis to continue the legal discussion of this proposal.

Larry Davis:

Members of the Council: It appears to me that the explanation here - I have covered the presentation the best we could, but while we are still here, if anything is not clear to you, we are all available, not only myself, but Dean Person and Mr. Keesee and the other members of the delegation from New Mexico and Mr. Crosse are available for the questions. Do any of the rest of you gentlemen have a statement you wish to make before the questions start?

(Chorus: No.)

Larry Davis:

It is now up to you and I believe all of us, myself, Dean Person and the people from New Mexico are agreed the draft of the legislation before you is the best we could do at this time. Of course, there probably will be some minor changes before it passes Congress but we believe the substance of it is correct and is in your best interests.

Grey Valentine:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Tribal Council: Delegates from New Mexico and other experts on this subject: I would just like to ask a question here and I would like especially for Mr. Keesee to give us a reply to this. We see on the display map the crosshatched area which I believe is involved in this Navajo project. I believe the area part of the map is considerable. Knowing this, I am thinking about what happened yesterday. We were informed that a lot of our Navajo people were quite concerned about a portion of land that would be given up by us. Although that portion of land and that Glen Canyon project was rather small, still the people were very much concerned although the land in that section was perhaps inaccessible, still they

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objected to giving up such land that they have been using. However, what I have in mind and I wish to ask about is the drawing shown on the map. Is it that if the plan is carried out all the land within the crosshatched area on the map would be subject to irrigation or subject to this Navajo project? Is my understanding of it correct? Or, will the irrigation only take place on those portions where we see them colored in yellow and green? Then, what about Navajo stock owners who are living within this area? What would happen to them? They have stock and depend on it and they have certain parts of that land they use for grazing purposes. Just what would take place for them? Would they have to be assigned land for further use, etc.?

Jerry Keesee:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Navajo Tribal Council: In answer to your question, Mr. Valentine, the area crosshatched in yellow is in the irrigated project. (Pointing to map) It is on a part of the project. If you mean the boundary line, this line here, only those lands that are colored, they are irrigated. The lands that are white would not be irrigated.

I believe your next question was in regard to the people living in that area who are raising cattle or livestock. They would have to be replaced or another place found for them. That is only where the irrigated lands are. People who have grazing rights in the area that is not colored will not be affected. People who have land where the project will be developed will be affected. It seems to me it is a question whether the Navajo Tribe wants to have irrigation and take care of more people or have livestock. Of course, you could also raise livestock on irrigated farms.

Walter Collins:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: Yesterday we asked about the completion time of the Glen Canyon Dam. We were then informed it would take years before that would be completed and filled. Now, I have the same question with respect to the Navajo Dam. That is the construction or completion time of that dam and also the filling of the reservoir so those are the two questions I have. How many years hence would we realize the irrigation on those sections colored in green and yellow? That is the third question. We, in District 13, perhaps will be subject to this irrigation very much because many acres involved are in District 13 and although we say we will try to care for the people who have livestock, we must consider the fact that irrigation is something that is needed by the people in that area. Perhaps some of the people are aware of this and for that reason they have not done much in the way of

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filling their carrying capacity in grazing. Then also, there is the school problem that is involved I believe because the situation is such that people are located in widely scattered areas making it very difficult to conform to some central location where they would have schools. I think if these projects are completed within a period of ten years, I am pretty sure it would help the people a great deal probably if they had received training in farming, etc.

The Chairman:

We have three questions. How long would it take to fill? What is the estimated years from now before it is finished and they can start farming?

Jerry Keesee:

It is quite hard to do, but I will give you a guess. The Navajo Dam I believe is scheduled to be completed within five years. According to the information I have from engineering magazines, the contract for the building of the dam is scheduled for February of 1958. As to the filling of the reservoir, if we have one good year we can fill it in one year. The third question is when will we have land for irrigation. We first have to have the project authorized, which is the purpose of this legislation which you are considering now. In the event the legislation is authorized this year and Congress will give us some Sputnik money, we feel in about five to seven years we will have land for development and settlement purposes. It all depends on how largely Congress provides us with money and how rapidly we can get our authorization and much of that depends on the full support of all of you behind this legislation.

I would like to elaborate a little bit more on Grey Valentine's question. The area, particularly in regard to the displacement of people - the irrigated area we have in mind will provide 1400 farm units and that means then that 1400 families can be located on those lands. Just how many are located in that area now I do not know but if the irrigated area was used for irrigated pastures, there would be a great increase in the number of animal units that could be raised on those farms. At present we feel 5,116 sheep units can be supported on those irrigated lands, that is, the year around and if in irrigated pastures, as a matter of comparison, they could support 436,000 sheep units the year round and I believe that is more sheep units than you are allowed on the whole Reservation.

The Chairman:

We will have a ten minute recess.

(Whereupon at 10:10 a.m. a 10 minute recess was taken.)

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The Chairman:

The Council will come to order please. Mr. Ned Hatathli has the floor.

Ned Hatathli:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Navajo Tribal Council and friends: I have about three questions that I would like to have clarified. On top of that I would like to briefly review the Tribal position in regard to this proposed project.

The first question, Mr. Davis, is the proposed irrigation project, especially in the area lying south of Fruitland and Kirtland, takes in lands which have been leased to the Utah Construction Company and also some leased lands where a lot of oil companies are operating in the Bisti area. What conflict, if any, do we have in regards to this area as far as proposed subjugation is concerned?

My next question, perhaps Mr. Keesee could clarify that: I understand there is some concern as to who is going to be responsible in the subjugation of these lands. At first we understood the Bureau of Indian Affairs was going to undertake the project, but lately I have heard the Bureau of Reclamation was going to subjugate these irrigation lands. I believe that question is very important because of the fact if we know for sure the Bureau of Indian Affairs is going to take over the subjugation project, there would be jobs available for some Navajos and if the subjugation of lands is going to be taken on by the Bureau of Reclamation, we will probably run up against the same obstacles we have encountered in regard to the Glen Canyon Dam Project where a lot of that construction work is under Union organization.

My third question has to do with the two proposed dam projects, the Navajo Dam and the Glen Canyon Dam. You will note these two major projects are situated very closely on the same stream. What difficulties or what conflicts have we to encounter here in regards to the amount of water that each dam is counting on for future use? This probably has all been determined and we would like to get that information from the experts. The Navajo Tribal Council has gone on record as far back as I can remember for the last seven years favoring this Upper Colorado River Storage Project which includes the Navajo Dam. We have exerted some effort. We have spent money in pushing and in helping out these projects. A lot of you Council members have been members of the organization which went to Washington a number of times to lobby for this cause. The organization I am referring to is the Aqualantes. I believe the thinking of every member of the Council is that we hope that we will see the day in the very near future that this proposed

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project would be a reality, so what have we got to say to that other than to just approve the proposed resolution and the Bill which is attached, asking for these funds of Congress so that we can instigate the irrigation project. We will probably run up against a lot of difficulties. We have already. We have heard about man-made moons going around the earth which is taking a lot of money away from domestic projects. We may encounter the same difficulty when we present this Bill requesting funds for this irrigation and by a Presidential Order issued recently we know we are going to encounter this obstacle where it will be hard to get funds for the purpose we have here.

In the last two years that I have worked with the various representatives, I find these men who are here today have worked very diligently for this cause - Mr. Reynolds from the New Mexico Stream Commission and Mr. Dean Person who is employed by the Tribe, Mr. Keesee and our attorneys. I think this would be a good time to thank each and every one of them for the fine devotion they have given us in working with us, in working out a lot of these problems and finally, we are proposing a Bill to Congress requesting funds and authorization so that some day we hope to relocate a lot of our Navajo people on this irrigation project. With this in mind, and with the thinking that every member of the Council is in favor of this, I would at this time make a Motion that we approve the proposed Resolution and attached Bill. Let us get behind this proposal of a dam and see if we can get it through Congress. I believe if and when we get these irrigation lands available, we will have people to go on these irrigated lands. We have already expended money and will expend more money in the next eight or nine years training our own Navajo people in the Shiprock farm training program so that we will have men available who will know how to make a living off the land.

The Chairman:

Mr. Davis, can you answer the first question?

Larry Davis:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: I will just answer the first question which is about the possible conflict between the irrigated area and oil leases. Mr. Keesee can answer the question of conflict with the Utah Construction Company coal lease and the question of who is going to build the project, the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Relocation Bureau. The fourth question about the possible difficulties of filling the Glen Canyon and Navajo Reservoir will be answered by John Bliss who is a member of the Upper Colorado Stream Commission representing the State of New Mexico.

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I want to say on behalf of myself and also Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Keesee, Mr. Bliss and Mr. Crosse and all the other people from the State of New Mexico and the Bureau and Tribal staff who worked on getting this project on the road, we appreciate this nice expression of thanks that Mr. Hatathli made.

Now, as to the question of oil leases: This part of the area is covered with oil leases and probably all of it will be covered with oil leases at one time but all the oil leases by the Navajo Tribe give the oil company the right to occupy only so much of surface as is necessary for their activity in getting oil. The ordinary spacing of oil wells is only one well to every 40 acres. They are also required to bury their pipes sufficiently deep in the ground so that they will not interfere with cultivation. During the development period, when they are drilling wells, then they do tear up quite a bit of land and they occupy quite a bit of land but, as soon as the oil well comes in and the oil field gets stabilized, at the most they would only occupy one acre around every oil well and, in many cases, they do not occupy only a few feet around the oil well and by the time this project is completed, the oil activities will constitute hardly any interference at all with the irrigation of the land. There will be only one oil well every forty acres and just a few feet around the oil well.

Jerry Keesee:

In regard to the coal bed, I saw a map yesterday, but the particular beds they had in mind were not outlined and at this time we cannot tell how much of the irrigated land might be affected. I think it will be a very small amount. The map I saw yesterday indicated that the corridor is approximately southwest from Fruitland and in that case, it will only interfere with a little bit of land in here. This does not mean this land will be taken out in that any bed of coal lying there might be too deep to be profitably stripped and until they determine the location of those beds and where the operation will be, we cannot tell what the interference will be, but it will be a very small area involved and what is taken out will be replaced in some other place. As you go on and build the project there is still a final determination to be made on it. In February of last year the Commissioner of Indian Affairs wrote to the Undersecretary requesting that the project be turned over to the Bureau of Reclamation for construction and also for financing. It was apparently their decision that the money for the Navajo Project would have to be supplied from the appropriations under the Upper Colorado River Storage Project Bill, which is Public Law 485 and I think that was the basic reason why they requested the Secretary to transfer the

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construction of the project to the Bureau of Reclamation. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the preparation of his memorandum to the Secretary did not consult with the Commissioner of Reclamation and it was not until some months later that the Commissioner of Reclamation was advised of the plan. Prior to the time the Secretary issued a memorandum to both Commissioners transferring the project, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation wrote a letter to the Secretary regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's position. On August 16th, the Undersecretary, Mr. Chilson, issued a memorandum to the two Commissioners to the effect that the Bureau of Reclamation would build the Navajo Project. On the basis of that, the Commissioner of Reclamation sent a telegram to Salt Lake requesting \$600,000 be included in their budget for 1959. The Budget I left with the Bureau of Reclamation would justify the expenditure of \$600,000 and also include \$525,000 for the fiscal year 1950 and those budgets were submitted along with the Bureau of Reclamation's request that it be specifically identified as money for the Navajo Irrigation Project.

In order to carry out the directive of the Secretary, there was definitely certain correlation that would have to be done between the field offices of both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation. In order to present those to the two Commissioners, Mr. Helander, Mr. Miller from Washington and myself met with Mr. Larsen's staff in October. Based on various correspondence which consisted of four letters and one telegram, we tried to clarify the situation and prepare the memorandum to both Commissioners.

The Bureau of Reclamation's stand was that they interpreted the Secretary's order that they would be a construction agency only which would include the design and supervision of construction of the main canal. There are other steps that must be taken before the project can be built. The main canal delivers your water, but how is the water to be distributed? How is the land going to be subdivided? There are other questions in developing a project plan. The Bureau of Reclamation felt they were not in a position to take over that type of work in view of the fact they had no contacts with the Navajo Tribe in developing the feasibility or authorizing report and were not qualified along those lines. The Bureau of Reclamation was quite emphatic that they would not be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project on and after its completion. Likewise, they were very reluctant to design and build the distribution system which would be necessary to serve your lands. They were willing that the funds for the development or building of the project should come from their funds allocated under the Upper Colorado River Storage Project for the development of those projects. There is no objection to that. At the meeting in October, with a memorandum addressed

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to both Commissioners to clarify the field position, we agreed that the funds for the project would be included in the Bureau of Reclamation Budget but the expenditure of those funds might be between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs depending upon the phase of the work to be done.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs would have to justify the expenditure of money requested from the Bureau of the Budget for that project. The Bureau of Reclamation would not justify those funds. It was definitely agreed that the responsibility for developing the project plan and definite plan report would be that of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and that we could call on the Bureau of Reclamation for any field work such as geological investigations and designs and estimates that we did not have sufficient people to do, but the responsibility of that plan is ours.

The Bureau of Reclamation agreed to take the responsibility of designing and constructing the main canal and various structures upon the location made by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It was also agreed that the Bureau of Indian Affairs would be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project works during and after construction.

In the development of the distributing system and assigning of farms in the field, we took the position also that it would be the responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

About the middle of November a copy of this memorandum was sent to the Commissioner of Reclamation as well as to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for final decision as to the program that had been developed by the field forces to implement the Secretary's orders and as to this date we have not received an answer to that. However, the Area Office recommended its adoption with the exception of the development and distribution on the lateral system which seems to be the only conflicting item in the memorandum as far as the Area Office is concerned. Since the development of the lateral system and development of the farm units will not occur until after your main canal is built and your main lateral, it does not seem that is a particular point at this time, because it may be four or five years after you start your main canal before you begin to develop any of your lands and whether we are wise in attempting to make the decision at this time I do not know. It may be changed but, as the matter stands now, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will build the distribution system and develop the farm units and that is about all I can give you on that.

In regard to the fourth question asked by Mr. Hatathli, Mr. John Bliss will answer that. Mr. Bliss -

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John Bliss:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: I was not here during all of Mr. Hatathli's questions, but he asked if there was any conflict in the filling of Glen Canyon and the filling of the Navajo Reservoir. I want to assure you there is none. The compact provides for two types of reservoir, like the Navajo, which is designated to supply water for an irrigation project. They have the first rights. The water we have to send down to the lower basin is trapped in the larger reservoir like the Glen Canyon and that is used to deliver water to the lower basin and develop the power and they get the water after the irrigation water is fully taken care of.

The Chairman:

May we anticipate any more objections from Southern California to the use of the Glen Canyon water?

John Bliss:

Mr. Jones, I am sure we can expect all kinds of opposition from Southern California! (Laughter) They are going to do everything they can, of course, to prevent any use of waters in the upper basin, because if the water is not used, it goes down to them and they get to use it. However, we have all the river on our side and the right to develop power in the Upper Basin, and we are certainly going to do our utmost to see it is fully and properly developed. Does that answer your question, Mr. Chairman:

The Chairman:

Yes.

Clifford Beck:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Navajo Tribal Council: I did have a question but that has been asked by Mr. Walter Collins and now we have a full explanation given about these projects and what they would do. Yesterday we were informed it would be perhaps twenty years hence before we would find the reality in the building of the Glen Canyon Project. I also was concerned as to how long before we would see the Navajo Dam to be completed and how soon it would be filled but my understanding now is that it will be less than ten years. Since we are clear on many of these things, I feel we should now act upon the Resolution that is before us. Mr. Ned Hatathli has already explained the Tribe's position in regard to the Bill, that we are supporting it and, for that reason, I would like to second the Motion he has made.

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Henry Taliman:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: I had in mind that we would have some word on these projects from our Superintendent. I would appreciate the Chair asking him to give his views on the matter. I was going to ask that the original information be given but it has already been done.

Yellowman:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: I would like to just make a brief statement about this proposal that we have been discussing. I see that it involves lands that are situated in Districts 12 and 13 according to the display map which experts have been telling us there would be water available to take care of the entire Navajo project as represented by this map. Of course, I do not object to this plan, etc., but I do know that since my boyhood days, people all along the San Juan River have been using it for irrigation purposes. We have people who are situated west of Shiprock community, through the Shiprock community itself, Fruitland, up around Farmington and up to this proposed Navajo Dam where other people have farms and they are using the San Juan River for their irrigation purposes. I know that this covers a large group of people, different groups and also a considerable size of land.

In planning these proposals, it is suggested that a diversion would be made toward Albuquerque and another towards the Navajo Irrigation Project. However, I have this in mind. In some years we experience a drought. We see less water. In times like that we know that would be a hardship on some of these different groups of people who are utilizing the San Juan River. We know that when we have poor years there would be little snow in the mountains that contributes to the tributaries of the San Juan. Last year we had a good year when we had heavy rains and there was a good supply of water but in case of years of shortage I feel there will not be sufficient water to take care of all these people who are scattered along the river I have mentioned. Of course, when these projects are completed there will be farms available for Navajo people, but it will not be the older people like us. I am pretty sure it would be for the benefit of our children who are now presently in school. I would like to say I am concerned about the poor years that we may see ahead because I still feel there may not be enough water but, according to the experts they feel this is reasonable and that everybody will still get a share, but I feel it may not be enough. Like I have stated before, it is primarily for the Navajo children that are now in school. We have them but as soon as they reach the age of six, we have to get them to school. Also, we seem to be losing out on the livestock programs that

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we have had. It was simply because of livestock that a lot of us had missed out on education but now we seem to be getting away from that a little and I feel sure once these projects are completed that it will benefit a lot of the Navajo children who are now in school. Now we have a Motion and there was a second to it to adopt this Resolution and the Bill attached and I think we are now ready to act on that.

The Chairman:

I believe Mr. Valentine has a question yet.

Grey Valentine:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Navajo Tribal Council, our legal representatives and other representatives who are present with us. I would just like to express my appreciation for the fact that all these people have had a hand in completing these documents showing what we are trying to do and what we are requesting. We appreciate the fact that they have worked hard to accomplish this much for us but there seems to be one point that we have not actually brought out here as yet. We seem to be discussing everything else but that and that is that. This Bill will be transmitted to Washington where we hope it will be acted upon by the Congressional body, people that are in that Congress. People there in that Congress are formulating plans and approving laws and other enactments so that it will be beneficial to the people as a whole so we hope that they will consider this very favorable for us. I am especially concerned about the appropriations that would be needed for these projects. Usually when there is an appropriation made, there is always a reduction or manipulation of funds appropriated. I hope that will not happen in this case. We know that the United States Government is now engaged in one urgent program which is the satellite program that is new. Of course, we do not understand what it is all about but we now find they have developed or have progressed to such an extent that they have now been able to get out into outer space with certain instruments. They are proposing to send rockets and other missiles that may reach the moon. Some of us understand it is primarily to seek habitable planets in space. Once that is realized, I wonder what group of people they will dispatch to these foreign areas? Perhaps these are quite funny, but still I would like to come back to the land and say the area we have in mind that we are discussing, is pretty well populated with people so I think that is something we know of and, for that reason, everything should be done so that this Bill could be passed and thereby start these constructions so that the people may get these farms and utilize the water system that will be available.

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but my statement is that I am fearful of the fact they will start cutting some of the funds that may be appropriated for this purpose.

Again I wish to thank the gentlemen who have been working for us in formulating these plans.

Tyler Harris:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Navajo Tribal Council: Since I am from an area that is very near this project, or actually in it, I think I am very much aware of the land that would be involved once this canal has been built. The land involved would be in District 19, 13 and 12 and I feel I am in a position to know the contour of the land that would be subject to irrigation once this project has been completed. Also there are allotted areas that would be involved. We have white ranchers that have fenced out certain portions of land thus depriving the Navajo people of land use rights so I feel once this project is undertaken and completed, perhaps the Navajo people will be able to utilize the lands that are now fenced out. I am from the Bisti area and there we know of a lot of oil activities. Oil companies have come in and have taken leases. Of course, this irrigation system will not reach that area but still I would like to stress the fact that I feel that once the water is available, it would benefit a large number of our Navajo people. This is because I know the land there would be subject to irrigation once that project is completed.

I also wish to express my thanks to the people who have helped in getting this work done and making all the plans for us, etc., and I would like to conclude with that.

The Chairman:

I just want to comment briefly on this. First of all I wish to say that we are happy that so much interest has been expressed in this project that we have been discussing for several years. Your enthusiasm for that has not diminished to any great extent and with the changes that we anticipate that might happen in the next two years, is something that you have given thought to and you feel it will be very beneficial to our young people and more so since we have an annual report made by our Superintendent, where one of the statements made was that we only received 11% of our income per year from livestock, meaning that 89% comes from other sources and the more we engage in business, the less space there is for livestock and we know that. There are also some suggestions for more livestock but there is no question in our minds, those of us who are older, we are used to all the space to herd the stock. That is no longer available. There are people living everywhere. I am

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happy you are planning something in the future for our younger generation, concerned over the possibility of arriving at the stage where Congress will give us the necessary funds to build that project, but it is somewhat hazy, but yesterday Russell is asking that we do away with weapons of war. I hope they do that, and that is the reason we think the money will not be forthcoming and all of you I am sure are grateful for the help extended to us by the Upper Colorado Stream Commission and the office of the State Engineer of New Mexico. Some ten days ago we met with him and we, in turn, invited him today and we have heard the expressions of gratefulness to him and his staff. We were grateful for the help given to us.

All those in favor of this Resolution please stand.

70 Council members approve.

The Chairman:

All those opposed?

None opposed.

John Bliss:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: I know your time has run out. I do want to take this opportunity to thank you for the action you have taken today. I think you have made a wise decision to share this water, the remaining water in the San Juan and that it is an excellent one to make the best use of the water in the years to come. I might explain to you that this question has been brought to you folks first. We still have to take this matter up with our State officials and representatives in Congress but I am sure they understand the situation and that they will act properly in this matter. There is no question about it. I thank you for your action. (Applause)

The Chairman:

We will recess at this time for lunch. At 1:30 the Advisory Committee will meet.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 the Council recessed until after lunch.)

NOTE: There was no Advisory Committee meeting at 1:30 and the Council resumed its session at that time.