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Council on TV Program "The Indian Speaks"

Second Narrator: Paul Tafoya (Santa Clara)

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Domingo Montoya and Paul Tafoya-"INDIAN SPEAKS"
All Indian Pueblo Council
February 8, 1970
Interviewer - Michael Husband
Side One

This is an excellent time in the history of Indian affairs and the All Indian Pueblo Council is in a good position to effect the future course of events. Because this organization is comprised of 19 New Mexico Pueblos, it can and needs to become a source of great strength and faithfully process programs and laws that effect our Pueblo people. The members of the All Indian Pueblo Council also have a responsibility not only to maintain the system of government which was made and handed down to us, but in addition the council has the responsibility to add to and improving upon our government so that we can deal with the new problems that now face us. There are several ways in which people participate in government and it is possible to have greater participation by the people even in ways through government and other sources, such as the Pueblo Indians have. One way is by participation through committees, in advisory capacities contributing suggestions and ideas to the people in authority that is the governor and the respective tribal councils who in turn will put into effect the suggestions and ideas. There are also two kind of leaders in all people, the leader who is in power and has authority and the other is the leader who can influence other people, putting both of these two kinds of leaders together usually has more effective government as its result. And it will generally feel that the people are a part of their own government, there are also two ways that leaders can be dangerously separated from their people, one is the leader who stands back way too far ahead of their leader and the other way is where the leader is far ahead of the people and does not communicate with them and does not allow them to participate, it is the responsibility of leadership to put its foot out first and to test new grounds and not always stay back where they know it is safe. It is the responsibility of leadership to take the risk for its people, the Indian people are becoming younger and are becoming more ed-

ucated. Tribal leaders have the responsibility towards the younger people who are really our greatest human resource. In considering the activities for our young people, certainly the leadership should by all means include our tribal traditions and customs, but our young people need also to have the opportunity for expression and in keeping with the outside world in which many of them will live. As the young people become more educated and their minds become more curious and more capable of evaluation and as they grow more in numbers and in such enthusiasm that they can not be ignored, and tribal leaders have a responsibility not only to talk about the future generation but to do something for them, when they tribal leadership helps to bridge the Indian and non-Indian world for the young people, they will maintain add to, and increase the value of the rich tradition and heritage which is ours. And now a controversial issues has been presented regarding Indians affairs, the tribal leaders have insisted and had results upon consultation with parties involved on all matters or issues affecting their interests. However consultation and mutual agreement is a joint responsibility where people are directly involved, compromise can be obtained by all groups working together each individual must set the tone so that an atmosphere may be developed in which the compromise may be affected, tribal government must also be truly representative leadership within groups is a prerequisite for independent and not paternal of the self-sustaining groups of Indian citizens. And tonight we are extremely fortunate to have one of our great leaders, the chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council and also the governor of Sandia Pueblo, Mr. Domingo Montoya. And next to him is Mr. Paul Tafoya who is Lieutenant Governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, and he is now associated with the Indian ICAP organization at the University of New Mexico. I would like at this time for Mr. Montoya or Governor Montoya to make an opening statement regarding the All Indian Pueblo Council.

DOMINGO MONTOYA: Good evening my friends, my name is Domingo Montoya as Joe has just stated, I live in the Pueblo of Sandia I am now on my first term as chairman of the All

Pueblo Council. The council is composed of all 19 pueblos of New Mexico, our northern most pueblo is Taos, which is in the northern part of New Mexico, our southern most is Zuni Pueblo which is at the southwestern part of New Mexico and in between are the 19 pueblos. The council has been in existence for a long time in 1680 all of the pueblos met in Taos and united to throw the Spaniards out from New Mexico and this is recorded history, this is the first time that the All Pueblo Council met and ever since that first recorded meeting of all the leaders of the Pueblos, they have gotten together from time to time, whenever a common enemy or problem has confronted them. During that time that I have been chairman, we have usually met once a month although there have been times and months when we have had to meet much more often because of problems and specific problems that we have had to settle. The All Pueblo council feels with matters such as health and welfare, economic development, civil rights, legislation and education as they effect all of the pueblos, in making decisions each pueblos represented by their governor has one vote. but our rules require that only a majority to rule, it has always been our pueblo way to have everyone agree to a position before the council adopts it. The All Indian Pueblo Council never interfered with matters concerning factions within a pueblos, but often gives its support to a pueblo involved in a struggle such as the Taos Blue Lake case. For the past few years we have been very fortunate to have received a grant from the Field Foundation which has allowed the All Indian Council to maintain an office as a result the 19 pueblos have been able to contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other government agencies to administer the programs for the Pueblo people. This self-administration and contracting especially in the areas of college scholarships has been ever effective and I hope that this will continue into the future. It is important to understand that the chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, unlike the president of the United States, can't act on his own, he carries out the combined wishes of the 19 pueblos and serves as a channel of new information to them that effects their villages. The All Indian Pueblo Council is a tip of an ice berg because the people of each pueblo have their wishes expressed by the Tribal

Council, the governor carries this wish to the other pueblo leaders at All Pueblo Council meetings. The pueblo tradition of cooperation leads the 19 different pueblos to arrive at decisions about how to best preserve their traditional ways while planning for the economic betterment of all the pueblo people. The officers and committees of the council then do their best to make these plans into reality, when I first became chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, I first realized that we had to form a union in writing, this was my first venture, and as a result I have been operating from the first beginnings with a committee, education committee, constitution committees, health committees, and most of these committees still do exist from the very start. We started our first committees in February of 1965. We met many nights, the committee met many nights a week or much more when it required and the chairman of the committee was Paul Tafoya, finally the in October of 1965 the All Indian Pueblo Council organized under a constitution, this was very hard work, for the constitution committee, it worked very diligently and I think that Mr. Paul Tafoya here can tell you how hard he worked as chairman of the constitution committee.....

Thank you Mr. Montoya, I think the credit is due to a number of individuals, some are governors and some are tribal representatives, members of the All Indian Pueblo Council. I would like to give a little brief of the constitution of the All Indian Pueblo Council it reads: We the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico members of the existing all Indian Pueblo Council by virtue of our sovereign rights as Pueblo Indians and in accordance with our ancient customs and laws and in order to promote justice and encourage the common welfare, to foster the social and economic management of all the Pueblo Indians, to preserve and protect our common interest, our inherent rights of self government and our rights as guaranteed to us by treaties involved in the federal constitution of the United States of America do ordain and adopt this constitution and by laws for the All Indian Pueblo Council for the common benefit of all Pueblo Indians. This constitution was adopted on

October 16, 1965 and the governors at that time that ratified the constitution are, I would like to name them: Mr Sam Victorino, governor of Acoma Pueblo: Andy Abeita, governor of Isleta Pueblo; Joe Mariano, governor of Laguna Pueblo; Tom Romero, Paguate Pueblo; Esquipula Chavez, Sandia Pueblo; Gilbert Atncio, San Ildefonso Pueblo; Miguel Armijo, Santa Ana Pueblo; Fernando Cudero, Cochiti Pueblo: Abel SAndo, Jemez Pueblo; Amadillo Trujillo, Nambe Pueblo: Pat Martinez, Picuris Peublo: John Ray, San Felipe Pueblo: Percy Tapia, San Juan Pueblo: Paul Tafoya, Santa Clara Pueblo: Ralph Buwalto, Santo Domingo Pueblo; Joe Vigil, Tesuque: Teofilo Romero, Taos Pueblo: Lusiano Pino, Zia Pueblo: and Robert E. Lewis for Zuni Pueblo. I would like to make this announcement of these names because I very much and indeed proud of these gentlemen because they had done an outstanding job on securing the constitution and the adoption of the constitution of the All Indian Pueblo Council.

I might also include the fact that the constitution also regards three other positions which the vice chairman, secretary and the treasurer. And I might also make the announcement that I was very proud to serve under Domingo Montoya as vice-chairman two years ago, I think that All Indian Pueblo Council is a very interesting organization, the All Indian Pueblo Council in my own estimation is one of the most powerful Indian organizations in the nation or in the continent of the United States or in this country, it is very powerful organization because it is actually composed of various governors and council of the 19 pueblos. And I don't think any individuals has a right to belong to these organizations, they can vote and voice their opinions through the authorization of their respective governors and their delegates, but actually this organization belongs to the governing bodies of the 19 pueblos this is why I am saying that this is one of the most powerful Indian organizations in the country. And I would like to ask every tribal governor every tribal council member to support the functions of the All Indian Pueblo Council, this is your organization, make the best of it, but above all realize the fact that this is one of the most powerful Indian organizations, so I will ask you once again to support it whole heartedly.

You know getting down to details with respect to the work that the programs and other things that the All Pueblo Council is responsible for, programs that in effect affect the general all the people in the pueblos, and the wonderful thing that it only operates at that level and it doesn't necessarily interfere with the Indians internal affairs, because the fact that it was agreed upon and the fact that it is a unique organization as Paul has indicated is recognized by the Congress of the United States and leaders of various organizations and business firms and many of the communications actually come to them. Do you have anything more that you would like to say??

I would like to say that about 1922 the Pueblos started to organize under a written document, but for some reason or another actually never got the document so these were some of the materials that we used to draw up the present constitution, now I have been involved with the All Indian Pueblo Council since 1927 when my people needed someone to interpret from English into the Indian language and this was during the Land Board Hearings and that was my first contact with the All Indian Pueblo Council, since then I have been attending meetings and since the early 1930's, 1930 I was Lt. Governor for the first time and then on down have been governor oh, for several terms for my village, I want the pueblo governors to know that your chairman without the help, without the consultation you chairman can do nothing, it is you people that have to agree on problems that we have and how to solve them. I can only be a go between to the departments, the agencies that have Indian programs. I know that an obvious problem has been education, but I believe that we have this licked to a certain extent, and I know that many of the Indian children now are attending colleges and universities all over the country. I certainly hope that our next big problem is the development of the natural resources of the reservation, we need money, we have to have money in order to develop. I believe we are doing a good job with our greatest natural resources, our children, as I said, most of our young people are now attending colleges throughout the country. We need development of our reservations, our natural resources, we hope that we can break this barrier soon.....Joe.....

Thank you very much Paul, I wonder if you have anything to add to this, you know some of the other workings of the All Indian Pueblo Council.....

Yeah, I would like to ask Mr. Montoya a question. What other programs or projects has the All Indian Pueblo Council sponsored at this time??

We are now sponsoring the New Mexico Tribal Council, which is composed of the Apaches, the Mescaleros and the Jicarillas, the Zuni Pueblo which is not under the present agency, by that I mean it has its own agency, although just very recently the pueblos have also divided into the northern and the southern half, which is the BIA Bureau and then we are also sponsoring the scholarship program which we are, the BIA is through sponsoring, then we have the educational co-ordinator out of our office.....

Is that the Pueblo Talent Search??

Yes, we have had to go to Washington in many of the current programs because the Indians didn't fit, but we have been real lucky in dealing with our senator and our congressman, and they have in many cases have worked and ammended the law to fit the Indian people, now I know we have one program that did not mention the Indian people, so therefore the law did not apply to such people and our senators worked and we had the Indian people mentioned in the law and now we can get benefits from this law which helps the Indian people here.

Paul do you have anything to add to this?

I would just like to ask Mr. Montoya one more question.....on his feelings on youth involvement. About three weeks ago we had a panel composed of Mr. Tom Vigil, Mr. Sef

Tenorio, and Valentine Cordova, and I believe Del Lovato was on the panel.....

He was Moderator.....

Moderator for the show, now there were pretty much concerned about the Indian youth and their involvement in the respective councils and in fact they would like to contribute and I think that they have alot to offer to the benefit of the Indian people and I do always do push youth involvment in every organization and I just wanted to get the general or rather your opinion as to how you feel about their concern.....I understand that they would like to be more involved in the activities of the council.....

I know that they have come to us on several occasions the youth council is having many problems and we have tried to help them in many ways. As of now we have only been able to give them our backing our lip service, that we have in every way tried to help them. One of the big porblems that they have is financial problems, as you know wherever there is an organization exists, there must be money involved and we have helped many of the parents in all the pueblos are very interested in having their children belong or take part in this youth council. I am very interested in this, because I know that it can go along ways in helping our children, we have tried in every way, but we don't have money and we just can't do a real good job, I know that financing for that to come some how or other to the children.

Chairman Montoya, you know there is one interesting thing, our time is moving so fast, you know there has been all this deliberation on water rights. I wonder if you can express a few words on that subject, your concern.....

Well, we have water rights and we rocnogize the water rights of all the pueblos, I think

all of you know, if you have read the pueblo history that the pueblos were found here by the first Europeans that came to this country, they were here by choice and they are still here, they have nobody created reservation for them. They had their reservations and they knew where their areas were, how far they went to divert water from the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Look around you, we are not in an area where you can go to the mountains, or go to the hill country, or go to the river bottom, where you can collect fruit that will keep you alive all winter, this is not so. If you plant a crop, you can't leave it and hope that the rains will come by themselves it is not so, we have to cultivate it, once you plant the seeds you cultivate your crops stay with it, so that the Indians have had this, grown their crops and cultivate the land. Population in those times were much greater than they are today.

 That is wonderful.....Paul, I know that you have something to add to this.....?

 Well I would like to say, is I would like to ask every Indian individual, tribal leaders and members of the tribe to organize themselves to encourage one another to go out and register and vote. I have been saying this for years and I guess I will be saying it for quite a few more years to come, but I try to encourage everyone that is listening to our program to get your people out there, to get your family, get your relatives, this is important, this is one support that the All Indian Pueblo Council has called for many a times. I would like to conclude by saying that I am encouraging everyone throughout New Mexico to support the All Indian Pueblo Council in this way.

 There is one announcement that I would like to make here, we are having a meeting next Saturday on the 14th, we are having an All Pueblo Council meeting at Santo Domingo Pueblo and the following Saturday on the 21st we will have another meeting at the same place, at Santo Domingo Pueblo when our commissioner, Louis Bruce will be with us, and others from the BIA in Washington.

Thank you very much Governor Montoya, and Lieutenant governor Paul Tafoya, you know the masses of the people of the world, are not concerned with rockets and satellites to the extent that they are concerned with social problems, of the people all over the world, this concern exists largely because of social patterns prescribed in the past by dominant nations or groups of natives of newly discovered areas and later minorities will crystalize into legal systems from which subjected peoples throughout the world are now seeking freedom and independence. Freedom of thought and expression are among the most precious rights embodied in the constitution of the United States, those rights are never more precious than right now. Some of us are called upon to assist in shaping programs to increase knowledge or stimulate thought and discussion of many of these most difficult or controversial issues of our times, let us say that it is your privilege to be pro or con, hopeful or skeptical about Indian Affairs, but most important is the fact that it is your responsibility to form an individual judgement based on knowledge, rather than on emotion, on fact rather than on fiction. I wish to thank again Mr. Domingo Montoya, Mr. Paul Tafoya, for their presence and meaningful contributions to tonights program, additionally I want to thank the Pueblo leaders and its members for the confidence placed in me and my contribution as secretary of the All Indian Pueblo Council for 12 years. Thank you again, until next sunday, this is the Indian Speaks.....

END OF TAPE