

Tape #466
NAVAJO
Ernest C. Becenti
By TOM RATION
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Side One

ERNEST C. BECENTI TELLS
ABOUT DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETINGS AT CROWNPOINT
AGENCY AND HOW THE
PEOPLE HAD DECIDED THE
PROGRAM AND TODAY'S LIFE.

We are still continuing on with the discussion of the Navajo Tribal Council as they meet along and so it is our various meetings each month. So, here we are still continuing on with the Tribal Council Meeting. The discussion is still going on as the reports are being told by the people and it is well being listened and interpreted. We go along with Codes, Range Codes discussion in order to, in order of agenda term numbers...minute of last meeting and Treasury reports...as the Council continued to grow in its sense of importance as a representative body of the people in the Eastern Navajo. It is greatly formulizing its operation. This terms is reflecting in a more formally and better organization order of business. The Secretary reviewed the requesting (?) of previous meeting at the length (?) and in considerable detail and did an excellent job of refreshing the memory of the membership on information present discussion and action taken at the previous meeting. This helps to give the membership a sense of contentment in what the Council is doing and recognition of accomplishing being realized under its plan of operation adopted a year and a half ago. The number Chapter agrees to pay membership due of \$10 a year to

underwrite cost of agency Council operation, send stationarily, postage, Post Office box rent, long distance phone call act. The Council now has a checking account at the Crownpoint branch...of First State Bank and Chapter are sending in their membership dues.

Superintendent's reports: The Superintendent and the Tribe and Community Workers who works with all of the Chapter in the Eastern Navajo are now being asked to make reports at each of the Agency Council meeting on manners of the present reports. The Superintendent devoted his entire reports through the Community Development Council, presented did to the Superintendent and Area Director in the Community Development Central at the University of Oklahoma during the month of September and October and to how we hope to apply these perspect in working with the Navajo people. This report, a copy of which is attached, appeared to be well received and subscribe other subjects made concurrently to the Superintendent's report and the importance of the people working together, seeking salvation to their problem and playing with the increasingly important roles in programs, planning and discussion (?).

Here we have now the Community Workers report...Mr. Eugene Borden...Tribal Community Workers...dwell at

length on the community development progress (?) reports by the Superintendent and they encourage the Council members to the increased relinquishing (?) of what they can do for themselves and also pointed out the importance of their learning about all available resource and learning to make use of these instead of looking to BIA. to help them meet all of their problems. He also called attention to what appeared to be neglected on the part of some Chapter of their Chapter House and urge all Chapters to take good care of these faction and to take them in proper (?) repair. Mr. Borden reports that the resolution has gone into the Community Development Department requesting an increased in pay for Chapter officers and that the Community Development Department is working on this. Some former Chapter officers have failed to turn in their Chapter officers' baggage. These baggage goes with the office in each instance and are to be turned over to the new Chapter officer as new Chapter officer are elected. Money is not available to purchase new bags for new Chapter officers.

President's report: The District Council President, Mr. Ernest Becenti, President of the Council review and reorganization and program of the Eastern Navajo Council pointed out the Eastern Navajo is the only agency which has a various actively agency

Council. We went on to report on resolution adopted in the August meeting of the Council and read letters from Governor David Cargo, Senator Joseph Montoya and Dr. George Bock, PHS Navajo Area Director and response to letter he had written seeking supporting for requesting made by recent Eastern Navajo Council resolution. Mr. Becenti's report was well received and in subsequent (?) discussion during the day the various Chapter Officer made requirement request (?) to the recognition the Council is winning from various public officials and Agency Director.

Vocational training and high school: Dr. William Frazier, Superintendent of the Gallup-McKinley County Public Schools, is becoming well known in the Eastern Navajo Agency through this many appearances in Chapter, District Council and Agency Council meetings. He is seeking to involve the people in the planning of kinds of instruction which will be offered in the public school, McKinley County. And during the past year has been laid(?) especially interested (?) on what kind of vocational training school be offered in high school. Three new public high schools are now under construction in Navajo community and McKinley County at Crownpoint, Thoreau and Tohatchi. Three high schools in the county are now offering class in vocational agriculture,

assisting Navajos of high school age in learning modern methods of range conservation and management and live-stock raising. These vocational agriculture course will be related increasingly to opportunity which are accept, expect to development on the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. Course are also now being offered in blueprint reading and drafting and constructing tools used in the building trade. Dr. Frazier encouraged the Council members to discuss in their Chapter meetings what other kinds of vocational training they want in their high school and to sent their recommendation to this office. Mr. Frazier also reports that in response to the requests from one of the Chapter, a base course for aiding in reading and writing English will be offered in the near future at the Chapter. He stated that this class would be set up in any Chapter upon request, provided the Chapter has at least 12 serious perspective students who can attend class two nights a week.

As we go along, reports on Wingate High School... Wilson Skeet, Council delegate from Bear Springs who served as Chairman of the District 16 Council, Wingate High School Committees, gave a brief report on the work of this Committee and current development at Wingate. The high school is filled to capacity with 174 seniors, 192 juniors, 326 sophomores and 324 freshmen, a total of

1,017 students. The school reports that its continues to have some trouble with families waiting to check students out on Friday before the end of the school day and also not getting the student back in time for their first day and also not getting the students in time... first day and also class on the following Monday. Mr. Skeet pointed out that talking, taking a student out of class before the end of the school day and keeping him from getting back in time on Monday, cause the student to fall behind in his studies so that he is not getting the education...the school can provide him and parents wanted him to have. He urged the Chapter officers to take this information back to the Chapter to tell the parents not to check any student out before the end of school days on February and to get the students back to school, not later than Sunday evening so that they will be ready for their first class on Monday. Wingate High School is having Parents' Day on November 17. Parents will be guest of the students and the school at lunch on that day. Mr. Skeet urged the Chapter officers to see that this information gets to all parents. The school committee hopes for a good turnout of parents for the Parents' Day on November 17th. All schools including Wingate will have a four days Thanksgiving holiday. From Thursday, November 23 through Sunday,

November 26, parents can pick up students at the end of the school on Wednesday, November 22.

A probably plan of operation for Education Committee, Roads Committee and Health Committee...Charlie Long, Vice-president of the Council, reports on this subject. Plans of operation for these three committees has been described to the members of all three communities on October 6th. These members who are able to attend meet together at Crownpoint with the President and the Vice-president and with the Agency Superintendent, the members of the Eastern Navajo Agency staff, to review these plans of operation. The Committee members and attention, additional thoughts that the proposed plans of operation were well drafted and agreed to recommend their adoption by the Council. Mr. Long pointed out that each plan of operation provided that these can be resolved or amended if this becomes necessary by the Council. Wilson Skeet moved that the plan of operation for all three committees be adopted. This motion was set by Charlie Toledo of Torreon and adoption by a vote of 53 for, and none opposed. At the end of the day assist the members of the Education Committee converge briefly and elected Wilson C. Skeet for their Chairman, Martin Begay, Casamero Lake, as Vice-chairman and Vern Freeland, Jr., Crownpoint, as Secretary.

Increasing in pay for Chapter officers: This subject is of great importance to a large majority of the Chapter officers. Discussion of the justification for a payment increase consigned (?) hour and a half of the council meeting time and brought out the following facts: The works of the Chapter officers have increased many times over and continued to increase since they were originally authorized pay for holding two Chapter meetings a month. As Tribal program, BIA program, hospital program, ONEO program and other federal and state program has increased Chapter officers have been called on increasingly to have much broader knowledge of all these programs and how they operate. They are required to hold many more Chapter meetings to get out information about all these programs and to decide the Chapter's course of action in relation to these programs. Many Chapters are now meeting twice or more frequently every week instead of just twice a month. Holding a Chapter meeting takes the better part of the day and result in one or more of the Chapter officers have to take time on successive days in following up on Chapter proposal or request by making trips to BIA hospitals, Tribal or ONEO officials at the Agency headquarters at Crownpoint or Tribal or ONEO officers at Window Rock. The result is that many Chapter officers are working almost full-time for their Chapter

membership. The people are becoming more involved in many different programs all the time. This is the response largely to Tribal BIA and PHS, requesting for the information on what the people thinks and what the people wants. New committee at the Chapter level are being established all the time... Community Action Committee, local School Committee, Road Committee...

This is part of the story during the time of the Crownpoint meeting with one of the Senator from Washington, D.C. This was one of the meetings that the Navajos had during the time of one of the Senators from Washington, D.C. as they talk with during the time of the Crownpoint meeting, and it was very good discussion about things which the District Council has talked about. We go on with some of the BIA members has been talked about the proposed resolution of the Eastern Navajo Council...the Navajo Tribe of Indians requesting supplement funds for the Branch of Education, the Navajo Area Office. It has been brought to the attention of the Eastern Navajo Council and Navajo Agency Branch of Education does not have sufficient funds to complete the administration of its education skills during the 1968 and 1969 school years. And it is very deserved that the Navajo Area Branch of Education complete the 1968 and 1969 school years to continue to prove the very assignment

educational program to the Navajo people and to insure the continue of home living service to our children without redeemance in the home living staffing patrons (?). However, be it resolved that the Eastern Navajo Council hereby respectfully requests the Congressional delegation from the State of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah to request additional funds of over \$3,000,000 for the Educational Programs on the Navajo Reservation for the 1968, 1969 school years. The Eastern Navajo Council, Council hereby requests that the other Agency Council do adoption similarly resolution requesting supplement funding for the Branch of Education. It was hereby classified that the foregoing resolution was moved to adoption by Mr. Skeet, second motion, Mr. Martin. The discussion and adoption by the vote of 77, none opposed at the regular called meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council at which the quorum was present at Crownpoint, New Mexico, June 4, 1969. Mr. Ernest Becenti...

We keep on going continue on Eastern Navajo Council discussion on needs, deserved and plans, needs and problems. Generally, the Eastern Navajo Agency comprised of over 204 billion areas of lands and eight more (?) tops of lands have long been faces with the land needs, land problems and administration problems. Through the year many efforts were made to solve these needs of

problems, such as attention to addition portion of the off-Reservation, off-Navajo Reservation area to the Navajo Reservation...withdrawn of government land for use by the Navajo people until appropriate legislation was enacted to transport chili (?) to the land to the Navajo people...agreement on the land administration between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management...Agreement with the non-Indians and Indians on land use and the kiva (?). The main source of these program areas are non-ownership of approximately 40% of these land user a township and controlled by the Navajo people... Problems of adjustments under the various agencies involved with the concerned with the Navajo Affairs...Eastern Navajo Council...what the development due to request of non-landship owner and income assistment in policy... Charge of administration of Tribal, Federal, State and other government... A constant improvement on land administration to resolve all the land needs of related problems. A concerted effort has been made over the past 5 years by the Navajo people, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management, the State of New Mexico and other agency to come to some understanding on the administration of the Eastern Navajo Agency Area. The following has been accomplished to date: Establishment

of the Grazing Administration by the cooperated agreement date July, 1966...remained in July, 1969. An agreement was made among the Navajo Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management to divide the Grazing Administration between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Navajo Tribe, jointly and the Bureau of Land Management which previously was administered by the Bureau of Land Management. By this arrangement, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Tribe are now jointly administer $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total off-Reservation area... Eastern Navajo Council and the Bureau of Land Management and remaining $\frac{1}{3}$, the BLM is on record of offering the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ of the area to the Navajo Tribe and the BIA to administer under either a lease to license number the Taylor Grazing Act. It is expected that this will be accomplished in the near future when the Navajo people fully understand this reserved type of administration, when eventually the Navajo Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will jointly be estimating their area of responsibility and the BLM will be removed from the Indian Land Administration. The above assignment of land administration by the Navajo Tribe was inspected by the Navajo Tribal Council on December 10, 1964, by Resolution Number CD-54-64... copy attached, adoption of a Range Code for the off-

Reservation area...in the progress of establishing the above administration to join the Land Board which is by the land for the Navajo people...along with additional assistance from the Navajo Tribe. The BIA and the BLM and others develop a Range Code specifically for the above administration. This Code was formerly adopted by the Navajo Tribal Council on May 19, 1969, by Resolution CMY-33-69. Under this Range Code, the Navajo Tribal, the Navajo Tribe, under the joined Land Board of the local Chapter. It is changed with the of the administration and the BIA approved the attachment service... The land in question, the conjunction with establishing the land administration, the Navajo Tribal Council has earnestly assisted the off-Reservation area by collecting approximately \$3,000,000 over the past 5 years for land... of this appropriation the Navajo Tribe was able to purchase over 241 thousand acres in a and public domain land, local within Navajo community and which land has been donated used...and controlled by the Navajo people. The questions were made through three ways purchase exchange involving the Navajo Tribe, the Land Management, BLM, and the provided land owner. The provided land was originally located within National

Forest reserves... And then these provided lands were exchanged with the _____ and was _____ public land located within Navajo Committee. The scene was then purchased by the Tribe. The exchanged public land within the National Forest will be withdrawn by the National Forest Service as was reserved. Thus the Navajo Tribe, the BLM, and the National Forest Service benefit the most important of all improved the land administration of each agency...Eastern Navajo Council... The above accomplishment and improvement on land administration in the off-Reservation area greatly fulfills the three-point program initially set in early 1964 by the agency involved mainly establishment of the land administration which will be benefit, beneficial to all parties involved...which will improve on the regulation-ship and coordination of the service and which will estimate it is _____ revolving and other like complications... The cooperation of funds, by the Navajo Tribal Council and other agencies to acquire a very available tract of land being used controlled by the Navajo people. Upon the establishment of the Pueblo Land Administration and all efforts made to consolidate the consolidation the Navajo used area to request necessarily Congressional legislation to transport to the Navajo Tribe. Purely through the withdrawal of public

land and public land usage accomplishing and controlled by the Navajo people. This will fulfill the intents and purpose of the executive public land and other land orders, many of which have long been in effect...

Requesting for the aid and assistance in meeting land needs and resolving administration program...as the molding by the above accomplishment and improvement in land administration. The Navajo peoples has taken a leadership, the Navajo people now needs the aid and assistance of the Congress of the United States and many other agency to fully fulfill the needs and the objections set up by all agencies concerned. Specifically the following are requested...the land administration assistance in the stringly the establishing of land administration under the leadership of the Navajo people, legislation for transport of land purely to the Navajo Tribe... Sponsorship of the necessary legislation to transport utility (?) to the Navajo Tribe of the federal land withdraw...for their use the public land being used and controlled by the Navajo people. The transport will involve only those federal lands now being used accomplishing and controlled by the Navajo people... The transfer will not take away any land from any non-Indian, non-Navajo or from the tax roll,... A summary (?) of the land are as follows... Eastern Navajo Council, withdrawn

federal land for use by the Navajo people...all executive orders public land orders act to transfer will involve only those federal lands now being used... Accomplish control by the Navajo people. The transfer will not take away any land...and the transfer will not take away any land from the non-Navajo or from the tax roll. Assignments of the land are used as follows...withdrawing federal lands for use by the Navajo people...all executive order, public land owners, public domain land and OEO 3,662 acres...under permit to the Navajo Tribe... Public domain land outside OEO, 3,662...acres under permit to individual Navajos. A total area more less, 798,364,033 acres total... The Navajo Tribe Eastern Navajo Council plans of operation establishment of committee. The Eastern Navajo Council shall by the resolution officially established Police Committee of the said Council and ask not less than three members each from District 15, 16 and 19 to serve on the Committee. This is another plan operation that has been discussed by the Eastern Navajo Agency, how the policemen would be the appointed number are to select a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Secretary from either of their own members and the community shall prepare a plan of operation for the Committee which plan is to be officially considered and approved by the Eastern Navajo Council. Membership...

The Eastern Navajo Council shall be resolution elected not less than three members each from each District 15, Sixteen...and Nineteen, to serve on the Police Committee. The initial selected of the membership to the Police Committee shall be held at the December, 1968 meeting of Council...and thereafter any new membership shall be considered and approved by the said Council...Selected and terms of office...Half the number ordinary select at the December, 1968 meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council. One member from each District will serve through December, 1969. One member will serve through December, 1970 and one member will serve through December, 1971. The number serving these different terms to be decided by the Council. As each member terms of office to, is to expire his successor will be selected in the December meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council...to the third year term, starting on the date following this selection. Members of the Committees are eligible through selection, members of the Committee are for reelecting without any limit on the number of terms that they can serve. The vacancy occurs in any member's position shall be filled by election of the new member from the same District as the previous incumbent at the next meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council, to fill out the extra terms of the previous incumbent members and orders... The Police

Committee will meet regularly during the first or second week in the month of February, June, August, October and December each year to prepare its reports and...recommendations for presentation to the Eastern Navajo Council in its regular meeting on the third Saturday of each month. It may hold special meetings on call by the Chairman. Five members will consider a squadron for the contract of the official committee business. The committees will study all the problems and proposals relating to laws and orders, property problems and law enforcement... The policeman and the Eastern Navajo Agency suggestion (?) that brought about by the various law enforcement agencies that have authorized within the agenda...have been sent to the Eastern Navajo Area Agency. These organization include, but are not necessarily limited to the Navajo Police Department, the Police Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council, the Law and Order Branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the New Mexico State Police, Gallup Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The Committee may investigate any problem brought to its attention by any members of the Navajo Tribe or any interested residents of the Eastern Navajo Agency. It will collect all facts about each problems or proposals, reform to it by interviewing committee,

community members...officially of the corporated law enforcement agency and courts and by reading and analyzing reports and by visiting policemen facilities and courts as based on each student and investigation. The Committee will prepare reports on the facts regarding each problem or proposals and its recommendations on the same of consideration and pending action by the Eastern Navajo Council. The community shall also have the responsibility for investigation problem relating to juvenile delinquency in the Eastern Navajo Agency area and will consult as necessary with law and order officials, officers of the Navajo Tribal court, and members of the administration of Bureau of Indian Affairs, and McKinley County schools to cooperation and reports for program to solve such problems... Detailed reports of each recommendation (?) will be given to the Eastern Navajo Agency Council for consideration and appropriate action by the Council. It shall also by the dury of the Committee to investigate and recommend solutions to problems relating to traffic control and highway safety within the Eastern Navajo area. The fulfillment of this duty...committee members will consult with the safety officers of the Eastern Navajo, the various police departments in numbering in section and accomplishing officials of the New Mexico

State Highway Department in order to promote safer highway driving. Consideration in the Eastern Navajo Agency area... The Community member representative of each District will carry primarily responsibility for visiting law enforcement agency...partly located within the District for, and for investigation and study any problems or proposal relating to the law enforcement, juvenile delinquency, and highway safety within their District and submitting their reports and recommendations on the same to the full committee. They will also work closely with any District Council Police Committee which is established at later request or on later on. If there is no District Council, Police Committee will assist in establishing and will provide leadership and guidance to local Police Committee... After any law and order, juvenile delinquency, or highway safety problem or proposal has been studied and reported on to the Eastern Navajo Council and the Council has adopted by formal resolution of course of action on the problems or proposals, the Committee Chairman or the members of the Committee, designated by the Chairman may present the Council permission on the subjects at any meeting off the official of reorganization and group... Memory to section land 2 and 3 or other concerned groups... The Committees will follow up to see that proper section

is taken on all resolutions relating to law enforcement, juvenile delinquency or highway safety which are adopted by the Eastern Navajo Council and will report on the same at each meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council... Police problems for Eastern Navajo Council agenda... number of policemen, juvenile delinquency or highway safety proposal will be placed on the agenda for any Eastern Navajo Council meeting until it has been studied, the base fact has been gathered and reporting and recommendation by the Committee are ready for submission to the Eastern Navajo Council for its consideration. Local Policemen Committee, Tribal Chapters, Tribal Council delegation and other shall submit all education problem and proposals which they think require act by the Eastern Navajo Council through the Policeman Committee for the later study, recorded and recommendation. A Chairman, Vice-chairman and the Secretary of the Education Committee shall be elected by the number of the Committee and their own members following in the annual selection, election of three members, one from each District of the Police Committee...but not later than January 31 of each year. The vote of five is required for selection to any of these officers... Duty of office... The Chairman will prepare an agenda to each meeting based on problem and proposals which have been referred to the Committee...

Committee investigation studied reports and recommendation which were in process and following upon the policeman resolution adopted by the Eastern Navajo Council. He will preside at all regular and special meetings of the community and may call special committee meetings as they appear to him to be required. He may decide problems and proposals and following upon resolution to individual members of the Committees. He will present the permission for any designate the members of the community to do so, of the Eastern Navajo Council, when the Eastern Navajo Council has adopted a formerly commissioned by resolution on any police, juvenile delinquency, or highway safety matter to law enforcement official, school official, Bureau of Indian Affairs official, or any other group which is concerned with these matters. Vice-chairman: The Vice-chairman will serve as Chairman of the Committee with full authority to act in this capacity in the absence of the Chairman. Secretary: Secretary will get out notice to all Committee meetings, to members of the Committee, and to all persons whom the Committee may want to consult with at any community, Committee meetings. He will keep the attention recording the minutes of all Committee meetings and will arrange for the distribution of all Committee reports as copies are required. Traffic, transfer of

Committee reports and courts reports... The Committee official records and reports are the property of the Committee of the Eastern Navajo Council. At the end of any Committee officer's terms of office, he shall turn over to his successor and office, however official Committee records, recorded and reports he had had in his possession. Recommendation and reserving or amendment of this plan of operation may be submitted to the Eastern Navajo Council by the Committee at any regular meeting of the Eastern Navajo Council. Such resolution or amendment will become effective only upon approval by the Eastern Navajo Council. As the Councilmen discuss on different problems, the things are being transferred to different things as it comes. Here are some special meeting we've had in the past times but we have told you most of all of it, already and another meeting that has been discussed just recently at the meeting with the Senator Joseph Montoya, Eastern Navajo Council, September 29, 1969, Crownpoint, New Mexico...

Introduction: This meeting has been shared (?) with the Honorable Senator Montoya to discuss the various need, deserve, and plan of the Eastern Navajo Council, representing approximately 27,000 Navajo people and having a membership of 116 made arrangement for the visit by the Senator Montoya and for the use of the Crownpoint Boarding

School facilities. The Eastern Navajo Council is a very interested in the welfare of the Navajo people and a membership has taken upon themselves and leadership to have the needs, reserved, and planned to be considered by all concerning for the betterment and advisement of the Navajo people. The Council very much deserves to use various resources and to coordinate these resources to help the Navajo people. The Council is represented by the several spokesmen who present statements outlining the needs, deserves and plans of the Navajo people. The toughest matters are not really in position and each one is almost dependent upon the other to obtain the deserve, betterment and advance... It is strongly that the Navajo people in the Eastern Navajo area highly deserve to do things themselves and they only wanted to change the accomplishment and things they deserve for the Navajo people they welcome...all aid and assistance that is available to them. This is one of the stories that I have just told lately that has been into, so we will be keep continue on with the BIA and the BLM.

END OF TAPE