

Tape #86
SANTA ANA PUEBLO
Porfiero Montoya
May 24, 1968
By Dennis Stanford
Tape 3, side 1

Land problems and
government

Q. Now the first meeting was at?

A. We have a meeting at Santo Domingo and then we went up to Santa Fe, the next day of course, I think that was a Senate Committee, it was during the hearing yeah and of course I was still young yet, already I was doing service for my people, you know my pueblo, I said a few things of what I didn't like of course the pueblo at that time I was not in a position to pay out of the pueblo fund that they had. Any repairs that had to be made or anything that would that the governor has given us to service you see, we weren't quite getting ready for anything like that you know and we needed the help yet so we thought that termination, on my part, if termination was enforced, then we would have to start paying the tuition for the schools you know...of course, termination was suppose to be the complete cutoff of the Indian service...so naturally all the services that we are getting now, schooling and everything else would be taken away from us...see...and I felt at that time that we had the obligation to still help us you see, and just as, even as today, many of our Indians, we feel that the government did not pay anything to us to take the land anyway and so there was no, nothing paid to the Indians, how can we still say that the government has got no right to help us...we still claim that obligation by it, for the government to help the Indians...and like at that time when we finally did have one help on that and so that re-organization act came in right after that you see, where it gave back to the pueblos to run according to the way they want it to run, the way the self-government is operating...and then of course, the services of the government force, the Indian was still running from there on yet, see...So, I feel that we are not quite ready yet, even though at this time, even though if we were ready, but we still want the help of the Indian government, of course as I said...the government never made no payments towards taking all the land, even though if we did...we did make use of all the lands that was in our hands at the time, before the coming of the white man you see...we used it all over, big game hunting and everything else...you know, yeah.

Q. 15,000 years...

A. Yeah.

Q. Well they actually haven't done really anything on any of these acts.

A. So far, yes...but they are almost like coming close to it on the Erwin bill...was introduced one phase of it anyway...but they told us to do something that we have already carried on you see, and then if we don't, it gives the secretary the own right to make its own law and cram it down our throat...I don't think that's not fair...

Q. Yeah.

A. I thought to myself many, many times that government should order the statement...the lawyer, the congressman, that you should first look into the things that they intend to change, see how they are set, if we are not bad, then we might be able to go along with their proposals...objecting the bills, but they never even question us... So I think that now that Senator Erwin has found that they've got some people already to voice these things long before these ancestors came here, so why then try to tell us what to, since we are still carrying on...why try to make us say, look here, I see my best way out, you go ahead and take it, while our way was already good, it is still good, trying to enforce it by that bill towards the Indians, that is what makes the wrong doers much more...out to testify against, whether it was so or not. Here the only ones that are doing those things the guys that think, well it is just the satisfaction...nothing... making, of course they got drunk and got into jail and was sentenced to the jail for so many days and they don't like to be in jail and they don't like to be paying the fine too. Well what else can the governor do, which is the same practice on the outside, see, yeah...they can't - they don't go against the outside way of treatment, but they surely do jump their own people see...

Q. I should write a paper...I think I will on all of these, I was just going to write on this late stuff...but I think we ought to incorporate the Bursum, termination, reorganization and public law 280 don't you? Show what they are trying to do...and what the real good ideas mean. Hopefully they won't get it done...when-ever that may be...a couple hundred years maybe...I don't know...

A. I don't know accept the whole thing yet, in our other one, we are still, and we haven't really understand what Johnson's intentions is...President Johnson, according to what we learn, he is trying to set up, see these message to Congress to set up so much money to help the Indians and then again...that is what we hear is that he

is trying to set up a committee to enforce this spending now... that is why the Indians...us pueblos especially we thought it best that if we can have a man on the force, on this committee, it would be a lot better and then the education would be a lot more better for us to accomplish as to what kind of people they have in the United States...who are even more advanced at that time... and what how do you running their government...and that would be coming up clear then see if we had a man on the force...and yes...

- Q. That would be a real good idea. Did they get somebody to take your place on teaching these OEO people?
- A. Whether they did or not they haven't said nothing yet, I was going to go in yesterday, after I finished working down in the irrigation, I was going to go in...except Dora, I don't know what she had in mind, that is why I went back and when I got back here she told me your proposition...she accepted me to go out there and I told her, well you gave the wrong answer, now I am cut off from one side of it which is way for me to go you know...
- Q. Well, I didn't go, so when I do go you can come along if you want, I was just going out and look at the sights in there, I thought that you might like to ride along and look at the country and maybe point out some spots to me...but she thought that you would be interested in going and so I thought it would be worth driving back to town to see if you were, so I did and I decided I will wait til later to go if you wanted to go, because it is not going to go away, no harm done there...you didn't get mad at her did you?
- A. No...no.
- Q. No, I was just going to say that the more people that we can get educated...to your way of life...Particularly these OEO people that we are trying to work, and I hope they get somebody good, I don't know if there is anybody as good as you are though, there is bound to be someone...otherwise I think it would probably be wise if you can find somebody to do Dr. Ellis' or Andrea's thing and do it...if you wanted to spend that much time away...but...Well, until I can get some time to see, the part to get back to talk to me about this Bursum thing...gee, I don't know where the heck he has been, he is not supposed to get back until next week sometime... and do you think we've covered that early pueblo self government well enough, or are there some other things that you have got since last time?

- A. That's just what I was trying to think on that part, go back and see what, where we stand, where I'm standing...and if there is anything else to get to it...
- Q. You can't think of anything right now?
- A. No, not right now unless I think about it and learn some more and then next time we'll be review at the portion of it and maybe something I might use, after I learn something else...or, I have got to learn to write down, I used to write down what I think about...if I find anything, any more information on it you know...,
- Q. Well, let's see...she...
- A. Books, some of the bales there...some of the bales, there about four I think, and somebody else, the horse had broken and that place, he came up to the house and he said to me...he said, I am coming down to tell me that I have got your horses over in May corral... for what reason I said...and he said, well they entered my yard and broke the bale over there, I had to feed my cows with that to make a little money, dairy cows, I got three of them there, I was here right after you left, they were there...came up and how much, how many bales and he said, I don't want to take money he said, I want bales too...Well the damage, I said, six of them, broken bales... there I will let you have all those loose ones he said...and he gave me three bales to one and no I said, I can't do it...and we got to argue and I said, look here I said...you have got no protection round you farm I said, you are suppose to have, I don't have to he said... and don't you know that you are in the city limit...why do you have to keep your cows here in the city limit, you don't know all those things...and you and Mr. Montoya, you are mistaken too, within the city limits you have got to have a protection and then if it gets in there, you can legally sue the guy for any damages incurred... and I just...
- Q. Okay...
- A. You have to have more on the bluff side that I was talking and I (?) bluff him out on you see, because the city limits is where the (?) is, I sure put it over on him and finally he said, come on let's go to the judge and we went in his car, he had his car...I brought my (?) no that was afterwards...I just came down walking and so when we got to the judge's place he told him about it and then I started talking why I refused to pay, because he had no protection around his place, that is just all over, besides it is in the city limits where

it requires a protective fence around his property I told him I know it, that is the rule in the city...where they have incorporating in the city I told him...(?) just bluff him that all and pretty soon the judge couldn't find what else to say to me and so he said, yeah...right away and (?) advantage and he said, oh, let's forget it...that much...and...so when I got back home I said, my friends, thank you for getting back my horses and he said he was going to forget about the damages...and I said to be fair to you, I am going to bring you three bales of hay...that were broken, I will bring it and will take the loose ones...it is there...and he said, all right...if I am not here you just put them on the step there...he said and so I took the horses and one of them I could ride you know and round back, took him back to the house...and told Dora...that I hitched the team up, took the wagon down there, put those bales and all those loose bales were still good you know they were just some broken the wire and that is about all you know and that I had took a whole load of loose hay, I cheat him all the way around...

- Q. Well if you are going to make your meeting...
- A. Yeah, let's go...

END OF TAPE