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Governor Cargo:

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Visits to District Rangers at El Rito (Miller) and Coyote (Edwards) revealed little to criticize except the most important hangup of all-- communication and understanding between FS and the people. The rangers are in both cases meticulous young technicians doing their jobs according to the book, and probably very competently as to range management. In both districts trespassing cases appear to have been handled leniently, and I verified cases in which they could have charged rounding-up fees and forage fees, and they did not--exercising what appears to have been good judgement. All records were not available to me, especially correspondence: Ranger Edwards cited Dept. reg. (FS manual) 6231.2 Instruction 6, which makes administratively confidential all records on investigation, inspection, accounting and compliance with regs. I had a taped authorization from Asst. Forester Smith (Albuq.) for me to see trespass fee receipts, etc. I felt rangers were not defensive, and stretched regs to allow me to see stuff clarifying cases I brought up. But they did not feel authorized by regs to let me go on the fishing expedition I would like to pursue. Impact of new info. law just passed by Congress not yet interpreted for them by their superiors. (I think it will open most of the records we want to see.)

Main fact remains: People don't understand; people are mad. FS has not obtained the degree of client cooperation they need to make top use of the range for forage. FS does not appear to have any involvement in creating income potential out of the many upland tracts of arable land available for specialty crop production, rather than low-return grazing.

Recreation conflict: Coyote district: ranger Edwards verified concern for keeping stock clear of campgrounds, but acreages appeared very minor. Rangers state that there is very little competition between stock and deer and elk for forage. Latter prefer browse, cattle want the grass. Only in critical drier times do they overlap. And deer go much higher on the range.

Spanish Americans in jobs above tree-chopper level: Asst. forester Smith and Supervisor Proctor (Albuq.) were quick to rattle off numerous middle-grade people, and young career foresters who were Spanish. Proctor, who I have known since 1955, and in whose district I have skidded logs, built roads, and prospected, is Spanish, and is now on his third forest as a forest supervisor. Route for Span-Americans to prof. forest careers is still difficult, however, for same reasons we discussed--lousy secondary education, etc.

State is failing its opportunity to aim upland Spanish-American kids into forest and intensified agriculture careers, both public and self-employed. Visited FFA conference at El Rito State School yesterday. Run by L.C. "Hap" Dalton, State chief of Voc. Ag. instruction in N.M. high schools and State FFA supervisor. Located at A & M in Cruces. He relates a rather sorry picture of voc. ag. instruction staff strength in uplands region. Taos, Penasco & T.A.-Chama HS's have dropped voc. ag. Gallina & Questa have vacancies for voc. ag. tchr. Mora, Dulce and Pojoaque have tchrs with Texas and Okla. ag. backgrounds (making their orientation to high-altitude specialty crop opportunities at least open to question.) Ag instruction supervision at State level does not appear to be aimed at making high use of subsistence and income potential of northern croplands.) Lack of water is an excuse--a straw man, (at least until thousands of fallow acres are put into uses higher than grazing.) I saw literally hundreds of fee land tracts

My instinct only - I have little evidence. But if instruction & curriculum may be judged by subsequent vocational activity in the field, I am right.

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which could sustain a family and produce \$2,000 to \$4,000 in money income (& more) being used to produce a probable \$50 to \$300 in grazing return.

Everywhere I got the complaint, when specialty crop talk came up--"markets-- we can't sell the stuff; gotta feed apples to the pigs; we need a cannery...."

Complaint of voc. ag teachers and school people: "We have many boys interested in high-yield cropping on family (or other available) lands... but their parents are afraid the welfare check will be jeopardized." And they are discouraged or forbidden from proceeding, by their parents. This "laziness" argument against Spanish-Americans has been used so much by unconstructive right-wingers, that we liberals often reject it out of hand. I conclude that it is a major factor in northern counties, and laws or regs need correcting to allow motivation of the youth to assert itself--maybe thru some sort of procedure which would allow new-income effort in a family to get through, say, two seasons of trial before any adjustment in State assistance to the family. These people have adjusted pragmatically to the only way open to them in the past, to survive. They should not be faulted for hanging onto State assistance, in the absence of other (self-generated) possibilities. Transition will require innovative overlap, and public understanding of the problem.

Land-recovery problem: (the thrust of the Alianza): It is more traditional and emotional than substantive, in view of huge underuse of presently available land. They are hung up on grazing as a way of life, too. I have urged Alianza to open up a "second front" in their war with the world, and seek to promote some of the above notions. I put them onto that demonstration at Bernalillo Saturday, and dictated the wording for their signs, to Anselmo Tijerina, two hours before the luncheon. Result came out somewhat more Alianza-oriented, but my two-pronged approach for future Alianza activity (on basis that land recovery was at best, horribly remote) was evidenced in quote in Albuq. Journal from Anselmo: "...we're branching out--we'll demonstrate about our grazing rights, water rights..." The next step is to get Alianza to move into real technical assistance attitude toward its members, and become at least a catalyst toward its (northern resident) members helping themselves. I have told Anselmo and his colleagues they could get a foundation grant to set up a small technical assistance-communications team, to lead people to the right economic solution for themselves. Alianza's resources in talent, organizing ability, etc., are pitifully lacking. They have only a spirit--a condensed protest and a desperation dynamic of a cornered ethnic group; this must, (if not augmented) produce either rebellion (which it cannot) or it must pitifully diminish, leaving more frustration and intergroup hate. This is a challenge to all of us to use this energy for some good purpose and remedy.

My recommendations:

Demand USDA augment every upland ranger district with a new-category asst. district ranger assigned to 1) work with grazing associations and individuals in improving range practices (which is greatly clients' responsibility); 2) acting as a link to non-grazing projects for income production on forest land (fire-wood co-op? crop production? recreation projects, such as guides for campers & groups? All must be Spanish-speaking when hired. Can you get this? Yes. Via USDA's civil rights shop plus OEO-White House input. Possibly via

a very small Title 2, 205d or 205e grant (USDL administered EOA-manpower section) or through use of consultant-paid people under FS supervision using USDA or OEO's technical assistance or demonstration project budget. (Sec. 207 or 208.) You get the idea approved at top level first, and the authority for the funding can be found in Ag, Labor, or OEO. I recommend keeping this separate from the tri-county CAP package.

Immediate review of the voc ag potency and potential and staff capabilities of the two-dozen-odd uplands high schools, by a team of two specialists: one a voc. ag.-experienced teacher-type with strong innovative instincts, and the other a resources specialist, reflecting the Van Dresser concepts of full-developments of the uplands "micro-basins" for all uses. Out of this review, which should aim for curriculum changes on a crash basis for next fall's school season, should come the syllabus for at least one major school course at the HS senior level, but with college-level "meat" in it. The basic concepts are available now. For this team, I recommend that one of the few "correctly" oriented voc. ag. teacher-professionals in the Espanola area be drafted--I understand also that Riley Anderson of Espanola may be good. But the guy chosen must believe in the real potential for innovation in Northern NM agriculture and husbandry. (Husbandry? It is almost perfect commercial rabbit country. Not a commercial rabbit around.) Only two in the team of reviewer-programmers? Yup. Even three will slow it down. Give the project a consultant budget for thirty days of specialist time for the two guys to use for aspects that are over their competence. Put project under A & M's Dalton for administration and to keep noses in joint, but base it here, with close liaison to Fr. Garcia and State Education people, in SF.

Get an independent assessment of FS range management in the Northern N.M. National Forests this summer, by a team of range management consultants, picked to not just parrot FS philosophy. I think I could get Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, to administer this, if we could find the dough, which would not have to exceed about \$7,500. IPS is a very independent bunch which has been riding shotgun on government programs, never takes government grants to do anything--strong minority-group interest, and somewhat guilty about not having paid enuf attention to Spanish-speaking clientele. Mark Raskin and Dick Bennet are contacts. I would be able to get Rockefeller Bros. Fund money for this, maybe, via my brother, who is an administrator of the Fund. IPS sponsored a study I was going to do into the effectiveness of ARA training programs in N.M. and Alabama 1961-64. The 1966 election intervened, and I put it off. It would have examined relevance of MDPA (USDL) operated vocational training programs in semi-rural centers. We might follow the two above projects with examination of relevance of MDPA programs in NM. They are ineffective and horribly limited as to "ground rules," as you may know.

Get Van Dresser back here from Colorado if you can. He is with Pueblo Regional Planning Commission. He wants to be involved in N.M. development, but he bugs the conventional careerists; his concepts are unsettling, and he is difficult to work with. Structuring him in on salary would take some cleverness, but he ought to have some authority over plans, but not with administrative responsibility. He should have a lot to say in selecting consultants and carrier-outers. He is not a little empire-builder and is wholly non-political in a partisan way.

Begin a State-sponsored project* to assist in clearing marketable titles including surveying projects per Larry Prentice's letter from Stephenson--an Albuq. engineer who understands the problem and has a practical approach. Follow

* With an invited advisory committee from N.M. Bar Assn? Many state bar associations are cooperating with govt. sponsored legal service grants. Their approval would be essential. Project would surely produce more fee-generating cases, ultimately.

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technical phase with input from OEO legal services component of the new grant you will hopefully get by summer's end, to devise the legislative route and/or court route to create marketable title for the many farm-owners in the various upland communities. Excellent consultant pool of legal talent exists to recruit and to work as consultants on this, via California Rural Legal Assistance, in L.A. (OEO grantee) with a legal research component based at UCLA. Contacts: Jim Lorenz, director. Monroe Price, Asso. Prof. of Law, UCLA, consultant, and sort of chief philosopher of the outfit.

It is an old shibboleth of the advice business that advice not asked for is generally disregarded. And I don't usually try. I intend it as a compliment to your sensitivity, Governor, that I have offered the above. It would have been wasted on Campbell, Simms, Bechem...etc., who would have had to hire me to get a peep whatsoever.

Respectfully,

Russ R. Benedict

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