

Tape #346 (side 1)
NAVAJO
Pinedale District Meeting
July 1969
Recorded by Tom Ration
Tape 1

PINEDALE DISTRICT MEETING
TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM
WITH CAC AND WITH COMMUNITY
PEOPLE, GUEST SPEAKER IS DAN
NEZ, EXECUTIVE BOARD-EASTERN
NAVAJO AGENCY, SMITH LAKE

This is Pinedale district meeting talk about the CAC problems with the community people. Guest speaker is James C. Nez.... executive board, Eastern Navajo Agency, from Smith Lake. Now we are on a meeting, with, the district meeting it is called..... This meeting is about the story about what has been happening at the Kaibeto Tribal meeting. The CAC meeting, chapter officers, from all parts of the Navajo reservation met. It is, as we all know that we have gathered from all parts of the Navajo reservation and Mr. Dan Jim Nez was one of the boys that has been voted for the CAC for the Eastern Navajo Agency, he is a board member, and him and Mr. Tom Lucero was the ones that set up this meeting for district meeting, from the outside, the Navajo country.... So here is Mr. Dan James Nez Mr. Dan Jim Nez is a very young boy..... he is about around 21 or 22 years of age, but he is a very smart boy. He went through high school, he graduated, and then he started to work among his people as everybody knows that Mr. Nez has quite a good education. And he will be one of our guest speakers but before we go any further, we have here to introduce the chapter officers. The president of the chapter officers is Edward Mason... the vice-chairman is Frank White, the secretary is Mrs. Gray..... so, the meeting is run by the chapter but Mr. Tom Rafael is

gathering up his people from the seventh chapter around us. Mr. Rafael, but he has the chapter officer for the chairman of the meeting. So, we will have Mr. Mason be the chairman for this meeting..... Mr. Mason..... Hello to all of you people of the community and the guest that we have in our councilmen... and the listeners of this auditorium chapter house..... We have come up to..... a very hurry about to have this meeting because Mr. Rafael thinks that it is very important to people and it is under the hand of the community now.... During the time of the meeting at Kaibeto, Arizona..... We had quite a number of problems that we have learned. So this is some problem that we like for you to think about it, if there is anything that you think is worth changing. We will have meetings throughout all of the chapters to discuss this thing over, we have about 11 days..... So, I would like to give you the first outlining of what we have here on the list. During the time of the Kaibeto meeting.... we have discussed this over in between the community action committee and the chapter officers. That, we have found that all of these problems that we had, was been the various problems that we want. First we want to give one of our guests a little chance to say what he wants to say about one of our vice-chairman from Smith Lake chapter, Mr. Jim Charlie. He will be our first speaker, see what he knows about the Kaibeto chapter... Mr. Jim Charlie..... Chairman and the vice-chairman and the secretary and the councilman, Mr. Rafael, and the CAC members and the chapter officers..... and the listeners of the com-

munity, I'm very thankful to have this little opportunity to have a chance to say a little about what I know of the Kaibeto meeting as most of these chapter officers in the CAC have been up here in this meeting. It was a very good interesting meeting. As we had, we never have had anything of a kind for a long time.... So, as I want to tell you that the Kaibeto boarding school, was a very kind people... They lent us the whole building, there was over about six hundred and eighty-one members from all parts of the Navajo Reservation, as we all gathered together there as a member of different members, CAC members and chapter officers... We have had quite a time discussing things over, but I think there were some places that you people might have a very well understanding, so that is that reason why Mr. Rafael, our councilman, has gathered you together here and he wants to be sure of his people, so this is the time that we all are to say if it is right or wrong..... We had more CAC members and chapter officers at the meeting. We have Mr. McDonald from the ONEO and the superintendent from the Eastern Navajo Agency outside reservation..... and we had another one from Shiprock area, so we had quite a meeting there which we all think it was right to have it and we sure have a very good time talking things over at the meeting. During the time of the group discussion that we had, we have a list of problem that we had to discuss and talk about.... We had been on this little note that was given to us for one whole week, I think that is worth fixing

that, it is the CAC members..... and some of the problems that we had discussed about it.... And this is our first learning time which we all know that everything was new for us as we went along.....There was somethings that were listed on the paper that took a little longer than we thought it would take, but all these questions about different things, we have to have a very slow discussion on it. We, talk about it, where it took us, two or three days to fix one.... So that is the way to fix these things as we know. I never did thought of a little words would take this much before, but it does, if it is a good idea, of things..... it takes up more time to talk about. So, I think it is the same idea that we have gathered here together to discuss and talk about it. Over at Kaibeto we were all mixed with other people, might say that some of the people that we had in our group discussion was from Chinle, Steam Boat, and Ben Hoato, Shiprock, Westmore, Canyoncito, we were all mixed up in groups that is the way that they want for us to have it, so..... We will have different ideas from each chapter officer and CAC member, this is the way we went about on different problems. And I hope it wouldn't take that long again.... all of these stories that will remind you that I think our councilman thinks that we might do some changes, but by the way that we all think that I don't think that there is no change... as we all know that there was a CAC from all parts of the Navajo reservation that came to the point of what would

be best to be done, so this is just the start of things that, to show us that we are learning in the way of discussing of solving our problems, this is what Mr. McDonald has told us that it would be done. As far as most of the discussion being made, I know that I don't see any more change that we had it fixed at the time of the Kaibeto meeting. So you can try out and see what you can figure out and in that way these people back here would know something about it, so I think that is my way I don't think that there should be no change, so I thank you for this opportunity that I had, so I would let it go at that. So I thank you very much for listening and you probably have more better ideas that I have got. I thank you all, thank you for listening and I think you have a pretty good understanding so far..... I thank you all..... The chairman, Mr. Mason.... I thank you very much Jim Charlie..... as we go along, we will have an introduction as we go along and so our next speaker will be one of the chairman, Mr. Frank White. The community people and the visitor and the leadership members... the councilmen, Mr. Rafael, I say hello to you all and thanks for the opportunity here I have for a minute and according to all of these reports that we have from Kaibeto, and some more discussion, but Mr. Rafael things that we might make a change on it, I just want to say a little word about it. In throughout the country, we have heard about this before that has come to past.... there was a meeting down at Manuelito, some time ago, around last spring, the first part of the spring,

it was around April..... There was district meeting being set up at Manuelito, during that meeting, there was a same problem down there that was mentioned, how it was going be..... about the CAC, a payment for each month. Only when we have payment for each month and so I was thinking about that, the time when I heard it that it would be a very good idea for us people, the Navajo people for us to be organized, the CAC members.... I have been thinking about it for quite a number of days and then all of a sudden it came up at Kaibeto. From here when we started we were told that there would be some more discussion about different things... We had it but at the same time it was mostly about the CAC. I think Mr. McDonald thought that it, he, would try us out with such a word in discussion how we would make it. And in that way he learn that we are doing fine.... and we went along we have learned quite a bit from Mr. McDonald, so I was up at Kaibeto myself, during the time of the meeting and I learned myself, and I helped discuss about all of these problems that was set in front of us and so I want to say that most of all these problems that were said.... and being discussed and agreed on, that we had at Kaibeto..... I don't think we would have any more change on it as we go along, the changing, it makes it worse.... more worse than it started, so I say that in my part, I don't think we want anymore change in the discussion that we have made, this is all I am going to say about the Kaibeto meeting. We are on the same problems that we had over at Kaibeto meeting, so I thank you all for the

opportunity that I had to say, so now, I thank you all, chairman..... Mr. Mason..... I thank you very much for the little time that you have just had, Mr. White..... I think we will go on with the next problem.... next will be Mr. Dan Nez..... Chairman, secretary, and the vice-chairman and the people from the 7th chapter that Mr. Lucero is running and Mr. Rafael and listeners of the meeting and other leadership members... I thank you all and thanks for the opportunity that I will have here... for a little while.... It will take a little while for my speech, but I just wanted you, to listen carefully about all the details of the problems that we have discussed over at Kaibeto..... our councilman in this district, Mr. Rafael, has announced it over the radio that there was going to be a meeting for the seventh chapter.... Smith Lake, and Cassemar Lake and Baca and Kayenbito, Churchrock, Pinedale and Mariano Lake, this is the meeting that we are going to have here and I say that I think that our councilman was right to have a meeting here for us as we all know the reason that Mr. Rafael brought up this meeting for us, he wants to be sure how to come up. So this is what we got today, and he wants to be sure that this was right. And I think he has had the same idea that we got, as we know that I don't think he knows that we don't have no more changing in this list that we have here, we have been on it for one whole week..... and during the time of Kaibeto, all the people in the auditorium has came up to agreement, the way that it is.... set up, so I don't think we will want no more

change, as most of the CAC's and the chapter officers that went to the meeting.... said that there will be no more change. Leave it the way it is but first I want to give you most of the outlining what our councilmen wanted to see about mostly is that in these group discussions that we have made, at Kaibeto..... We were all mixed up and he thought that there might be a different problem here, like at the reservation. So he just want to bring this up to you people and see and look into it and if there is any more change that can be made. As I go along on these different problems I am going to read it to you and give you some outlining what really means, because I have a very good study on these things, the way that we have the plans things set up and so here listen carefully and see if there is any change that has to be made. The first note of this note that they made for us..... We.... these ideas in some community progress, it's your discussion, not the discussion of the ONEO, the tribe, Washington, are important by your action, this week at Kaibeto, you can show that the community action committee has a reason to abstain if you adopt a plan of operation for the CAC. It will shape the future of the community action on the Navajo, you have the right and obligation to make a discussion on this concerning assistant for yourself. The first such assistant would include first members on the CAC should there be non-Navajo traders, teachers, missionary on the CAC? Members, why or why not, should there be the same members of the CAC members for each

chapter, that is number one. Second, authorize of the CAC's should the CAC be limit to just telling subjects on recommendations or should the CAC's decide to actively do something to help the community? Third, pay.... shall the CAC members be paid, what do you think paying the CAC members to think for themselves, would do to the CAC members, what happens, what does payment to the chapter officers done to encourage the chapter officers..... the propecy to solve the community problems. Would part of the money to these committees per month, five members, ten dollars, per day, meeting..... 12 months one thousand, two hundred, chapter per year. That is available to the CAC's to use it to help pay for one local project. Within a short time, perhaps one or two years, no money will be available to pay the CAC's. What to, do in this chapter? The guidlines that have been pointed, printed our own ways, suggest and it is your right and obligation to adopt these guidelines as printed or to change them. Ways to solve our community problems..... what resources are available to the CAC's in solving our community problems..... People can be resources, ideas.... discussions, planning and action... teacher workshops of CAC's..... Shall the CAC's meet in the near future? For example, in 6 months, to denote the plans of operation, and discussion problems, to whom shall these CAC's be accountable; to the BIA, to the ONEO, to the tribe, to the Navajo people? Shall the CAC form an exectuive board and

elect officers to ideas with reservation-wide problems? This is the note that we have been expecting, that the Kaibeto. This is note that I have just told you was only seen the problem, number one, number two, number three, number four, number five, number six up to seven, this was the problem that we were on for one week. So as you know that things like this takes time to discuss in the right way. With people that many, 681 people in the community, problems from each district, CAC and chapter officers. As discussed all these problems as I just name out so, the people started out with the first number one problem and the question all these six hundred and eighty-one people that have met were all mixed up in different rooms. They had a group discussions, there were numbers on each group, it started from number one, number two, number three, on down..... I think there was about 30 different groups in the bunch that talk about this little note here, out of this 681 people, it took just only two discussion and number one and number two. Every other day, it took two discussion and the way they went along. And so as you know that the each words that has been named out, it takes quite a time to put it in the right place. The first says, what is the CAC? That was the first question, they wanted the CAC and the chapter officer to answer that question. The CAC is the community action committee. What is the community action committee, the next problem. The people answered, the community action committee is people

that talks about things, they act, the community acts as a committee, committee is somebody that makes ideas, makes plans.... talks about it, that could lead in the right way. That was a long answer. They go by the old stories from their old ancient people, from the time of the pueblo Bonito time, there was a CAC, there was a community action committee that was set up as they know in their stories. These were called a kiya. A kiya is a place where people gets together and talks about big things, that would never move around again. It makes agreement in this room that is what we call a kiya, so that is what the people has had done, at Kaibeto, Arizona. As we know, things were discussed right, the people from all parts of the reservation have talked about things that they never had talked about before, they talked about the Navajo people, they talk about the traders, they talk about the people, the teachers, the missionaries..... It says here why and why not.... can there be a CAC committee, why and why not? The answer said that there should be a CAC members because the community must act in their community. They must talk about solving such problems that were worth while. That is why it's called community action committee. In early days, they had been, they had been things like this came up in their time, people had made community action committee, because some of them weren't doing right, they had to do right. So, everybody would be satisfied. The main question is, why and why not? The people answer was because that we need community action com-

mittee to talk to its people, that is why. If there wasn't any good reason they would say not, but this is a good reason for our people. And then come the next question, should there be the same members of the CAC for each chapter? Would there be the same members for each chapter, you have to study this as it goes along. Should there be the same members of the same CAC members for each chapter...? The meaning of this same should there be the same members, I think what they meant is the first CAC that has been appointed and elected, would they be the same ones to be in the members, or else do you want any change in your community? That was another question. The people answered, the CAC members will set up about a year ago, in each chapter and today, as they look at the CAC has been learning alot of different ideas, we have been discussing things, in their community chapter all over the reservation. So they probably have enough experience by now, says the people, what they have learned during the time of their remembers of Community Action Committee, they have learned and reached the point that they should do. They have discussed things like the way that they want it and the right problem, so that is why the answer is yes..... It should be the same members for each chapter, because the new ones will start all over again. About another years time there will be probably learn again what that would be kind of late, so they decided to leave it the way it is in the CAC members... It took quite a few discussions and every problem that is, went along.... They had done

pretty good, because of it they have voted and made motion for different things, as they went along. I think that was a very good and pretty good idea, like the way they have set it up..... So this is one of the problems of the discussion that the CAC members have made so far, and I think they have learned their lesson what they should do when they go back to their reservation, go back to their chapter districts. This is what they got to do. Going along farther the people think that they, it is a very good idea that these people do this because it is for our people and for the officers. We can stand by for how it is made, so that is one of the first discussions that we had in the line of group discussions. It took quite a time, the people had to talk about it as it goes along. I used to remember the time of my days when I was about 12 years old, this is a little story I know, I would like to tell you about. In the earliest days of these chapters, that was being set up each district, we used to remember there was a place where they call Cassamer Lake, it was along the shore of the lake there was a little hill, right on top of that hill, they built a chapter house, out of a hogan. That they think they meet there, each meeting they got. In that time, I was not too strong at mind, mostly my mind was playing with somebody else, some other things, you know how children are today, they like to play..... I have learned little things in those old days and I don't even pay no attention to what is going on in those days, but somehow or other, there was a question that was being

put out by the same problem that was being asked what is a CAC..... There was a question asked about the superintendent, from Crownpoint, Mr. Stacker was the superintendent in those days..... I remember the time when they had the meeting, the superintendent asked the people, what is a chapter, he wanted an answer..... I think we had some smart men in those days... and the man that was interpreting for Mr. Stacker was named John Perry..... John Perry knew what it meant, but he was interpreting so there was another fellow near by.... got up and said, I will answer that question for you.... and he stood up and said, the chapter means a place to meet, for a discussion, a chapter is a very good thing, he said. It means to talk about things, whatever we want, and you might want alot of things to have or alot of different ideas to be brought up, and we can get together in this chapter house and discuss things that is what it means, a place to meet, he said. The superintendent, the leaders of the Navajos was gazing at the man that answered the question. The superintendent smiled and said, my good old fellow man, I think you have got the brains he said, you sure do the answer right..... this means.... a place to meet, a place to talk about things of the people needs. This is the thing something like the same problem that I have heard way back during the early days..... and it is something like the same program that we have discussed at Kaibeto during the time of our meeting. All of these problems had take place and took time to discuss. Out of that 681 people,

they all have the same problems, I don't know why it happened, they were in different rooms, different class, different group discussion, when all the question was made, they had a different secretary that was appointed to each group and then it would go by the number, number one and number two..... all the way down the line.....up to I think it was about 30. I think it was about 15 different secretary that answers all these questions in a group discussion. Every last one of them on number one and number two was discussed that same day, every last one of them had the same problem, the answer about the CAC, what is the CAC. So that is why I say that we Navajos are not dumb as they think we are, we can still think about things like the whitemen are doing, we can discuss things in the right way. And we can keep on the right track on our discussion, so it will suit the people of the community, this is what we had at Kaibeto, it was kind of a little hard in the first place but we keep on it, as we go along... we trail it around... so this is what they, the first problem is, in there some of these CAC and chapter officers might think that the problem that was brought up, this would be the wrong problem now..... So I want you to say up, what would be the best thing to do on this problem. As I have told you, let us all together and think this over for a while and while you are doing that, I will get on the next list as we go on, I want you to have the same class as a group discussion. I want you to separate these, have a different one and see

what you think about it, so that you can get the right answer I would like for you to say so..... So now, we will have about twenty minutes of discussion now, so you are on your own now, for that much minutes..... Well here we are again, the answer to the question, Mr. White.... the vice-chairman..... I think that the as we have discussed and the first problem that I will make a motion that the whole problem that has been said would be kept in the list like the way it is. Second motion, Martha Keams.... Henry... Martha K. Henry..... second motion. There was about 26 in favor and none against, so we say, we will let that ride on. We got on the next problem, which there is a, should the CAC be the limit to just talking.... or should the CAC decide to do something to help the community, what is the next question. As we go along we have been talking about things about discussion, we have learned the main subject and the main answer on all of these questions. Will there be a limit for just talking by the CAC? Will the CAC do something else? That is what it needs. What would be our answer, we will go into our class again and we will discuss this whether it is right or wrong. The same meeting has been people, now it is brought back, the chairman, Mr. Masson..... We have come to the point of the limits of the CAC, we will say the limit on the next discussion. So we have discussed about the CAC will have a limit, so I will make a motion for the limit.... Second motion is by Tom Ramon..... The vote, the vote of the people was the same amount, 26 in favor and none against.

So, that is settle up, number one and number two and so we go on the next paragraph, which says that the, with the CAC members that we can we will have this discussion again. What do you think the CAC members to think for themselves will be to the CAC members, that is the next question. The CAC members if they get paid, what would, what will it to to them?

Will it spoil them or will it be good? Will the CAC in fact, the problem that we are talking about, what will it do to the CAC.... will they hold by if they get paid... and will they just be looking for the money or else would they be working hard..... will they talk about things? And get on the ball, if they were paid, or else, will they just come to the meeting and just give us any old answer, to win their money. Will it do to the CAC's, if they get paid, this is another question. I know the answer to discuss, we have been going along fine with our discussion and so they will take up another time on that right now, what would it do to the CAC members? You have been busy on each problem but we will have to just get this done so that we can turn it in to the executive board as soon as possible. So we will get on the groups again.... the group discussion came up to the point again, the answer is that the it would not harm or do anything to the CAC members... but it would be just like a chapter officer, the chapter officers, the first time when they were not being paid, they would not hardly come to the meetings. Sometimes, there would be just the vice-chairman, no secretary, the time when the chapter officers were not paid.

After they found out that they were going to be paid, the time they got on the ball. They never missed the meetings. All of the three were to be present the chapter president, the vice-chairman and the secretary. So things were going along pretty fine, that is why we are giving you the same question..... Now as you came to the point and you say that the questions is that when the CAC should be paid, they would get on the ball....Everything that comes up is like that everywhere. When you are getting paid for something to be done, you are always on the job, you are always ready to be doing something, so I think that it would be best and it wouldn't harm the CAC, if they will be on the ball... And discuss things over as they go along... That is the answer of the CAC came in. There was many years ago when the first chapter officer was appointed, they were never been paid, they were just running, to help their people in these days. Looks to me in the early days we used to have different kind of a people that we have got today because people in the early days wasn't paid for doing chapter things, they would do if free. So, as we know.....just lately the Navajo tribe thought that it would be best for the chapter officers to be paid and so that is what has happened, the chapter officers started to be paid and they got on the ball. The CAC must be paid for their job and for their discussion on different things and so there is a greater one, how many are in favor of the agreement..... and there are about 30 in favor of payment of the CAC's and so it is that now, that it is settled

that much. As we go along, our next problem is that the next is that how many times will the CAC members have their meetings... so, it is says here that it will be two times, two times a month, five members should be entitled for CAC, ten dollars per day shall the CAC get, twelve months, \$1,200 per chapter through the year. That is the rule, available to the CAC that needs to help pay for local projects, and so that is another problem. How many terms can the CAC need, so we put up that problem again, that has got to be fixed also, and we are so far doing fine and we will send you to your class again.....

END OF TAPE