

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ news release

Wilson -- 343-9431

As of February 1965, bonuses, royalties, and rentals in the joint account totaled \$5,768,226, although that amount would be reduced by severance and other State and local taxes. Accrued interest on the principal in the joint account was an additional \$969,843.

The maximum either tribe could expect to receive if it established full title to the land would be about two-thirds the joint account.

Legislation now being considered by Congress provides that a special three-judge court in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico would decide the case with the right of direct appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

In recommending passage of the legislation, the Department of the Interior proposed an amendment to eliminate language which suggested that the United States was a party in the proposed litigation. The amendment proposes substitute language to the effect that the United States, which holds the legal title to the land in trust, consents to the litigation so that the issue between the two tribes may be settled, but that the United States has no beneficial claim to or interest in the land involved and shall not be joined as a defendant in the litigation.

#