



Its art program attracted the attention of Mrs. Stewart Udall, and it was largely through her enthusiasm and efforts that an exhibit of American Indian student art is now being shown in the Department of the Interior in Washington. Public interest in Indian Affairs has been stimulated by this exhibit which nearly 2,000 people have already visited.

I hope that all the superintendents here this week will visit the classes and students and workshops at this Institute. You are the people who initially selected the students as candidates. It is important that you witness its impact on its students who are learning a new appreciation of Indian culture while they are being trained realistically for the world of work.

Education and vocational training are the underpinnings of all the Bureau's present policies, but in order to achieve our still unmet needs in education we must continue to examine all aspects of our youth resource picture.

Let me summarize now.

Three years ago we were organizing to carry forward the recommendation of Secretary Udall's Task Force on Indian Affairs. Since that time we have, I am convinced, made real progress, particularly on the bedrock issues of Indian education and vocational training.

Here are a few statistics: Total school enrollment of Indian children, to 18 years old, in public, Bureau, and mission and other private schools, rose from 112,746 in 1961 to 121,236 in 1963. In the same period the number of Indian young people attending colleges, universities, and post-high school vocational schools increased from 4,884 in 1961 to 5,431 in 1963.

Similarly, our vocational training program has climbed steadily, fiscal year 1964 showing an enrollment of 4,500, including youth and adults.

Along with stepped-up education programs, new housing programs for Indians have been launched with the help of the Public Housing Administration. Increased health protection through programs of the United States Public Health Service have paralleled education and housing improvements.

But the hard core of our Indians' problem--unemployment--persists. There is no need for me to describe to this audience the poverty which still exists on many Indian reservations. The combination of a growing population and a fixed base of economic resources often makes it extremely difficult to lift per capita income.

Unemployment problems, are not, however, exclusively Indian. We find them today in the half-deserted coal mining towns of Appalachia, in some of the once-prospering farming communities of the West, and in Negro sections of both Southern and Northern cities. These are places which, for one reason or another, have been tragically bypassed in America's recent march forward to a higher standard of living.

President Johnson, as you know, has declared war on such pockets of poverty. If Congress enacts his Economic Opportunity Bill and provides funds for its implementation, as we are confident that it will, we shall have the assistance of a host of new Federal and State services to aid in our work on behalf of Indians. Some of these may supplement our own programs. Others may be excitingly new, and may stimulate us to review, appraise, and, if need be, revise our own ideas and methods.

This, then, has been the object of our meeting here in Santa Fe: to determine how the Bureau of Indian Affairs can best contribute to the President's War on Poverty and how the Economic Opportunity Bill, which is the legislative vehicle for his program, can, in its numerous provisions, strengthen and extend the Bureau's programs.

The course of our appraisal has taken us into a review and evaluation of our policies and programs in the past three years on behalf of 380,000 Indians.

The goals of the Bureau for the Indian people remain those stated in the Task Force Report of 1961: Maximum economic self-sufficiency; full participation in American life; equal citizenship privileges and responsibilities. The Bureau's trusteeship responsibilities require programs for the protection and preservation of Indian property, but the Task Force recommended greater attention to programs of group and personal development rather than excessive reliance on purely book-keeping or custodial functions.

We have followed that general recommendation. Without relaxing the vigilance required to preserve the trust property of Indians, the Bureau has augmented successful on-going programs of a developmental nature and begun some promising new ones.

Established programs which have been enlarged are adult education; scholarships for higher education; vocational training; industrial development; credit; tourism and recreation; and trades and crafts training.

New programs include housing; the employment of Indians on road construction and other government projects, improved real estate appraisal to assure Indians fair value for sale or lease of lands; feasibility studies for economic development; and the establishment of community centers.

The current focus of the Bureau is on maximizing opportunity. Some of the Indian people may prefer to leave the Indian country to seek jobs, education, training, or business opportunities either in urban-industrial areas, or elsewhere. For such people, the Bureau's services will continue to provide basic education and technical training, as well as assistance, both personal and financial, to those Indians who seek to move off their reservations into American cities and towns where jobs are more readily available.

For those wishing to remain on the reservations, programs of basic education, industrial development, resource development, are being stepped up. Services to strengthen tribal governments are companions to services for individuals and families.

In effect, what we are doing is trying to pave the way for all Indians to enter the mainstream of American life, either on or off the reservation.

This kind of approach is very necessary in a time when technology is supplanting traditional rural means of living. Of the 285,000 people living on the reservations in 1960, 57 percent were under the age of 20. Such a population profile indicates rapid growth in the next generation, increasing pressures on the land, and a mounting need for job and income-producing economic programs on the reservations.

Now let us reexamine our major current programs, their objectives, and their accomplishments, in some detail:

Housing: After many years of neglect and inattention, real progress is being made in the field of Indian housing. In 1962, in cooperation with the Public Housing Administration, the Bureau brought low-rent housing to the Indian reservations for the first time. The beginning was made on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, and today similar construction is under way on several other reservations and is scheduled for a great many others. The aggregate value of low-rent and mutual-help housing projects currently reserved by the Public Housing Administration for the reservations exceeds 36 millions of dollars, and will result in more than 3,300 new housing units.

One phase of the housing program is often called the "mutual-help" program. This is a concept devised to assist Indians who cannot afford to pay even the small rentals required by low-rent housing. Under this program, the Indian acquires an equity in his new home by contributing his own labor, in cooperation with his neighbors, to the home construction. The tribe provides the land. The Public Housing Administration provides the funds for the materials and for some of the supervisory skilled labor. The Bureau provides the necessary organization and the overall supervision.

So far, the actual construction of homes is less than five percent of the total units authorized. However, 58 tribes have formed tribal housing authorities, and 48 of them are in active operation. The future looks bright in this area.

Education: The Bureau operates an educational system of elementary, high schools, and vocational schools for 47,500 Indian children and youth in schools and dormitories in 17 States. An even larger number of Indian students, as you know, attend public schools, all with our encouragement and many through Federal aid to local schools. In regard to its own schools, the Bureau is operating with three objectives: (1) To expand its system sufficiently to remedy past neglect; (2) To provide classrooms and dormitories for the rapidly increasing Indian population; and (3) To upgrade the quality of instruction at all grade levels.

Recognizing that education is basic to the success of all other programs, over half of the Bureau's annual budget is channeled into education for children and adults and into school construction.

Scholarships are provided by Federal aid, by tribes, and by private and public institutions. Since 1961, annual Federal scholarship grants have been doubled and redoubled--to over \$1,000,000--and now benefit 1,300 students. The tribes provide over \$800,000, and the grand total from all sources is now more than \$2,300,000 a year.

Adult Education: The Bureau has had an adult education program since 1955, when it was instituted in five communities on a pilot basis to establish basic literacy. Since then it has gone beyond the basic literacy concept to include understanding of civic, political, and social problems on the reservations. At present, 24,000 Indians and Alaskan natives in 140 communities are served by adult education programs.

Summer Projects: Summertime education recreation and employment for Indian youngsters began in 1960, with about 2,000 children participating. Increased Congressional appropriations made it possible for more than 20,000 Indian youngsters to take part in the 1963 program. Student participation in the 1964 summer season is expected to be even larger. Strong emphasis is given to academic studies with student employment second in emphasis.

Vocational Training: This is a program of the most fundamental importance. The ability to earn a living is usually dependent upon a person's having a saleable skill.

Three Bureau vocational institutes now offer post-graduate training. Enrollment of young people is now over 1,000 and is expected to reach 1,500 by 1967.

Vocational training for adults is also financed by the Bureau. In fiscal year 1964 we used the facilities of 295 public and private institutions throughout the country to provide vocational training for Indians, most of them 18 to 35 years old.

They were enrolled in 683 different courses of study, or were in on-the-job training courses for 111 different occupational fields.

This year, 3,550 Indian workers will receive training under these programs. Authorizations permit an increase to 5,400 by 1967.

This program provides not only full tuition for training, which runs from a few months to two years, but also all family expenses of transportation, housing, food, clothing, and welfare and health services while the head of the family is readying himself for a job.

Job Placement: During the past 12 years, 17,000 Indian workers have been placed in permanent jobs, most of them as a result of adult vocational training programs.

Welfare: The Bureau has a general assistance program that provides for basic needs to avert suffering and malnutrition on the reservations. State public assistance standards are used. The social service aspects of the Bureau's welfare program have become increasingly important in the development of human resources. Some Indian people do not take adequate advantage of available opportunities for employment and training because of personal inadequacies, which are often related to poor child rearing practices and unstable family life. Bureau social workers secure foster care, or help plan adoption, for Indian children who are severely neglected or without parental care. They provide counseling to families to help them stay together. They also provide counseling to help individuals cope with serious personal problems.

Community Centers: The Bureau recognizes the importance of community facilities to efforts of the Indian tribes to improve the conditions of life on the reservations through increased opportunities for meetings, classes, and civic development projects. To further these purposes, community centers have been constructed on numerous reservations under the Accelerated Public Works Program at a cost exceeding \$1,000,000.

Industrial development. Indian employment and employment potential have been increased through the Bureau's growing program of industrial development. During the past three years the Bureau has negotiated the establishment of 40 small manufacturing plants on or near the reservations. To do this, the Bureau drew upon financial aid available from the Small Business Administration, the Area Redevelopment Administration, and other agencies, as well as its own revolving loan fund. Current employment in these plants is 1,300 Indians, with good prospects of substantial expansion in the next few years.

The Bureau's Division of Economic Development has operated in close liaison with the Area Redevelopment Administration, assisting more than 40 tribes to prepare ARA-approved Overall Economic Development Plans and thus to qualify for ARA loans and grants and other job-promoting services. It has also contracted for nearly 80 feasibility reports have already resulted in financing and operation by tribal organizations and/or private industries.

Employment through resources development. The Bureau's forestry programs are carried out on the 13,000,000 acres of Indian-owned forests that the Bureau manages. Current treatment extends to 35,000 acres a year and provides about 200 man-years of employment, with a potential of more than 10,000 man-years of employment in this work.

Bureau programs in irrigation, soil and moisture conservation, and other improvement of livestock grazing and agricultural resources are presently providing about 2,000 man-years of employment, with an employment potential estimated at 44,000 man-years.

Closely related to land development are Bureau programs of road construction and maintenance, and of buildings and utilities on the reservations. These projects provide jobs for Indians under a policy of direct Bureau employment, and currently provide nearly \$3,500,000 in annual payroll to reservation Indians.

The Bureau's credit program has assisted both individuals and tribes financially in many ways. Indian individuals, for example, have been helped to go to school, to start small businesses, to improve their homes, and to buy livestock. Tribes have been helped to build and operate motels, to develop and improve tribal herds, to build and operate canneries, to build and operate saw mills, and to engage in many other forms of enterprise. Successful tribal enterprise can develop resources, produce income, and provide employment.

Over 48 million dollars in Federal funds have been loaned to Indians and Indian organizations of which \$17.6 million was unpaid at the close of the last fiscal year. Tribes also are loaning over \$25 million of their own funds. Credit pyramids, and, as a result of combined Federal and tribal financing, private sources have become the major factor in tribal economic development--over \$103 million last year. Two-thirds of all Indian enterprises are now being financed by private sources.

Altogether, over \$150 million is being used from combined Federal, tribal and private sources. Yet very much more is needed. The Bureau is looking toward a new program--loan guaranty and insurance authority--legislation for which is now pending in Congress. Two separate authorizations to increase the revolving fund for loans by a total of \$70 million also are pending.

Accelerated Public Works Programs. An immediate attack on the Indian unemployment was launched late in 1962 under the Accelerated Public Works Program. More than \$20 million have been spent or obligated on the reservations, creating temporary employment at an average level of more than 3,000 Indian workers. The projects have benefited nearly 90 reservations in 21 States through the construction and improvement of 835 miles of roads and trails; the construction of 29 community centers; the improvement of 34,000 acres of Indian forests through seeding, thinning, pruning and fire-hazard reduction; and through range improvement entailing 1,500 miles of fencing and 2,700 miles of gully control.

Land Appraisals. This is a real estate service to Indians, designed to protect them more adequately against the hazard of selling or leasing tribal and individual lands at prices below fair market value. The Bureau's real estate appraisal staff has been greatly expanded in the past three years. Sounder appraisals, better land management, and improved development and use of soil, water, and forage are the goals. The result is that income from Indian owned land has increased by \$4,500,000 or seven percent, in the last three years.

Last, but by no means least, are the services rendered to Indian tribal governments to help them operate efficiently as democratic institutions with sound fiscal and social policies. A major feature of tribal operations services rendered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is guidance given to tribes in developing spending plans for funds deriving from claims settlements.

These, then, have been our principal efforts. Have we succeeded completely anywhere? I frankly would hesitate to make such a claim. But the Citizen-Times of Asheville, North Carolina, quoted on May 24 a statement by the manager of the State Employment Security Commission which is responsible for helping the nearby Cherokee Agency to find work for its people. "We have moved from a point of 'where will we find jobs for all these people?'" , Paul Felsburg said happily, "to the present position of 'where will we find people for all these jobs?'" The Cherokees have a new kind of problem--the problem of affluence deriving from economic development. They now have problems of urban crowding and zoning. They are in the mainstream.

The Cherokee story has been duplicated at few other Indian reservations. But it can be, and, insofar as I can make guarantees, it will be.

For the Indian people of this country--as for all the people of this country--the still unattained goal is the great society--a society which President Johnson has described as one of "abundance and liberty for all."

This is an objective which Indian leaders, Bureau field officers and all other Americans can strive to reach as part of the national attack on poverty.

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