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In a major step designed to improve and expand Federal health services to Indians in the United States and Alaska, the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior will transfer its entire health program to the Public Health Service on July 1.

Involved in the transfer will be about 3,600 Indian Bureau employees and about 970 buildings. The real property inventory, estimated to be worth about $40,000,000, includes 56 hospitals, 21 health centers, 13 boarding school infirmaries, and numerous other structures used in the health program.

Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence Davis said that it is believed that the transfer is the largest shift of Government installations and personnel made in recent years. “It is in keeping with the earnest aim of the administration to provide the best possible health services for our Indian citizens,” he said.

The transfer will take place under legislation strongly urged by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and endorsed by the Department of the Interior in recognition of the chronic difficulty facing the Bureau in recruiting and retaining qualified doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel for service in its field hospitals and other installations.

Public Law 568, which was passed by the 83rd Congress and approved by President Eisenhower, was also supported by many prominent medical groups and by Indian tribal organizations.

The first congressional appropriation specifically designated for Indian health was passed in 1911 and totaled $40,000. In fiscal 1955, the appropriation totaled $23,418,898 and accounted for about one-fourth of the Indian Bureau's budget and about the same proportion of its personnel.

In the 31 years since the Indian health program was established on a formally organized basis, many important achievements have been made in meeting the health problems of the Nation's 400,000 Indians.

These include the development of an effective treatment for the eye disease, trachoma; the widespread use of BCG vaccination for protection against tuberculosis and of isoniazid for control of the disease; and the provision of hospitalization for thousands of Indian tubercular and other patients through contracts with non-Federal hospitals.

Recently, a greatly expanded preventive medicine program was launched with the aim of bringing the benefits of modern sanitation directly into Indian homes and communities.

During the first century of relationships with the Indians, some health services were provided by the War Department and later under the Department of the Interior.

In 1924 a Health Division was established with a chief directly responsible to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Later, arrangements were made with the Public Health Service to provide health personnel for certain

key positions, and these assignments have been greatly increased in recent years. The July 1 transfer is a culmination of this process.

A list of the Bureau's hospitals being transferred July 1 follows:

STATE AND HOSPITAL	LOCATION	RATED BED CAPACITY
Arizona		
Colorado River	Parker, Ariz.	32
Fort Apache	Whiteriver, Ariz.	41
Hopi	Keams Canyon, Ariz.	35
Phoenix Medical Center	Phoenix, Ariz.	200
Pima	Sacaton, Ariz.	30
San Carlos	San Carlos, Ariz.	35
San Xavier	Tucson, Ariz.	32
Navajo Medical Center	Ft. Defiance, Ariz.	208
Western Navajo	Tuba City, Ariz.	75
Winslow	Winslow, Ariz.	73
Fort Yuma	Yuma, Ariz.	22
California		
Hoopa Valley	Hoopa, Calif.	19
Minnesota		
Cass Lake	Bemidji, Minn.	30
Fond du Lac	Cloquet, Minn.	14
Red Lake	Red Lake, Minn.	21
White Earth	White Earth, Minn.	13
Mississippi		
Choctaw	Philadelphia, Miss.	27
Montana		
Blackfeet	Browning, Mont.	38
Crow	Crow Agency, Mont.	32
Ft. Belknap	Harlem, Mont.	39
Ft. Peck	Poplar, Mont.	23
Nebraska		
Winnebago	Winnebago, Nebraska	32
Nevada		
Walker River	Scurz, Nev.	32
Western Shoshone	Owyhee, Nev.	16
New Mexico		
Albuquerque Sanatorium	Albuquerque, N. Mex.	108
Eastern Navajo	Crownpoint, N. Mex.	56
Mescalero	Mescalero, N. Mex.	33
Northern Navajo	Shiprock, N. Mex.	41

Santa Fe	Santa Fe, N. Mex.	54
Zuni	Zuni, N. Mex.	35
North Carolina		
Cherokee	Cherokee, N.C.	25
North Dakota		
Standing Rock	Fort Yates, N. Dak.	42
Turtle Mountain	Belcourt, N. Dak.	36
Oklahoma		
Clinton	Clinton, Okla.	28
Kiowa	Lawton, Okla.	80
Pawnee-Ponca	Pawnee, Okla.	33
Shawnee Sanatorium	Shawnee, Okla.	106
Claremore	Claremore, Okla.	69
Wm. W. Hastings	Tahlequah, Okla.	64
Talihina Medical Center	Talihina, Okla.	231
South Dakota		
Cheyenne River	Cheyenne Agency, S. Dak.	25
Pine Ridge	Pine Ridge, S. Dak.	27
Rosebud	Rosebud, S. Dak.	36
Sioux Sanatorium	Rapid City, S. Dak.	140
Sisseton	Sisseton, S. Dak.	30
Yankton	Wagner, S. Dak.	24
Washington		
Colville	Nespelem, Wash.	36
Tacoma Sanatorium	Tacoma, Wash.	330
Alaska		
Anchorage Medical Center	Anchorage, Alaska	406
Barrow	Point Barrow, Alaska	13
Bethel	Bethel, Alaska	65
Juneau	Juneau, Alaska	45
Kanakanak	Kanakanak, Alaska	51
Kotzebue	Kotzebue, Alaska	35
Mt. Edgecumbe Med. Center	Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska	365
Tanana	Tanana, Alaska	31