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The Bureau of Indian Affairs has awarded the first negotiated contract for the supplying of equipment which had been earmarked for an area of substantial labor surplus, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

The contract is for three motor graders which will be used by the Bureau's Branch of Roads in the Aberdeen, South Dakota and Phoenix, Arizona areas. It was awarded to The Galion Iron Works and Mfg. Co., Galion, Ohio, for the sum of $36,033.

The set-aside procedure was ordered by Secretary Udall as a means of assisting the economy of areas having a substantial labor surplus, in accordance with existing regulations which allow set-asides for negotiated awards to firms in depressed areas. The motor graders to be supplied by The Galion Iron Works and Mfg. Co. will come from Galion, Ohio.

The Galion Iron Works and Mfg. Co. had previously submitted a low bid of $36,033 for the advertised portion, and was awarded the contract for three motor graders for the Billings, Montana and Portland, Oregon areas. Under the procedures adopted, the unit prices on the negotiated and competitive contracts are the same.