



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, SEPTEMBER 18, 1956

SECRETARY SEATON'S STATEMENT ON WYANDOTTE CEMETERY

In order to clarify the position of the Department of the Interior with reference to the so-called "Wyandotte Indian Cemetery" in Kansas City, Kansas, Secretary Fred A. Seaton today issued the following statement:

"Numerous inquiries have been made of the Department concerning the recent newspaper stories relating to the disposition of a two-acre tract in Kansas City, Kansas, that was reserved for a burying ground under a treaty made in 1855 with the Wyandotte Tribe of Indians. The provisions for such disposition are contained in an act of the 84th Congress approved August 1, 1956, "To provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the property of the Wyandotte tribe of Oklahoma and the individual members thereof and for other purposes."

"Representative Scrivner of Kansas has asked that the cemetery not be sold until Congress has had a further opportunity to consider the desirability of preserving it as an historical site. The normal procedures required for carrying out the Act of August 1, 1956, will provide time for the appropriate congressional committees to consider the subject, and the Department of the Interior will be glad to cooperate.

"Under the statute, the Wyandotte Indian tribe has six months in which to prepare and submit to the Secretary a proposed roll of its members, which will be published in the Federal Register. Sixty days thereafter are allowed for any person to file an appeal contesting the inclusion or omission of the name of any person on or from such roll. After Secretarial disposition of such appeals, the final roll will be published in the Federal Register. Only then will it be possible to identify with certainty the members of the tribe who actually have an equity in the property.

"Upon the request of the tribe, the Secretary is authorized within three years from the date of the act to transfer title to all or any part of the tribal property, which includes the Kansas City cemetery property, to a legal entity organized by the tribe or to one or more private trustees designated by the tribe, or to distribute the property among the members, or to sell the property and distribute

the proceeds of sale. The act also specifically provides that the Secretary may in his discretion provide for tribal referendums on matters pertaining to management or disposition of tribal assets. As far as disposition of the cemetery is concerned, I have decided that a referendum should be held among the tribal members before any final action is taken. The Business Committee of the tribe has indicated that it will request a sale of the property, reinterment of the bodies, and distribution of the net proceeds of sale (after deducting the costs of reinterment) to the tribal members. However, there may well be, as there was in the period from 1906 to 1913, deeply felt opposition to a sale among many of the descendants of the Indians buried in the present site. Such sentiments should certainly be given an opportunity for expression through the referendum process.

"Meanwhile, the congressional committees will have time to consider new legislation which we understand is to be introduced to determine the historical importance of the cemetery, and whether the cost of acquiring the Indian interest in the cemetery should be borne by private associations or by the local, State, or Federal Government. If the cemetery should be found not to have national historical importance, it may have sufficient local historical importance to warrant its preservation by private or local authorities.

"The cost of acquiring the Indian interest for continued use as a cemetery would be the full appraised value of the land less the cost of moving the graves. That is the net sum the Indians would get if the cemetery were sold for commercial purposes, and they might appropriately be paid the same amount if the site were purchased for preservation as an historical site.

"One point should be emphasized. The Department of the Interior has consistently maintained over the past half century that the equitable ownership of the cemetery is in the Wyandotte Indian Tribe. We believe that the Indians have the right to dispose of the property if they vote to do so, or to be compensated for their interest if the land is acquired by a private association, by local agencies, or by the national government for public purposes. I am advised that the tribe has no objection to the use of the land as an historical site if it is compensated.

"The Wyandotte Indians were the last tribe in Ohio which ceded their reservation in that State to the United States. This was done in 1842 by the treaty of Upper Sandusky dated March 17, 1842. Under this treaty, the United States granted to the Wyandotte Nation 148,000 acres west of the Mississippi, together with 1,920 acres at the junction of the Kanza (Kaw) River with the Missouri. Both of these cessions of land were made in fee simple to the Wyandottes and to their heirs.

"Under a subsequent treaty in 1855, the cemetery site was ceded to the United States as a burial place for the Wyandottes, but the site has remained in the custody of the United States subject to the recognized use of the Wyandotte Tribe.

"An item in the Indian appropriation act of June 21, 1906, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to sell the burial ground and pay the proceeds of sale to the Indians. Although a commission to sell the land was appointed, the sale was never consummated because of opposition to a sale by relatives and next-of-kin

of persons interred in the cemetery. On February 13, 1913, Congress repealed the sale authority, and thereafter appropriated funds for the preservation and improvement of the site, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to pay to Kansas City, Kansas, the sum of \$1,000 in consideration of the agreement by the city to maintain forever and care for the cemetery.

"Bills authorizing the sale of the cemetery or its conversion into a national historical site were introduced in several recent Congresses. When the bill in the 83d Congress was under consideration the Department recommended that action be deferred temporarily until all of the problems which tended to involve the Wyandotte people in a continued special trust relationship to the Federal Government could be considered. It was felt that the cemetery issue could be best settled in the context of an omnibus plan to remove all special trust supervision over the affairs of the members of the tribe and their property.

"Consultations were held with the tribe over a period of several months in the fall and winter of 1954 and 1955, and the bill that was eventually drafted was explicitly endorsed by the tribe in a resolution dated December 13, 1954. Moreover, this bill, which was enacted on August 1, 1956, specifically provided that if Congress should enact separate legislation to investigate the advisability of preserving the site either as a local or national historical site the Indians would not dispose of the site until the investigation was completed. The 84th Congress did not enact that separate legislation, but there is still adequate time for the 85th Congress to do so after the first of the year if it so wishes.

"Congressman Scrivner has also asked that before any plan of the Indians for disposing of the cemetery under the present law is approved, a hearing be held in Kansas City to permit interested historical groups to express their views. We shall be glad to comply with that request."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release SEPTEMBER 18, 1956

SECRETARY SEATON DIRECTS REVIEW OF KLAMATH TERMINATION PROGRAM

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today he has directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to review the termination program affecting the Klamath Indians in Oregon, with a view to preparing appropriate amendments to the Klamath Termination Act of 1954 for presentation to Congress early next year.

The proposals would be designed particularly to protect the Klamath timberland and the tribe's interests in this resource, the Secretary said.

This action followed Secretary Seaton's recent visit to the Pacific Northwest. During that trip, Secretary Seaton said, he discussed Klamath termination problems with former Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, and it was agreed between them that a review of the whole program was desirable.

Secretary Seaton expressed his concern about the Klamath matter in a letter to Mrs. Harlan P. Bosworth, Jr., of Medford, Oregon, who had written to him as a representative of the Medford Council of Church Women. Secretary Seaton wrote Mrs. Bosworth to assure her that: "I share your feeling that the termination of Federal trusteeship should be scheduled so that no sale of the ponderosa forest will either harm the sustained yield program or result in marketing the Indian holdings at 'fire sale' prices.

"I have asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs and my personal staff to review the Klamath termination program, and to be prepared to submit proposed amendments to the Termination Act to the next Congress, when it convenes in January, to permit the intent of Congress expressed in the Klamath Termination Act to be carried out without any unfortunate consequences."

Regarded as the greatest asset of the Klamaths, the tribal timberland extends over some 850,000 acres and embraces an estimated 750 million board feet of reserve stands on cut-over lands. The Klamath lumber industry dates back to 1913.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 17, 1956

STUMPAGE RATES INCREASED ON WARM SPRINGS INDIAN TIMBER

Stumpage rates to be paid by the Warm Springs Lumber Company, Warm Springs, Oregon, for timber cut under contract since last April 1 on the Schoolie Unit of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation are being increased by approximately 18 percent for ponderosa pine and 44 percent for Douglas fir and other species, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The increases were put into effect through an order signed October 16 by Secretary Fred A. Seaton following an extensive resurvey of stumpage rate adjustments ordered last March 31 by former Secretary Douglas McKay which were protested by both the tribe and the company. Before leaving office on April 14, Mr. McKay indicated in a memorandum to Under Secretary Clarence A. Davis that he had been compelled to issue the March 31 order without time for adequate consideration and recommended a restudy of the entire record.

At current lumber price levels Secretary Seaton's action will increase the tribal income for the year beginning April 1, 1956 by about \$125,000 if the company cuts the usual volume of timber during that period.

Under terms of the contract the stumpage rates are pegged by ratio to current lumber prices. In former Secretary McKay's order of March 31 the ratio for ponderosa pine was increased from 30 to 33 percent and for the other species from 8 to 16 percent. Secretary Seaton's more recent order increases the ponderosa ratio to 39 percent and the other ratio to 23 percent.

In giving his reasons for ordering the latest increase, Secretary Seaton pointed to technological developments in the lumber industry and changes in marketing conditions which have made the earlier ratios "completely unrealistic." One of the factors which he specifically mentioned was "the tremendous growth of the plywood industry and the utilization of wood waste in various processes."

Secretary Seaton also pointed out that the meaning of certain parts of the contract is in dispute and is involved in litigation now pending before the District Court of the District of Columbia. He added, however, that "since the Department precedent as established by Secretary McKay in 1954 takes a liberal view of the right of the Secretary to so fix these stumpage prices as to somewhat conform to current prices of timber, it is my view that such an interpretation should continue unless the litigation now pending should determine otherwise."

P.N. 5736

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 17, 1956

EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION OF FEED GRAINS TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN INDIAN STOCKMEN
OF SOUTHWEST TO BE LAUNCHED BY AGRICULTURE AND INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS

A new emergency program for distributing feed grains to Indian stockmen in previously designated drought-stricken areas of the Southwest was announced today by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed October 16 by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton and Acting Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse, the Commodity Credit Corporation will deliver the grains in carload lots to designated rail points in accordance with orders submitted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Indian tribal organizations will be responsible for storage, handling and distribution to tribal members who require such help to maintain livestock on which they depend for subsistence.

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs W. Barton Greenwood indicated that the Indian Bureau is asking the tribes to survey the feed grain requirements of eligible Indian stockmen immediately and that the Bureau will be submitting orders to the Commodity Credit Corporation in the near future.

Among the major southwestern Indian groups which will be eligible under the program are the Navajo Tribe of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and the Pueblos of New Mexico.

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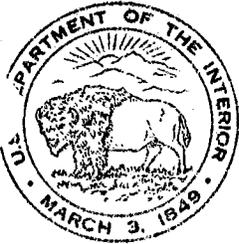
For Release OCTOBER 23, 1956

SEATON ASKS INDIAN BUREAU TO LOOK INTO NEZ PERCE TIMBER SALES PROSPECTS

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that he has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to send one of its forestry experts immediately into northern Idaho for an investigation of timber sale prospects on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation.

Members of the Nez Perce Tribe recently met with Secretary Seaton in Idaho and urged the need for a public offering of tribal timber at the earliest possible date. After hearing their presentation, the Secretary assured them that he would ask the Indian Bureau to investigate the problem at once and provide him with a report on the situation.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 2, 1956

RECORD \$27,000,000 RECEIVED FOR OIL AND GAS LEASES
ON NAVAJO INDIAN LANDS

Bonus bids of over \$27,000,000 were received for oil and gas leases on about 103,000 acres of Navajo Indian land near the "four corners" area of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

The bids, which were opened November 1, at the Indian Bureau's Window Rock (Ariz.) agency office, represented the highest offering ever made for oil and gas leases on Indian lands at a single sale, Acting Bureau Commissioner W. Barton Greenwood reported.

The total bonus offered for 101,856.73 acres of tribally owned land was \$26,927,642.57. For 1,079.34 acres of "allotted" or individually owned lands the aggregate bid was \$548,574.38.

All lands included in the offering are in San Juan County, Utah, and San Juan and McKinley Counties, New Mexico, and are in the general vicinity of Ute Mountain Indian lands in southwestern Colorado which brought total bonus bids of \$7,600,891.20 for 53,120 acres in a sale held just a month ago.

The November 1 opening is the first of three scheduled on Navajo lands in this general area this month. The other openings are scheduled for the 13th and the 23rd.

Under the regulations which govern oil and gas leasing of Indian lands, the annual rentals are fixed at \$1.25 per acre and royalties on production at 12½ per cent. The competition, therefore, comes in the bonuses which are offered for the leases.

At the two major sales which have been held on Indian lands since July 1, on the Ute and Navajo lands, the total bonus offered was over \$35,000,000. This compares with the record-breaking total of approximately \$41,000,000 received in bonuses, rents and royalties on all Indian lands in the United States for the 12-month period which ended June 30, 1956.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 15, 1956

NAVAJO TRIBE GETS NEARLY \$3,250,000 MORE FOR OIL AND GAS LEASES

In the second of three bid openings this month, the Navajo Indians received total bonus bids of \$3,247,094.91 for oil and gas leases on 82,200 acres of tribally owned land in San Juan County, New Mexico, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

In a previous bid opening November 1 for leases on other lands in the "four corners" area of Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico the Navajos received 27,476,212.95 on approximately 102,000 acres of tribal land and 1,100 acres of "allotted" or individually owned land.

The second lot of bids was opened November 13 at the Indian Bureau's Window Rock (Arizona) agency office. Under the regulations which govern oil and gas leasing of Indian lands, the annual rentals are fixed at \$1.25 per acre and royalties on production at 12½ percent. The competition therefore comes in the bonuses which are offered for the leases. In the November 13 opening the highest bid per acre was \$207.97, and the average high bid was \$39.50. A third and final lot of bids on other Navajo lands is to be opened November 23.

The second opening brings the total paid in bonuses for oil and gas leases on Navajo and Ute lands in the "four corners" area to almost \$38,350,000 since July 1. This compares with the record-breaking total of approximately \$41,000,000 received in bonuses, rents and royalties on all Indian lands in the United States in the year ended June 30, 1956.

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P.N. 7161



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 23, 1956

SOUTH DAKOTA JOHNSON-O'MALLEY CONTRACT AWARDED

Awarding of a \$409,300 negotiated contract to the Department of Public Instruction, State of South Dakota, was announced today by W. Barton Greenwood, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Indian education in the public schools of South Dakota has been partially supported by Federal funds under a contract with the State since 1949. To qualify for these funds under the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1936, school districts must show that Indian students and nontaxable Indian land within the boundaries of their district constitute a financial burden. The amount received by each district is based on a computation of several need factors. The first State contract aided 61 school districts, enrolling 919 Indian students.

Working in close cooperation with the State, the objective of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to develop public school opportunities for all Indian children on the same basis that public schools are available for non-Indian children in the State.

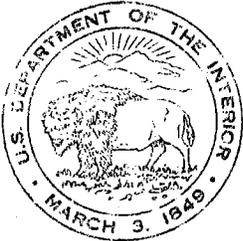
Between 1907 and 1953, 65 federally operated Indian schools in South Dakota were closed and the schools transferred to public school jurisdiction or the Indian children integrated into the existing public school system.

The purpose of the present contract is to provide financial assistant to affected school districts when there is a showing of need for this aid.

During the 1955-56 school year, Johnson-O'Malley aid was provided to 76 South Dakota school districts enrolling 1,821 Indian children.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 28, 1956

EMMONS TO MEET WITH TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM OKLAHOMA, KANSAS,
AND MISSISSIPPI AT DALLAS, TEXAS, DECEMBER 3 - 13

Top elected officers of 29 Indian tribes from Oklahoma, Kansas and Mississippi have been invited to meet with Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons at Dallas, Texas, in a series of sessions beginning December 3 and ending December 13, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The twofold purpose of the meetings is to give the tribal representatives an opportunity for discussing local problems with Commissioner Emmons and to afford the Commissioner an opportunity to explain more fully the present aims and policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The first series of meetings will be held from December 3 through 5, inclusive, and will include representatives of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache, the Cheyenne and Arapaho, the Pawnee, and the Ponca Tribes of Oklahoma and the Potawatomi and Kickapoo Tribes of Kansas.

Further meetings are scheduled for December 7 through 9, inclusive, and will involve representatives of the following tribes, all from Oklahoma: Wichita (including Delaware), Caddo, Fort Sill Apache, Otoe and Missouri, Tonkawa, Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Band of Potawatomi, Iowa, Kickapoo, and Sac and Fox.

The third meeting series will take place December 11 through 13, inclusive, and will be attended by representatives from the Eastern Shawnee, Quapaw, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole, Osage, Kaw, and Seneca Cayuga Tribes of Oklahoma; the Iowa and Sac and Fox Tribes of Kansas; and the Choctaw Tribe of Mississippi.

All the meetings will be held in the Statler Hilton Hotel and time will be provided both for general sessions and for each of the tribal delegations to confer individually with the Commissioner.

To preserve an informal "round table" atmosphere and avoid a "convention" type of meeting, attendance is limited to three delegates from each tribal group. In the great majority of cases, invitations have been extended to the chairman, the vice chairman, and the secretary of the tribal council.

The Dallas meetings are the ninth and last in a series of sessions which Commissioner Emmons has been holding with tribal representatives throughout the country since last July. The eight earlier conferences were as follows: (1) at Omaha, Nebr., July 19 through 25, with tribes of North and South Dakota and Nebraska; (2) at Denver, Colo., July 28 through August 2, with tribes of Colorado and New Mexico (including Navajo); (3) at El Paso, Tex., August 20 through 25, with tribes of Arizona (except Navajo); (4) at Salt Lake City, Utah, September 6 through 11, with tribes of Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana; (5) at Seattle, Wash., September 13 and 14, with tribes of western Washington; (6) at Portland, Oreg., September 17 and 18, with Oregon tribes; (7) at Boise, Idaho, September 20 through 22, with Idaho tribes; and (8) at Des Moines, Iowa, October 15 through 20, with tribes of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Commenting on these earlier meetings, Commissioner Emmons said that they have been "tremendously helpful in bringing about a better understanding of what the Bureau is aiming to do and how we are going about it."

"At all of these meetings," he added, "we have emphasized our threefold objective of better health, adequate education, and economic and social development. After participating in these discussions, the tribal representatives in the great majority of cases have adopted resolutions, entirely on their own initiative, expressing approval of these objectives and support for the program."

At the Dallas meeting the Bureau will be represented not only by Commissioner Emmons but also by key members from the Washington staff and the area office staffs at Anadarko and Muskogee, Okla.

Commissioner Emmons will hold a press conference in his suite at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 2. All interested parties will be welcome.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 28, 1956

NEW RELOCATION OFFICERS FOR INDIAN BUREAU AT LOS ANGELES,
SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Appointment of three new relocation officers to take charge of the Indian Bureau's field relocation offices in California at San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Jose was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

At San Francisco George M. Felshaw from the Bureau's area office at Muskogee, Okla., will move in January 13, 1957, replacing H. M. Mathiesen who retires November 30.

In the Los Angeles office Miss Ola Beckett, who has been in charge of the community adjustment section there, has been designated to take over the top position in an acting capacity when Mrs. Mary Nan Gamble leaves January 13 to join the Bureau's relocation services staff in Washington. Mrs. Gamble will specialize in community adjustment work.

At San Jose Rudolph Russell, who has been on the staff at San Francisco, will take charge of the office December 16 replacing Edward T. Kerley who joins the staff at Los Angeles.

Mr. Felshaw first joined the Bureau in 1938 and has been engaged in relocation or job placement work for the past eight years. Before coming to the Muskogee office as area relocation officer in 1955, he was engaged in similar work at the Navajo Agency, Window Rock, Ariz. He was born at Pima, Ariz., in 1913 and attended Gila Junior College, Thatcher, Ariz.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release DECEMBER 14, 1955

INDIANS SET NEW RECORD IN RELOCATION

The American Indian set an all-time record this past year in accepting job opportunities off his reservation, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis announced today. According to figures received by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, almost 3,500 Indians moved away from their reservation homes to areas that offered greater employment advantages.

The figures go on to show that most of the Indians who make the voluntary relocation move make a success of their new ventures.

Of the 16 agencies where the Department has a relocation staff, five have reported on the number of "returnees" for fiscal 1955. These reports show that fewer than 13 of every 100 relocatees give up and go back to their reservations after trying life in the cities.

One of the best records was posted by 455 relocatees from the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. Of the number that moved away, only seven per cent returned. The percentage is the same for 229 Indians from Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana.

At the 16 agencies where the Department has relocation officers, their job is to give the Indians interested in relocation the facts as to what the move might mean to them and their families. The average size of a relocated family is 3.9. However, about 800 of the 3,500 Indians who relocated were single men and women. Indians who seek relocation are generally the younger members of the tribe--those 45 or under.

On the "receiving end" of the relocation process started at the agency offices, the Department has additional offices in Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago which help the Indian find work and adequate housing, and assist him in making a satisfactory adjustment to city life. In most cases, the Department pays the Indian's expenses to make the move and get settled, and urges him to obtain proper health and hospital insurance.

Indians, unusually adept with their hands, are making good employment records in automotive, airplane, and electronic fields.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JANUARY 18, 1960

INDIAN BUREAU REPORTS MAJOR PROGRESS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF INDIAN ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Education and training programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs benefited an increasing number of Indians of all ages during the fiscal year 1959, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today in releasing the Department's annual report.

Adult vocational training under Indian Bureau contracts with trade schools throughout the country was furnished to 1,547 Indians during the year. This contrasted with 376 trainees in 1958, the first year of the Bureau's adult vocational training program.

Enrollment of school-age Indian children in schools of all types increased to an all-time high figure of approximately 132,000, about 92 percent of the school-age children. Sixty-one percent were enrolled in public schools, 30 percent in 285 Federal schools operated by the Indian Bureau, and 9 percent in mission and other private schools.

Adult education courses on the reservations for the benefit of illiterate or inadequately educated Indians were conducted by the Bureau at 80 locations in 1959 as compared with 75 in 1958.

Grant funds were made available by the Bureau to help over 500 Indian students in obtaining an education beyond the high school level.

Another major development of the fiscal year, according to the Bureau's section of the annual report, was Secretary Seaton's radio address of September 18, 1958, clarifying the Department's position on the centrally important question of terminating Federal trust responsibilities for Indian tribal groups.

Referring to the resolution on this subject adopted by Congress in 1953 (House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 of the 83d Congress), the Secretary cited varying interpretations given to this document over the preceding five years and mentioned the impression created by some interpreters that "it is the intention of Congress and the Department of the Interior to abandon Indian groups regardless of their ability to fend for themselves."

Secretary Seaton strongly repudiated any such interpretation. Summarizing his position, he said: "...no Indian tribe should end its relationship with the Federal Government unless such tribe or group has clearly demonstrated--first, that it understands the plan under which such a program would go forward, and second, that the tribe or group affected concurs in and supports the plan proposed."

The one piece of new Indian terminal legislation enacted by Congress during fiscal 1959 was in full harmony with the Department's position. It covers 41 small Indian groups in California which had explicitly asked for such legislation and provides for a referendum on each property distribution or termination plan before it becomes effective. By the end of the period 23 of the groups had submitted such plans and all of these had been tentatively approved by the Department.

Income to Indian tribes and individuals from leasing of their lands for oil and gas development declined for the second year in a row from the record-smashing total of nearly \$72,000,000 reached in 1957. In 1959 the income from this source totaled \$46,587,458. This was the third highest figure ever recorded. Although there was a substantial decrease in bonus income during 1959, the increasing production on Indian (especially Navajo) lands was reflected in an all-time-high royalty income figure of \$30,172,382. This compared with \$18,453,532 in 1958.

Sales of timber from Indian lands advanced during the reporting period and cash receipts from this source totaled about \$9,000,000 as compared with approximately \$8,500,000 the preceding year.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 29, 1956

NORTH DAKOTA JOHNSON-O'MALLEY CONTRACT AWARD

Award of a \$201,750 contract for Indian education to the Department of Public Instruction, State of North Dakota, was announced today for the Department of the Interior by W. Barton Greenwood, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Indian education in the public schools of North Dakota has been partially supported by Federal funds under a contract with the state since 1948. To qualify for these funds under the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1936, school districts must show that Indian students and nontaxable Indian land within the boundaries of their district constitute a financial burden. The amount received by each district is based on a computation of several need factors. The first contract aided 16 school districts enrolling 239 Indian students.

Working in close cooperation with the State, the objective of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to develop public school opportunities for all Indian children on the same basis that public schools are available for non-Indian children in the State.

Between 1911 and 1945, 12 Federally operated Indian schools in the State were closed and the schools transferred to public school jurisdiction or the Indian children were integrated into the existing public school system. The Bureau still operates 13 Federal schools for Indians in the State.

During the 1955-56 school year, Johnson-O'Malley aid was provided to 37 public school districts enrolling 729 Indian children.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

For Release DECEMBER 3, 1956

INDIAN BUREAU AWARDS CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AT
ROUND ROCK, ARIZONA

Award of a \$230,677 construction contract for Indian school facilities at Round Rock, Ariz., was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract was awarded to Wilson, Hockinson & Cantrall, Inc., of Albuquerque, N. Mex. Five other contractors from Colorado and New Mexico submitted higher bids, ranging from \$238,990 to \$294,000.

The Round Rock project is one of several which the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior is undertaking under its long-range program of providing school facilities for all school-age Indian children.

Similar expansions of school plants are underway in other localities to provide facilities for out-of-school Indian children and to relieve severe overcrowding in existing Federal Indian schools. Under the Bureau's program enrollment of Navajo children has been increased from 14,106 in 1953 to 24,163 in 1956.

The Round Rock contract calls for the erection of a five classroom school building to accommodate about 150 students. Three duplex quarters buildings and other required facilities will also be constructed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release DECEMBER 3, 1956

INDIAN BUREAU FOOD SPECIALIST TO DIRECT RED CROSS FEEDING IN AUSTRIA FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that Paul B. Murphy, food specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is being assigned to emergency duty with the American Red Cross in Austria as director of a program for feeding Hungarian refugees.

The Indian Bureau food expert is scheduled to fly to Salzburg, Austria, on his new assignment Monday, December 3.

Engaged in the food business for many years, Mr. Murphy was chairman of the United States delegation to the International Food Conference in London in 1951. He later served as food consultant to the Civil Defense Administration. In July 1954 he joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs as field representative of the Commissioner. In May 1956 he was assigned to the Bureau's Branch of Education as food service specialist.

In this capacity he developed plans for the use of the "master menu" system of food service, beginning last September, in the Bureau's day and boarding schools on the Navajo Reservation and other reservations of New Mexico and Colorado.

This system of mass feeding, now a standard operation with the United States Armed Forces and many public and private institutions, insures the maintenance of an appetizing, daily menu of high nutritional content while providing controls for the prevention of waste and spoilage.

All cooking continues to be done at the schools, but much of the preparation of meats and vegetables is concentrated in a central commissary at Gallup, N. Mex., in order to promote uniformity of quality and to increase efficiency of handling.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release December 7, 1956

EDUCATION CONTRACT APPROVED BETWEEN INDIAN BUREAU, STATE OF OREGON

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today announced approval of a \$58,281 contract between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Oregon State Department of Education for financial aid to school districts with Indian pupils.

The current year will be the last in which Oregon schools will receive aid under the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1936 for the public school education of Indian children. The State has elected in the future to receive aid for Indian children, as it does other federal aid, under provisions of Public Law 874, as amended. P. L. 874 provides for aid to districts with enrollment from areas of federal activity in recognition of the fact that the districts are unable to tax federal lands.

For the past nine years Indian education in the State of Oregon has been partially supported by Johnson-O'Malley Act funds. To qualify for these funds school districts had to show that Indian students and nontaxable Indian lands within the boundaries of their district constitute a financial burden. Last year the State received \$70,500 in Johnson-O'Malley aid.

In Oregon these funds have been used to aid districts in integrating Indian children into the public schools so that all children of Oregon citizens, Indian or non-Indian, have equal educational opportunities. Principal use of the funds last year was in Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Umatilla and Wasco counties.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, DECEMBER 12, 1956

INDIAN BUREAU BUYS 21 BUSES TO BOOST NAVAJO SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

As part of the Indian Bureau's program to step up school enrollment on the Navajo Reservation of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, 21 passenger buses are being purchased from the International Harvester Company, the Department of the Interior announced today.

International Harvester was the low bidder with a price of \$83,644.66. The only other bidder, Chrysler Motors Corporation, submitted an offer of \$92,883.10.

The buses will be used to transport children from their homes to day schools and trailer schools on the reservation.

The Bureau's special drive to make schooling more widely available to Navajo children started early in 1954 when the total enrollment of Navajo youngsters in schools of all types was approximately 14,000. By last June the total enrollment had been boosted to over 25,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release DECEMBER 17, 1956

APPROVAL ANNOUNCED OF NAVAJO ACTION IN APPROPRIATING \$300,000
OF TRIBAL FUNDS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today the Department's approval of the November 1 action of the Navajo Tribal Council in appropriating \$300,000 of tribal funds for use by the Tribe to induce new industrial plants to locate in the vicinity of the reservation. The added payrolls would provide increased job opportunities for tribal members, it was explained.

The Department has also approved the Tribal Council's proposal to use \$44,000 in previously advanced Federal funds for the same purpose.

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs W. Barton Greenwood said: "The Navajo Tribe is to be commended for this important step which will benefit its members for an indefinite time in providing payrolls in the vicinity of the reservation. Much progress has been made in the industrial development program and we anticipate a great deal of successful activity during the coming year."

Technically, the November 1 action of the Tribal Council, which was by a vote of 56-0, was in the form of an amendment of the Tribe's budget for the fiscal year which ends next June 30. A similar appropriation of \$300,000 in tribal funds was included in the budget for the period which ended last June 30. It was used in providing rent free buildings and other economic inducements to industrial concerns.

So far two manufacturing plants have been established in the vicinity of the reservation as a direct result of this program. Navajo Furniture, Inc., a subsidiary of Baby Line Furniture of Los Angeles, opened a plant at Gallup, N. Mex., for the manufacture of juvenile furniture, shutters, and similar items November 15. Lear Navajo, an electronics plant affiliated with Lear, Inc., of Santa Monica, Calif., began operations at Flagstaff, Ariz., November 5. Each of these plants is expected to be employing about 100 Navajo workers after a year of operation.

The industrial activity in the Navajo area, although well advanced, is merely one part of a much broader program being sparked by the Bureau of Indian

Mfairs to encourage the establishment of manufacturing plants and the creation of new jobs near Indian reservations throughout the country. This work is headed up by Carl W. Beck, an Indian Bureau veteran and assistant to Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons.

In addition to the two Navajo plants, three others have been established near Indian reservations in the past year under this Bureau program. Kingman Industries, Inc., a metal fabricating firm, has been operating at Kingman, Ariz., near the Hualapai Reservation since January 1956. Cherokee Leathercraft Co., a subsidiary of Saddlecraft, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn., was opened for the manufacture of leather goods on the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina last May. Casa Grande Mills, a subsidiary of Parsons and Baker, Phoenixville, Pa., is scheduled to begin operation of a garment factory at Casa Grande, Ariz., near the Pima and Papago Reservations, next March.

The Kingman plant is providing employment for about 50 Indians and the Cherokee for approximately 40. After the Casa Grande factory opens in March, it is expected to provide jobs for 125 Indians almost immediately and for 700 ultimately.

Negotiations are now being actively carried forward by the Indian Bureau with a number of industrial companies looking toward the establishment of additional plants near Indian population centers in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming as well as Arizona and New Mexico.

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