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Land
307.3 - El Tejon Ranch

Clark

Sacramento Area Office
P. O. Box 749
Sacramento 4, California
June 3, 1953

Mr. Paul E. Herzog
1133 East 68th Street
Inglewood, California

Dear Mr. Herzog:

Reference is made to your letter of May 14, 1953, regarding the Indians who live on the El Tejon Ranch in Kern County. The Indian Bureau has been concerned over the welfare of these Indians for many years.

About 1915 a suit was brought in the Federal Court to establish the right of these Indians to the land which they occupied. However, the decision of the court was that the Indians did not have any right of occupancy on the ranch and therefore they could not establish title to the land involved. Therefore, the Indians are living on the El Tejon Ranch as tenants of the owners of that property. Since the land occupied by these Indians is privately-owned, the government has no jurisdiction over the property and government funds appropriated to the Indian Service cannot be used for improving the facilities of these Indians.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Leonard M. Hill

Leonard M. Hill
Area Director

DC:ms