



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release JANUARY 7, 1959

EXPIRING INDIAN LAND TRUST RESTRICTIONS EXTENDED FIVE YEARS

Trust restrictions on allotted Indian lands, scheduled to expire in calendar year 1959, have been extended for an additional five years, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

The order reverses a custom, started in 1951, of limiting such extensions to a maximum of only one year. In 1951, the then Acting Secretary was considering terminating trust status on individual Indian lands on a year-by-year basis. Each trust case would be subject to review every year.

Secretary Seaton said the new order reemphasizes the Department's recently reiterated policy of taking all precautions against ending Federal supervision over Indians before they are competent to end their status as Federal wards.

Last September 18 Secretary Seaton announced his position: "No Indian Tribe or group 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." He said it was "unthinkable to me, as your Secretary of the Interior, that consideration would be given to forcing upon an Indian Tribe a so-called termination plan which did not have the understanding and acceptance of a clear majority of the members affected."

The General Allotment Act of February 8, 1887, authorized allotments of land for individuals both on reservations and on the public domain.

Homesteads for Indians off-reservations were also authorized by an Act of February 28, 1891.

The 1934 Indian Reorganization Act extended trust restrictions over lands of Indians who accepted the Act's provisions. Tribes and groups which were not so covered--so-called "unorganized" Indians--have had their trust protection extended for varying periods, until the 1951 decision established the one-year rule.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently recommended the longer extensions. The Bureau said it did not add up the thousands of acres covered by the new order, but that the acreage was considerable.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release JANUARY 8, 1959

UTAH CHALLENGE TO NAVAJO TITLE RAISES MORAL ISSUES,
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT WARNS

Grave moral issues would be raised by last-minute attempts now to disturb Navajo Indian title to small "islands" of former public lands in Utah within the tribal reservation boundaries, the Department of the Interior warned today.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst presented the Department's views in letters to Senator Frank E. Moss, and Representative David S. King, both of Utah.

In the closing days of the last Congress, legislation was enacted making the tracts part of the reservation. In November, primarily on the basis of this new law, the Department rejected numerous offers for oil and gas leases on these isolated tracts.

The disputed lands are in San Juan County, Utah. They are near the McCracken Mesa Area which will be added to the reservation in exchange for lands the tribe is surrendering to permit construction of Glen Canyon Dam, key feature of the billion-dollar Upper Colorado River Storage Project.

In December, then Senator-elect Moss and Congressman-elect King had complained that removal of the lands from public status was unfair to certain oil and gas lease applicants.

Assistant Secretary Ernst wrote them today that the reasons for excluding the islands from the reservation back in 1884, 1905, and 1933 "have long since lost all validity."

It was the existence of those old land claims, now dead, that prevented the public lands from being included in the reservation decades ago, he emphasized.

For many years the tribe has had free and unrestricted use of the surface of the technically public lands, which are not set apart from the reservation lands that surround them.

Assistant Secretary Ernst wrote that only friction and animosity could result from suddenly treating them now as public lands, using only the barest technicality as an excuse. The Department's stand is that it is only right and fair that the Indians' rights should be fully protected.

The Department understands the legislation as enacted included a package agreement between the tribe and State of Utah, Assistant Secretary Ernst wrote. This agreement added the public lands to the reservation as well as giving Utah special lieu selection rights for State school lands--not usually granted to other States. The Department regards the Tribal-State agreement as equitable, and therefore did not object to its enactment by the Congress, Mr. Ernst said.

Clear title is now vested in the tribe. Since Congress has so decided, wrote Assistant Secretary Ernst, "any further legislation modifying the present status of the lands would be a taking of property from the tribe for which compensation would be required."

The legislation cleared the way for construction of the Glen Canyon Dam, he stressed. He contrasted this quickly settled acquisition of Indian lands with the long-drawn-out proceedings in obtaining Crow Indian tribal lands in Montana for the Yellowstone Project. For 14 years, dispute over payments for Crow land delayed that program.

The Department said the applicants whose oil and gas offers were rejected at no time had any guarantee the lands would be open to leasing. Since the tracts had public land status purely because of questionable technicalities, it is extremely doubtful leases would have been granted by the Department even if Congress had not added the lands to the reservation.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

January 8, 1959

Dear Mr. King:

I am glad to respond to your letter of December 9 relative to the provisions of Section 1(d) of Public Law 85-868 (the so-called Navajo Exchange Act) having to do with confirmation, subject to valid existing rights, of the Tribal title to all public lands within the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation.

As your letter notes, the effect of this provision is to preclude further consideration of the oil and gas lease applications which were dealt with in the decision of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management dated November 7, approved November 17, in The Superior Oil Co. et al., Utah 016385. This was the holding in that decision.

It should be emphasized that while P. L. 85-868 is commonly referred to as the Navajo Exchange Act, the legislation is not limited to a simple exchange of 53,000 acres of public lands, exclusive of minerals, for 53,000 acres of Indian land exclusive of minerals. The legislation represents a package arrangement touching upon many originally diverse views and interests to meet a unique problem. The legislation is designed to lessen the friction between the Indians and the non-Indians in the area, to acquire for the Federal Government the lands that are needed for the Glen Canyon project without a large expenditure of Federal funds for their purchase, to avoid what in the case of other Federal reservoir projects have been years of delay occasioned by the effect of such projects upon Indian lands, and to deal fairly with the Indians, with the State, and with the local citizens of the area. A legislative undertaking of this sort necessarily presents a delicate matter requiring the balancing and adjusting of numerous interests and equities.

Turning specifically to the provisions of Section 1(d) confirming Tribal title to public lands within the boundaries of the reservation, this provision was one of two involving the State of Utah as well as the Navajo Tribe that were recommended by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs when it reported the bill.

The other amendment in that category comprises Section 3 of the legislation as enacted. Section 3 authorizes the State of Utah to exchange State-owned school sections located within the area to be transferred to the Navajo Tribe for lands located outside that area. Neither provision was included in the draft legislation as

originally prepared in and proposed by this Department. The State of Utah sought the provisions of Section 3. To this provision the Tribe was at first opposed and negotiations then ensued between the State and the Tribe. In these negotiations, we understand, the Tribe proposed what is now that part of Section 1(d) with which your letter deals. It is our further understanding that both of these provisions were then agreed to between representatives of the State and of the Tribe as a package compromise of the issues in disagreement between them and that neither party would have agreed to the amendment desired by the other without inclusion of both amendments.

While this Department did not participate in the discussions between the State and the Tribe, we concurred in the amendments that were made to the bill; we so advised both the Senate and the House Committees; and, all things considered we regard the package arrangement as fair and equitable. The provision with respect to the lands within the reservation was as above indicated a part of the compromise which we understood the State representatives and the Tribe agreed to when working out the solution to the school land problem raised by the State, and it was intended to resolve an ambiguous situation with respect to lands within the Indian Reservation.

While it may well be that absent the provisions of Section 1(d) concerning which you write, the State of Utah, under the Mineral Leasing Act, would receive returns in the form of a $37\frac{1}{2}$ percent share of any oil and gas lease revenues accruing, it is equally true that the asserted claims were the subject of vigorous contest and it is by no means clear that such claims would, in the final analysis, have been sustained.

Moreover, the elimination of obstacles potentially standing in the way of early construction of Glen Canyon Dam, the key to the development of the Colorado River Storage Project with all of the potential that such development means to the State of Utah and to the other States of the Upper Colorado River Basin, is a not inconsiderable factor to be taken into account when appraising the total effects of Public Law 85-868. In this connection, one has only to consider the fate that befell the Yellowtail project in the State of Montana to appreciate what Public Law 85-868 has meant in the terms of giving a green light to continued construction of the Glen Canyon Unit. Yellowtail was authorized by the Congress in 1944. The damsite and a third of the reservoir are located on the Crow Indian Reservation. Only in the last session of Congress was the 14-year delay occasioned by a dispute over the compensation payable to the Crow Indians for the Tribal lands involved resolved to the point where that issue no longer is a bar to initiation of construction.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JANUARY 14, 1959

PORTLAND BANK CHOSEN AS TRUSTEE FOR KLAMATH INDIAN PROPERTY

The United States National Bank of Portland, Oregon, has been selected as trustee to manage the property of the 474 remaining members of the Klamath Indian Tribe under the provisions of Public Law 587 of the 83d Congress, as amended, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The property to be managed comprises 144,960 acres. The major portion--some 34,000 acres--is forest land and has 971,000,000 board-feet of ponderosa pine and mixed species. It will be managed under a plan previously approved by the Department and in accordance with sustained-yield principles.

In addition to the timberland, the residual tribal estate includes nearly 8,000 acres of marshland and 675 acres of farmland. The remainder is classified as open range.

Another Oregon bank also submitted a proposal to the Department to serve as trustee for the tribal property. However, the United States National Bank was chosen since its offer involved lower service fees to be paid by the tribe for the same service.

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Finally, any proposal now to disturb the status of the lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation as confirmed by Section 1(d) raises what in our view are serious moral issues. The reasons for the exclusion of the acreages involved at the time of the Executive Orders of 1884 and 1905 and of the enactment of the Act of March 1, 1933, have long since lost all validity. This is recognized by the language included in Section 1(d) which refers to those rights as having been "since relinquished, extinguished, or otherwise terminated." Moreover, the Tribe has for many years had the actual utilization of the surface of these lands undistinguishable from lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation which were without question Tribal lands. In these circumstances, to retain these lands, upon the barest of technicalities, as continuing enclaves of public lands within the reservation, when they would not have been excluded from the reservation in the first place except for the existence of claims long since sterile, could serve no purpose other than to act as a continuing source of friction and animosity between Indian and non-Indian. These considerations are entirely aside from the fact that Section 1(d) in any event now having vested clear title in the Tribe, any further legislative action modifying the present status of the lands would be a taking of property from the Tribe for which compensation would be required.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Roger Ernst
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Hon. David S. King
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JANUARY 14, 1959

KLAMATH INDIAN LANDS REAPPRAISED

Under a reappraisal ordered by Congress, lands belonging to the Klamath Indian Tribe of Oregon have now been appraised as having a realization value of \$90,791,123, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The new appraisal total figures out to about \$44,000 for each of the 1,659 withdrawing tribal members, and also includes realization values of land that will be administered for the nonwithdrawing members.

In a congressional enactment of last August, which required the reappraisal, the "realization value" of the tribal property was defined as "the fair market value of the forest and marshlands as if they had been offered for sale on a competitive market without limitation on use during the interval between the adjournment of the 85th Congress" and the final date for termination of Federal trusteeship of the Klamath properties, which is August 13, 1961.

The \$90,791,123 figure was arrived at by adding to the realization values of the forest and marshlands the appraised values of grazing and farm units and other miscellaneous parcels.

In February 1958, the properties of the tribe, including cash assets, were appraised at \$119,758,029. Since then, however, cash distributions have been made which amount to more than \$1,000 for each tribal member.

Under terms of the law the review was made by three appraisal firms. They are Hammon, Jensen and Wallen, Oakland, California; Bigley and Feiss, Eugene, Oregon, and Marshall and Stevens, Los Angeles, California. The new figure is an average of their computations.

Since the original appraisal and the recomputation, timber market prices for ponderosa pine dropped about 15 percent. That contributed to the decrease in

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JANUARY 19, 1959

NAVAJO LANDS BRING HIGH BIDS FOR OIL AND GAS LEASES

Bonus bids running as high as \$5,505.55 per acre have been received for oil and gas leases on lands of the Navajo Indian Tribe in Utah and New Mexico which brought tribally rejected bids of only \$257 an acre just 13 months ago, the Department of the Interior announced today.

These were part of the results of a January 13 bid opening at Window Rock, Arizona, involving 36 Navajo tracts with a total of 72,370 acres. The total of the high bids received was \$3,603,927.54.

Nearly half of this was bid on one group of four tracts totaling 640 acres. Two of the tracts brought bids of \$511.75 per acre each in contrast with bids of \$105 per acre on one and \$257 per acre on the other in December 1957. Bids on a third tract were \$4,555 per acre as compared with \$318.75 and on the fourth they were \$5,505.55 in contrast with \$257.

On the 32 other tracts the highest bid was \$178.91 per acre and the average was \$25.62 per acre.

Over the past 10 years the total income received by the Navajo Tribe and individual Navajo landowners from oil and gas leases on their lands has been more than \$90,000,000. Of this amount, more than \$59,000,000 represents bonuses received by the tribe in the past two and a half years prior to the January 13 sale.

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appraised value. Moreover, all three firms participating in the reappraisal had lower final totals than the original estimate by Western Timber Services, Arcata, California.

Another factor in the appraisal decrease was the fact that cash distributions had cut into the tribe's cash assets since the original appraisal.

The appraisal covered 694,000 acres of forest land, 128,000 acres of open range, 23,421 acres of marsh, 1,245 acres of farmland and 14,524 acres of other miscellaneous types.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To Pm's, JANUARY 20, 1959

EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCES IN 1958 REPORTED BY INDIAN BUREAU

Both educational and economic opportunities for Indian people were significantly increased by Federal Government action in fiscal year 1958, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said in the Department's annual report released today.

One of the most important developments, the Bureau of Indian Affairs section of the annual report points out, was the launching of a new vocational training program designed to improve the job skills and earning capacity of adult Indians. During the year the Bureau reviewed and approved for purposes of the program 165 occupational courses in 65 trade or vocational schools throughout the country and 376 adult Indians were enrolled in these courses. An additional 325 applications from potential Indian trainees were on file and awaiting action at the end of the fiscal year.

Shorter-term training for specific jobs was also provided during the year for 168 Indians in industrial plants near the reservations under contracts between the Bureau and the employing companies.

Another major development was the further expansion of the adult education program which the Bureau initiated on five reservations in 1956 for the benefit of Indians who missed the advantages of schooling in their youth. By the end of the fiscal year 1958 courses of this kind were being regularly given at 72 locations on Indian reservations in the United States and among the native villages of Alaska.

Enrollment of Indian children of regular school age increased by over three percent as compared to the preceding year and reached a record high of 130,000. The total, 61 percent were enrolled in public schools, 30 percent in Federal

schools operated by the Bureau, and 9 percent in mission or private schools. During the year the Bureau operated 80 boarding schools and 214 day schools including 23 trailer schools on the Navajo Reservation and 10 instructional aid schools conducted without professional teachers in the remoter localities of Alaska. Classes were conducted for student patients in three Public Health Service Indian hospitals. Dormitory facilities were furnished by the Bureau for 2,900 Indian students who attended public schools in communities bordering the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

For the benefit of Indians seeking jobs away from the reservations, the Bureau continued providing financial help and guidance in community adjustment. Offices for this purpose were maintained in Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Joliet and Waukegan, Illinois; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, California; Denver, Colorado; St. Louis, Missouri; and Dallas, Texas. At the end of the year the Joliet and Waukegan offices were closed and merged with the office in Chicago. Help in moving was provided during the year to 5,728 Indians. This included 4,331 individuals in 976 family units, 1,023 unmarried men, and 374 single women.

Income to Indian tribal groups and individual Indians from the leasing of their lands for oil and gas development dropped considerably from the record-breaking figure of more than \$72,000,000 for 1957 but still reached the second-highest level in history at \$55,210,467. Of this amount, more than \$28,000,000 represented bonuses in a single lease sale involving lands in the Four Corner portion of the Navajo Reservation.

On the Klamath Reservation in Oregon several important steps were taken leading toward the eventual termination of Federal trust supervision in accordance with a 1954 congressional enactment. An appraisal of the tribal property was completed. Slightly over three-fourths of the tribal members elected to withdraw and receive cash payments for their individual shares of the assets. A management plan for the residual tribal estate was drawn up. At the very end of the fiscal year a division of the property between the remaining and withdrawing members was completed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, JANUARY 27, 1959

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES CONTRACT AWARDED

Award of a \$53,878 contract for flood control work on the Papago Indian Reservation in southern Arizona was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract covers construction of 32 earth-filled flood control structures and the placement of about 3,000 linear feet of metallic pipe of varying diameters.

The structures, when completed, will prevent and minimize flood damage to Indian homes, roads, farms and rangelands on the Papago Reservation. In addition, the flood waters thus contained will be provided for beneficial consumption by livestock and wildlife.

Don Hastings of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was awarded the contract. Nine higher bids, ranging from \$58,800 to \$319,690, were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release FEBRUARY 4, 1959

FINAL ROLL OF WYANDOTTE INDIAN TRIBE COMPLETED

Completion of the final membership roll of the Wyandotte Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, following the disposition of all appeals, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The preliminary membership roll, published in the Federal Register April 5, 1957, included 1,159 individuals. The net result of additions and subtractions made as a consequence of appeals to the Secretary of the Interior is a final roll of 1,154 names.

All persons on the final roll, which will be published in the Federal Register shortly, are entitled to an equitable share in the tribal property, including the cemetery owned by the tribe in Kansas City, Kansas.

Under a 1956 congressional law, Federal trusteeship of the Wyandotte property is to be ended by next August 1. Before that time members on the final roll will decide whether the property should be sold and the proceeds distributed or whether it should be transferred to a tribally organized corporation or a tribally selected trustee.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release FEBRUARY 12, 1959

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE NAVAJO INDIAN LAND FROM ROADLESS CLASSIFICATION

The Department of the Interior today announced a proposed revision of Federal regulations to remove restrictions against road construction that have applied for more than 20 years on 2,935,000 acres of the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona and Utah.

The acreage affected is in three parts of the reservation--Painted Desert, Rainbow Bridge, and Black Mesa--which were designated as "roadless areas" by administrative action of the Department, in 1937, without consulting the Indians. All three areas consist not of Federal land but of tribally owned property held in trust by the United States.

The proposed removal of the areas from the roadless category is in line with the wishes of the Navajo Tribal Council which has pointed out that 922 families with 3,600 school-age children live in the three areas and need better roads for educational and health protection purposes. Mining activity is already intense throughout much of the affected acreage.

Interested parties may submit their comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington 25, D. C., within 30 days after publication of the proposed revision in the Federal Register.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, FEBRUARY 20, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR NEW INDIAN DORMITORY AT MAGDALENA, NEW MEXICO

The Department of the Interior today announced the award of a \$331,445 contract for construction of new dormitory facilities at Magdalena, New Mexico, that will make it possible for 128 Navajo children from the surrounding area to attend the local public schools.

Some of the children to be accommodated in the new dormitory are now enrolled in the nearby Indian Bureau boarding school at Alamo. Others currently living in Bureau facilities at the Albuquerque Indian School will be brought closer to home. Some will be able to attend school for the first time with the completion of the new facilities.

The project consists of a one-story building that will contain not only sleeping quarters but kitchen and dining facilities. The children, ranging in age from 6 to 16, will attend the Magdalena public schools under arrangements that have been worked out with the local school board.

The successful bidder was Taylor and Medley Construction Company of Albuquerque. Fourteen higher bids were received ranging from \$332,888 to \$386,241.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release FEBRUARY 20, 1959

APPROVAL GIVEN TO LEASE THAT WILL PROVIDE INDUSTRIAL JOBS FOR OREGON INDIANS

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst today announced approval of the action of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation of Oregon in leasing 344 acres at McNary Dam townsite for industrial development purposes to two California trailer manufacturing companies.

The land being leased was formerly surplus Federal property and has just recently been turned over to the Umatilla tribes by the General Services Administration under a law enacted by Congress in 1957. It will be used as the location for new trailer manufacturing or assembly plants that will provide jobs for Indian workers.

The actual lessees are two brothers, Robert and William Schultz, and their wives. They are the owners of R. S. Engineering and Manufacturing Company, Los Angeles, Calif., and S. and S. Steel Products Corporation, Compton, Calif. Both are trailer manufacturing companies.

The lease will run for five years with an option for two additional terms of five years each. First preference in employment will be given to enrolled members of the Umatilla Tribes and second preference to other qualified Indian workers.

The Schultz brothers have indicated that they will employ "approximately 20 production workers as soon as the buildings are ready, and will increase the production workers as rapidly as business conditions will permit." They have also agreed to provide Indians with on-the-job training that will equip them for employment in the plants.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs played a part in facilitating negotiation of the lease in line with its broad objective of developing job opportunities for Indian people on or near the reservations.

The Bureau's Branch of Industrial Development works toward this objective in conjunction with Indian tribes, local community organizations, and State industrial development or planning groups.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MARCH 4, 1959

PORTLAND BANK TAKES OVER TRUSTEESHIP OF RESIDUAL KLAMATH INDIAN ESTATE

The Department of the Interior today announced completion of a trust agreement under which the United States National Bank of Portland, Oregon, replaces the Bureau of Indian Affairs as trustee for the tribal property of the remaining members of the Klamath Indian Tribe of Oregon.

Under terms of the agreement, the Indian Bureau's Area Office in Portland, yesterday (March 3) conveyed to the Bank deeds for a total of approximately 140,000 acres of land together with \$737,608.61 of tribal funds. The major portion of the tribal land is forested and will be managed by the Bank in accordance with sustained yield principles under a plan previously approved by the Department.

The Bank also took over full authority and responsibility formerly vested in the Secretary of the Interior in connection with timber contracts and grazing permits on the tribal lands which have not yet expired.

A roll of the 473 remaining members of the Tribe was turned over to the Bank along with the other documents on March 3.

In addition, the Bank has taken over responsibility for deciding on a request which the remaining tribal members have recently made for a \$600 per capita payment from their available funds. Because the request was made at a time when negotiations with the Bank were well along toward completion, no action was taken on it by the Department prior to final execution of the trust agreement.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MARCH 8, 1959

APACHE SPORT FISHING PROGRAMS SPURS INTEREST IN OTHER AREAS

The 130,000 man-days of recreational fishing which a fishery management program provided to visitors alone on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in White-river, Ariz., in 1958 is creating considerable interest in similar programs on other Indian reservations, especially in the West, the Department of the Interior reports.

The successful recreational enterprise program on Fort Apache was based upon fishery management spearheaded by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Similar programs have been in effect in other areas--the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota and on other reservations--for a number of years.

Sport fishing programs are just getting underway on the Uintah-Ouray Reservation in Utah, with its 23 miles of trout streams; on the Navajo Reservation which is in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, with its 4 trout lakes, 30 warm water lakes and 32 miles of streams; on the Yakima and Colville Reservations in Washington, and on the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina.

Providing such assistance to Federal agencies and institutions is part of the over-all responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Programs are in effect in other areas and on Federal lands other than those on Indian reservations.

Very little has been done in the past on the development of the fishery potentials on Indian lands. State Departments of Fish and Game have not been able to service the Indians in most instances since State fishing licenses are not required of the Indians and no protection was afforded the fish.

As a result of the assistance and encouragement provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indians are realizing the value of their sport fishery resources as a means of recreation and food and revenue.

Some of the tribes in the Southwest do not eat fish to any great degree but the younger Indians are eager for them, both for the fun of catching them and as a highly desirable food. There are practically 53 million acres of Indian land in the United States exclusive of Alaska and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is giving limited advice and services on reservations occupying about 16 million acres.

The task of the Bureau at Fort Apache has been to supply the fish and the "know how"--help develop plans, conduct field surveys and lay out development programs. The Apache tribe carried on from there. The Indians have assisted in making counts of fishermen, in the actual stocking of the fish, in providing the wardens or investigative force and in the development of picnic areas and camp-grounds especially for fishermen. They have developed new ponds and protected streams against erosion and overgrazing in some instances.

The Indians benefitted by having better fishing and by adding to their tribal funds through the sale of permits to those who fished in the waters on the Reservation. The sale of supplies and food and rental of overnight accommodations adds to the revenue.

Fish for the Fort Apache program was furnished by the Bureau's McNary, Arizona, Fish Cultural station. About 40,000 pounds, or about 250,000 catchable sized fish, were planted on the project. This represents slightly more than half of the 1958 output from the McNary hatchery. The balance of the production was allotted to the State.

When the fishing potential on that Reservation is completely developed, there will be 11 trout lakes having 374 surface acres, three warm-water lakes with 155 surface acres and 320 miles of streams.

Potentials on other Indian reservations, some of which are developed, but most of which are not, include:

Wind River, Wyoming: 300 trout lakes, 4,000 surface acres, and 1,200 miles of streams.

San Carlos, Arizona: 45 miles of streams.

United Pueblo Tribes, New Mexico: 16 trout lakes, 76 surface acres, and 35 miles of streams.

Mescalero Apache, New Mexico: 12 miles of streams.

Jicarilla Apache, New Mexico: one trout lake, 35 surface acres, some warm water lands and reservoirs.

Ute Mountain, Colorado and New Mexico: three trout lakes, six surface acres; four warm water lakes and 11 surface acres.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MARCH 17, 1959

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NAVAJO COAL RESOURCES SEEN

Further exploration of coal resources in the lands of the Navajo Indian Reservation that may lead to a development expenditure of more than \$1,000,000 and employment of as many as 200 Indians is now definitely in prospect, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The exploration will be done by the El Paso Natural Gas Company under a referential prospecting permit covering 85,760 acres on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Reservation. The area lies immediately south of a 25,000-acre area which has been under a coal mining lease held by the Utah Construction Company since the fall of 1957.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons said that under terms of the new permit, El Paso will have a maximum of 18 months in which to select acreage for leasing that will provide a 60-year coal reserve. The leased area will be limited to 34,560 acres unless the Company can demonstrate its need for additional acreage to supply the 60-year reserve.

El Paso has indicated that it contemplates processing the coal for two major purposes. One will be production of gas to be mixed with natural gas carried in the Company's pipelines which already cross the area. The other will be production of liquid hydrocarbon components of motor fuels. Additional expected by-products include char, tar and chemicals.

The Company has stated that if sufficient reserves are discovered and it exercises its option to lease, it will spend "not less than \$1,000,000" in development of the coal and construction of a pilot plant. Employment will be furnished, the Company estimated, to 50 Navajos during the initial mining and pilot plant period and this employment could be expected to increase to 200 Navajos under full-scale mining and processing operations.

If the lease is consummated after the prospecting period, it will run for 10 years and as long thereafter as the coal is produced in paying quantities.

Royalties for the tribe will be at the rate of 15 cents a ton for coal used as fuel or processed into gas or liquid motor fuel components and at the rate of 10 percent of the f.o.b. sales price on other products or by-products. The total royalty for these products, however, is not to exceed 30 cents per ton of the coal mined.

Rental payments of \$1 per acre, which are to be made in advance each year under the lease, are to be credited against the royalty payments accruing in that particular year.

While the prospecting permit and the lease have not yet been put into effect, Mr. Emmons said that the two documents have been agreed upon by the tribe and the Company and have been found satisfactory by the Department. The Area Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Gallup, New Mexico, W. Wade Head, has been authorized to give formal approval to the prospecting permit on behalf of the Department and is expected to do so in the next few days.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MARCH 19, 1959

FLORIDA INDIANS STUDY PROPOSALS FOR LEASING OF TRIBAL LANDS

Twenty-nine proposals to lease lands on the Dania Indian Reservation in south Florida for commercial or industrial development have been received by the Seminole tribal organization since the availability of the lands for leasing was publicly announced last August, the Department of the Interior reported today.

The most recent offer, which is now being considered by the tribal organization, is for unit leasing of the entire available area comprising about 318 acres. Under this proposal the Tribe would receive a guaranteed minimum annual rental of \$150,000 or 12 percent of the gross receipts from subrentals, whichever is greater. The type of development contemplated includes the construction of housing facilities of a permanent nature together with a golf course, a motel, and other related facilities.

All of the other 28 proposals received earlier were for leasing of smaller parcels.

The acreage being offered is located in a rapidly growing section of Florida immediately west of Dania, and is bisected by four-lane State Highway No. 7 with about a mile and a quarter of frontage directly on the highway. It includes all lands of the 475-acre Dania Reservation apart from acreage which has been reserved for Indian homesites and for ceremonial and administrative purposes.

Since the lands are held in trust by the Federal Government for the Indians, they can be leased only with the approval of the Department of the Interior. Under existing law, leases can be made for 25 years with a possibility of a 25-year renewal.

The Department feels sure that the tribal organization would welcome additional leasing proposals comparable to the one most recently received. Interested parties should write to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., care of Superintendent Virgil Harrington, Box 157, Dania, Florida.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MARCH 23, 1959

INDIAN BUREAU DECIDES TO CLOSE SCHOOL AT FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA, BECAUSE OF SAFETY HAZARD

Because of fire safety hazards involved in student dormitories, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is taking action immediately to close its 500-pupil school at Fort Defiance, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Arrangements will be made so that all of the presently enrolled students can finish the current term either by transferring to other reservation schools immediately, or by taking summer school instruction. Plans are also being made to place all of them in other school facilities for the new term which starts next fall.

The decision to close the Fort Defiance school was made by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons after consideration of alternatives, and consultation with Navajo Tribal Chairman Paul Jones. Mr. Jones, now in Washington on tribal business, concurred in the decision.

The students at Fort Defiance include both boys and girls enrolled in grades from the beginners through the fourth. Practically all are Navajo Indian children.

The dormitories which have been found unsafe for further occupancy are approximately 50 years old.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 7, 1959

ELEVEN UNITS OF KLAMATH INDIAN FOREST TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE AFTER APRIL 1

The Department of the Interior announced today that it has taken joint action with the Department of Agriculture in designating 11 units of the Klamath Indian Forest in Oregon to be offered for sale over a period of about 16 months starting sometime after April 1.

The two Departments have also agreed upon specifications and minimum requirements for sustained-yield management of the units which must be followed by purchasers under provisions of the Klamath Termination Act of 1954, as amended.

The units selected total over 617,000 acres and range in size from about 35,000 acres to more than 91,000. In volume of timber the range is from about 69 million board feet to over 548 million board feet.

The law also provides that the units may not be sold at less than their realization value as established in a recent review of an appraisal originally made as of February 28, 1957. Total realization value of the 11 units to be offered is \$70,352,873 and the range is from \$1,636,182 to \$13,345,495.

The first group of four units will be advertised for sale sometime after April 1, three other units will be advertised around July 1, and the remaining four units around November 1. Full details about the units being offered and the requirements for sustained-yield management will be set forth in the advertisements.

Proceeds of the sales will be used to compensate persons who have elected to withdraw from the Klamath Tribe in accordance with the Termination Act.

If any of the units are not sold by April 1, 1961, they will be purchased by the Government and added to the national forest system.

Under the law any enrolled member of the Klamath Tribe is given the right to purchase, for his own account but not as an agent for others, any of the offered units for not less than the highest offer received by competitive bid.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 8, 1958

INDIAN LAND REHABILITATION CONTRACT AWARDED

Award of a \$176,168 contract to rehabilitate approximately 1,200 acres of land on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in northern Nevada, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract calls for releveling of the land and the construction of canals, laterals and water control structures. The work to be done is part of an over-all program to develop available resources on the Duck Valley Reservation for use by Indian families.

The improvements will stabilize the livestock program in this isolated community, where it is necessary to feed the cattle hay approximately five months of the year because of the extreme winters. Heretofore the land has been under uncontrolled irrigation without a control system of canals.

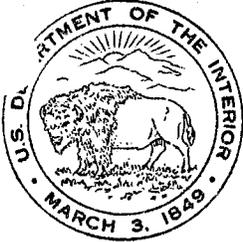
The successful bidder was Milco Construction Company of Delta, Utah. Thirteen higher bids ranging from \$188,980.66 to \$229,051.95 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rev. 4-2-7

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 23, 1959

FINAL ROLL OF PEORIA INDIAN TRIBE COMPLETED

Completion of the final membership roll of the Peoria Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, following the disposition of all appeals, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The preliminary membership roll, published in the Federal Register May 9, 1957, included 624 individuals. The net result of additions and subtractions made as a consequence of appeals to the Secretary of the Interior is a final roll of 640.

Under a 1956 congressional law, Federal trusteeship of the Peoria property is to be ended by next August 2.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 23, 1959

DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS CHOCTAW TERMINATION BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS
AT REQUEST OF TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Department of the Interior favors enactment of legislation initiated by the Choctaw Indian Tribe of Oklahoma which provides for disposition of the Tribe's lands and funds and for eventual termination of its special relations with the Federal Government, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

In reporting to Congress on H. R. 2722, Mr. Ernst emphasized that the bill was introduced in Congress at the request of tribal officials.

In the background of the present bill, Mr. Ernst said, is a 1906 law which was intended to provide for disposition of all lands of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma either by allotment to individual members or by sale, for the division of all tribal funds among the members, and for dissolution of the tribal governments. Enactment of H. R. 2722, he added, will make it possible to complete this program for the Choctaw Tribe, which is one of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The bill applies only to tribal assets and will have no effect on the allotted lands of individual Choctaw Indians which will continue to be governed by the provisions of existing law.

Three classes of land will be affected by the bill. One consists of 7,731 acres of unallotted tribal land in which the Choctaw Tribe has a three-fourths interest and the Chickasaw Tribe a one-fourth interest. A second includes 8,610 acres purchased by the Government and held in trust for the Choctaw Tribe under legislation of the 1930's. The third category would take in any submarginal lands bought for the use of the Tribe by the Government during the 1930's.

So far the records of the Department have not disclosed any lands in this third category. However, since a search of the records is still continuing and might eventually turn up something, the Department favored retention of the third category in the bill.

Under the bill's provisions the Department would be required to sell all three classes of land and deposit the proceeds to the credit of the Tribe in the United States Treasury. One half of the mineral interest in the first two categories of land, however, would be reserved for possible transfer to a tribal corporation that might be organized under State law or to a private trustee selected by the Tribe.

Proceeds from the sale of tribal lands would be combined with other Choctaw funds on deposit in the Treasury, currently amounting to about \$433,000, and distributed to individual members. Those eligible to receive the distribution will be living persons on the Choctaw membership roll, which was closed in 1907, and their heirs. There were 19,139 members on the roll at the time of closing.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 24, 1959

EMMONS URGES REMEDIAL ACTION ON FLORIDA CANAL TO ELIMINATE
THREAT TO SEMINOLE LANDS

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons today strongly urged the Army Corps of Engineers to take action "at the earliest possible date" to eliminate a flood threat to tribally developed pasturelands on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in Florida.

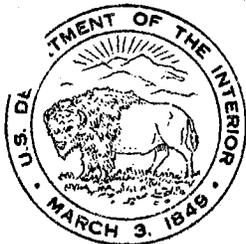
The problem, Mr. Emmons said, is caused by an unfinished Corps of Engineers canal, designated as L28, which pours water out onto an area of extremely flat ground where it meets the natural flow from the northwest across the reservation and piles up in and around 2,850 acres of improved pasture. If a strong southeast wind should occur when the water is flowing out of the canal, the improvements might well be totally destroyed.

In a letter to Major General E. C. Itschner, Chief of Engineers, Commissioner Emmons pointed out that the Seminole Tribe spent \$69,982 on the pasture improvement work last year and has budgeted an additional \$49,200 for the purpose in 1959.

Mr. Emmons also said it was his understanding the hazard could be eliminated merely by extending the canal a comparatively short distance to the south where the gravity flow of the discharged water would be away from the reservation.

"As trustee for the Indian lands," Commissioner Emmons wrote, "this Bureau believes that any further prolonged delay in correcting the situation would be inexcusable. We strongly urge that action be taken at the earliest possible date to extend the Canal far enough to the south so that the Indian lands and development works will be fully protected against any further threat of damage or destruction."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release APRIL 29, 1959

INTERIOR RECOMMENDS BILL TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF FEDERAL INDIAN
SCHOOL PROPERTIES TO LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Legislation that would facilitate the transfer of surplus Federal Indian school properties to local public school districts, has been recommended to Congress, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Such transfers are now possible under a law enacted in 1953 but are limited to 20 acres in any one conveyance. Since this limitation has interfered with some contemplated transfers and has seemingly served no useful purpose, the Department is proposing that it be deleted.

Under provisions of the 1953 law, 43 school properties totaling about 450 acres have so far been transferred to local school districts. Eight of these are in Oklahoma, seven each in Minnesota and Montana, five in Kansas, four each in New Mexico and Washington, two each in Arizona and Wisconsin, and one each in Idaho, North Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming.

One of the basic educational aims of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to provide for the enrollment of Indian children in public schools rather than Federal Indian schools wherever this can be accomplished. The transfers have been made in line with this objective.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MAY 7, 1959

THREE CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK
IN INDIAN AREAS OF OKLAHOMA

Award of three contracts totaling \$171,820.40 for road construction work in Indian areas of Oklahoma was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

All three projects involve a stabilized asphalt base and single bituminous surfacing on grade and drainage completed sometime ago. All of the roads run through heavily populated Indian areas and are school-bus and mail-service routes.

A contract of \$87,255.80 for 9.363 miles on Ponca-Otoe Line in Noble County and a \$41,504.60 contract for 4.456 miles on Spring Creek Road in Caddo County were awarded to W. E. Steelman of Oklahoma City.

The third contract, covering 4.95 miles on Seiling-Canton Road in Blaine County, was awarded to Elliott Brothers, Inc., Oklahoma City, on a bid of \$43,060.

Nine higher bids were received on the Ponca-Otoe and Seiling-Canton contracts and ten higher on the Spring Creek project.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, MAY 8, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS LEGISLATION MAKING INDIAN FISHERY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TAX-EXEMPT

The Department of the Interior announced today that it has submitted to Congress a proposal for legislation exempting from Federal and State income tax the payments of more than \$26,000,000 which the Government has made to four Pacific Northwest Indian tribes to compensate them for the loss of their fishing rights at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River.

The tribes involved are the Yakima of Washington, the Warm Springs and Umatilla of Oregon, and the Nez Perce of Idaho.

Construction of The Dalles Dam by the Corps of Engineers on the Columbia River resulted in flooding of the Celilo Falls where members of the four tribes have fished for many years. Their rights to fish there were embodied in a treaty consummated between the United States and the Indians over 100 years ago. Under legislation enacted in 1953, agreements were worked out with the four tribal groups and payments deposited to their credit in the United States Treasury.

On the basis of comparative populations, the Yakimas received \$15,019,640.00, the Warm Springs tribes \$4,451,784.26, the Umatilla \$4,616,971.06, and the Nez Perce \$2,500,000.

The tribes intend to divide these funds among their members and make them available for use in accordance with plans approved by the Department of the Interior. While the Internal Revenue Service has regarded the funds as nontaxable in the hands of the tribes, it has taken the position that they will be taxable as capital gains upon distribution to the individual members.

In submitting its proposal, the Department of the Interior pointed out that it has been the practice of Congress, when authorizing distributions of tribal funds, to make the individual shares tax-exempt. This has been particularly true, the Department added, when the funds represent, as they do here, the value of a capital asset taken from the tribe by Federal action.

The Department's proposal would make the Celilo Falls payments tax-exempt both when in the hands of the tribes and when divided among the individual members.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MAY 12, 1959

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS LEGISLATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN JUDGMENT FUNDS

The Department of the Interior announced today it has submitted to Congress two legislative requests providing for distribution of judgment funds resulting from awards by the Indian Claims Commission to three Indian groups.

The groups affected are the Quapaws of Oklahoma with a fund of about \$820,000; the Citizen Band of Potawatomes of Oklahoma with a fund of \$168,735.40 plus accrued interest; and the Prairie Band of Potawatomie of Kansas with a fund of \$79,624.86 plus accrued interest. The last two groups are covered by one proposal.

All of the funds were awarded to the Indians in satisfaction of claims against the United States which they prosecuted before the Indian Claims Commission. Most of the claims were based on land transactions that took place in the 19th century. All of the funds are now on deposit in the United States Treasury and drawing interest at four percent.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, MAY 13, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES

Award of a \$67,275 contract for construction of three bridges on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, Dewey County, South Dakota, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract involves construction of concrete deck bridges over Beaver Creek, No Mouth Creek, and Swift Bird Creek on a road presently under construction from U. S. Highway 212 northwesterly to Promise to replace an existing road which will be flooded by the Oahe Reservoir. This replacement road on which the bridge construction will take place will directly serve 30 Indian families who have relocated from the Oahe reservoir area. It will also be used for school bus travel and by residents of the eastern part of the Cheyenne River Reservation for travel to Mobridge and other communities north of the reservation.

The successful bidder was Dahl and Hollaway Contractors of Brookings, South Dakota. Six other bids were received ranging from \$69,000 to \$99,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MAY 14, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FAVORS ENACTMENT OF H. R. 5557 AND ADOPTS RULES FOR EQUALIZING VALUE OF INDIAN LAND HOLDINGS AT PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

The Department of the Interior today announced two actions looking toward a greater equalization in the value of extremely valuable individual Indian land holdings on the Agua Caliente Reservation at Palm Springs, California.

One was the recent submission to Congress of a report favoring the enactment, with amendments, of H. R. 5557, a bill that deals with the equalization problem.

The second action taken was the adoption in final form of a set of administrative instructions for equalization. These were published as a proposal in the Federal Register last January 23.

The widely varying values of the lands allotted to individual members of the Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians have been the subject of litigation extending back over a period of many years. Under a 1956 court order the Department is required to formulate and carry out a program of allotting additional lands from the common tribal holdings in a way that will equalize the value of the individual allotments to the fullest feasible extent. In view of the high values of the Indian lands within the city of Palm Springs, very substantial sums of money are involved.

H. R. 5557, the bill recommended by the Department for enactment, would confine the equalization to living members of the tribe and base it on 1957 and 1958 appraisals of the property valuations. The bill would remove the present legal limitation of 160 acres on allotments to individuals, would exclude certain specified tribal lands from the equalization process, and would require allotment of the remaining tribal lands so as to achieve the highest feasible level of equalization.

Under the bill the site of the Palm Springs Airport would be included in the allotment plan. The city, however, would be given a limited time in which to buy the site at its appraised value. If the city exercises this option, any Indians who have chosen allotments in the airport would receive proportionate shares of the price paid by the city instead of land.

The bill also permits the tribe to form a State corporation or other legal entity for holding the reserved tribal lands and requires the Department to transfer such property to this entity on the request of a majority of the adult members.

The Department recommended two amendments to H. R. 5557. One would reduce the tribal reserve containing the mineral spring from an area of about eight acres as described in the bill to a tract of less than three acres immediately surrounding the spring. The spring itself has been described by tribal members as religiously significant to them.

The second amendment would give the Department discretion in transferring reserved tribal properties to a new legal entity instead of requiring such transfer on the petition of a majority. The purpose would be to assure that the legal entity is fairly organized and does not discriminate against a minority of the tribal members.

While reporting favorably on H. R. 5557, the Department also took steps to proceed immediately with its own plan of equalization in view of the uncertainties of the legislative process. The regulations adopted today provide for (1) the preparation of a map showing the areas of tribal land available for allotment, (2) the compilation of a list of tribal members entitled to participate in equalization in the order of their entitlement, (3) selection of land parcels by the eligible individuals in their order of preference in each group, and (4) the filing of applications for the selected parcels with the Sacramento Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"The process of making allotment selection on the basis of the present law will begin shortly," the Department pointed out, "but we shall not approve the actual allotment schedule before summer, and if the pending legislation should be enacted during the first session of the 86th Congress the allotment procedure can be modified to comply with the new law."

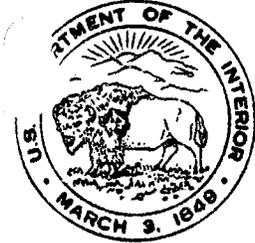
The Palm Springs Reservation was originally established for the Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians under a law enacted in 1891. Allotment of the land to individual members was begun in 1923. Because of various complications in legislation and litigation, however, the first allotment schedule was not formally approved by the Secretary of the Interior until 1949.

Under the allotment procedure used, each Band member has been entitled to 47 acres consisting of a two-acre town lot, five acres of irrigated land, and 40 acres of dry land. Although the allotments are thus all equal in acreage, they vary in appraised value today all the way from \$74,500 to \$629,000. So far 115 allotments have been made. This includes allotments to some members who have since died. Five of the recently born minors have not yet received allotments.

The present membership of the Band is 101 persons--33 adults and 68 minors. The remaining unallotted property, exclusive of the areas recommended for reserves, consists of 23,660 acres valued at approximately \$12,800,000. On this basis it is estimated that an equalization value of about \$350,000 can be achieved for approximately 80 persons now having the lower valued allotments.

Because H. R. 5557 would remove the 160-acres limitation on allotments, a greater degree of equalization will be possible under its provisions than can be accomplished administratively under existing law.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MAY 22, 1959

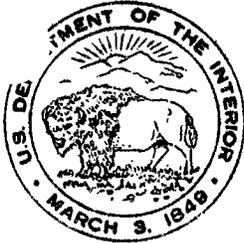
OIL AND GAS BIDDING ON UTAH INDIAN LANDS BRINGS \$866,695

High bids totaling \$866,695 have been received by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Tribe of Utah for oil and gas leases on 14 tracts of tribally owned land comprising nearly 31,000 acres, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The high bidder on all 14 of the tracts was Standard Oil Company of California.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has asked the Department's Geological Survey for technical recommendation prior to acceptance of the bids.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release MAY 25, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR TWO INDIAN DORMITORIES AT ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

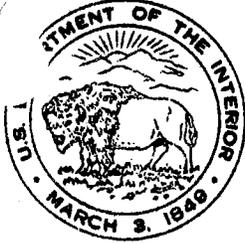
Award of a contract for construction of two dormitories to house 512 Indian school children at Albuquerque, New Mexico was announced today by the Department of the Interior. The total cost of the structures will be \$579,530.

The new one-story structures will be located on the grounds of the Albuquerque Indian School and will be ready for occupancy by the next school term. Each will contain over 31,000 square feet of floor space and will accommodate 256 pupils.

Some of these will attend the federally operated Albuquerque Indian School while others will probably be enrolled in the local public schools. All will be provided with food as well as lodging by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The successful bidder on the contract was Robert E. McKee, Inc., of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Seven higher bids were received ranging from \$593,733 to \$652,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 1, 1959

NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION ROAD CONTRACT AWARDED

Award of a \$663,330 contract for a major road construction project that will provide the final paved link on Route 3 across the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Route 3 is the connecting road between Highway 666 in New Mexico and Highway 89 in Arizona.

The contract is the first to be awarded under special legislation enacted last year which authorized appropriation of an additional \$20,000,000 for road construction on the Navajo Reservation. This contract covers widening and paving 28.7 miles of Route 3 between Dinnebito Wash and Coal Mine Mesa.

The road will be built to State highway secondary standards specified by the Arizona Highway Department and will eventually be incorporated into the State system for maintenance.

The successful bidder was Northwestern Engineering Company of Denver, Colorado. Fourteen other bids were received ranging from \$676,427 to \$1,257,136.

The Department also indicated that surveys have been completed and bids will be invited in the near future by the Gallup (New Mexico) Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on portions of another road covered by the special authorizing legislation. This is Route 1 which will ultimately be a paved highway from Tuba City and Route 89 in Arizona through the oil-rich "four corners" area to Highway 666 near Shiprock, New Mexico.

Like Route 3, this will be improved with Federal funds to State highway standards and then taken over by the State of Arizona for maintenance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 1, 1959

RULE CHANGE PROPOSED TO BROADEN LEASING OF INDIAN LANDS FOR
UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF OIL AND GAS

Plans for a change in the Federal regulations to permit more extensive leasing of Indian lands for underground storage of oil and gas were announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The proposal covers both tribally and individually owned lands in Federal trusteeship or restricted status and could include lands which are currently under oil and gas production lease as well as those which are not. Under present regulations storage leases have been possible only for lands not under lease for oil and gas development.

Rentals or storage fees to be paid the Indian owners would be established at a rate considered adequate in each individual case. Safety provisions would also be included, where necessary, in each of the storage leases.

Broadened authority to lease Indian lands for underground oil and gas storage was provided in a congressional enactment of August 1, 1956 (70 Stat. 774).

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments or suggestions to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington 25, D. C., within 30 days after publication of the proposed amendment in the Federal Register.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 3, 1959

NEVADA LAKEFRONT INDIAN PROPERTIES OFFERED FOR LEASING

The Department of the Interior today invited lease proposals on two tracts of undeveloped Indian land in Nevada with a total shore frontage of nearly 14 miles on Pyramid Lake, an inland body of deep-blue fresh water in a desert-mountain setting.

The lands are on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation about 33 miles north of Reno and offer excellent possibilities for business, recreational or residential development.

One of the tracts comprises about 3,880 acres with a frontage of approximately seven miles on the southwest shore on Pyramid Lake. The other consists of approximately 3,200 acres and has about 6.4 miles of frontage on the southeast side of the Lake. They are to be leased separately and bidders interested in both must submit a separate bid for each.

The leases are to be for 25 years with an option for 25-year renewal.

Interested parties are invited to write the Superintendent, Nevada Indian Agency, Stewart, Nevada. He will provide full details and a copy of the lease form that is to be used.

Each bid must be accompanied by the following:

1. A preliminary planned schedule of general development. This is to include proposed annual development expenditures over the first five years of the lease term.
2. A proposal for the payment of a fixed annual ground rental. This is to be submitted as one amount for the entire area and not on a per-acre basis.

3. A proposal for the payment of a percentage of the gross income from commercial and recreational operations. Hotels, motels, apartment buildings and trailer or mobile home tracts should be included with commercial and recreational operations.

4. A proposal for the payment of minimum annual rental for residences apart from those specified in 3 above.

Bids will be received at the Nevada Indian Agency in Stewart until 2 p.m., PDT, June 26, 1959. Each bid must be accompanied by a cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the amount of the bidder's proposed ground rental for the first year.

The award will be made to the highest responsible bidder on each tract, rental and all other factors considered, provided the bid is reasonable and it is to the interest of the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe, beneficial owner of the property, and the United States, as trustee of the property, to accept it.

Offering of the Pyramid Lake lands for long-term leasing was made possible by the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539) which authorized leasing of Indian lands for terms up to 25 years with a possibility of a 25-year renewal. Under previous law such leases were generally limited to a five-year term.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 3, 1959

SECRETARY SEATON ACCEPTS CONGRESSIONAL INVITATION FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON HURON CEMETERY AT KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today said he will send a representative of his office to Kansas City, Kansas, to participate in a hearing to be held soon by the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs on bills affecting the future status of the community's controversial Huron Cemetery. The date for the hearing will be announced later.

Subcommittee Chairman James A. Haley, who will conduct the hearing, invited the Secretary to send a representative.

The 1.9-acre cemetery, located in the heart of Kansas City, is the property of the Wyandotte Indian Tribe of Oklahoma and has long been the subject of controversy. Under a 1956 law providing for termination of Federal trust supervision of Wyandotte tribal property on or before August 1, 1959, the Department may put the cemetery property up for sale if the tribe so wishes.

One of the bills to be considered at the forthcoming hearing would eliminate the Department's authority to sell the cemetery. Another would require the Department to investigate the advisability of establishing the cemetery as a national shrine or monument.

Lewis Sigler, Assistant Legislative Counsel, will represent the Department at the hearing.

Three years ago Secretary Seaton said that before approval of any plan for sale of the cemetery, a hearing would be held at Kansas City so that interested historical groups might express their views. The Haley Subcommittee hearing, he said, will fulfill that promise.

August 1 has been set as a deadline for removal of Federal trust supervision of the Wyandotte tribal property. Therefore, Secretary Seaton said steps are being taken, looking toward disposal of the tribal property in compliance with the provisions of existing law.

First of these steps is a poll by mail of the adult members of the Wyandotte Tribe to learn their wishes on the disposal of the tribal property.

In questionnaires that will be sent out shortly by the Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Muskogee, Oklahoma, each tribal member will be asked to express himself for or against three possible methods of disposition.

One would involve the transfer of the cemetery to a private trustee or cemetery association so that the property could be preserved intact. This would mean that the only income to be received by the tribal members would be that realized from sale of one small tract of tribal property located in Oklahoma.

Secondly all of the tribal property might be sold by sealed bids to the highest bidder regardless of proposed future use. This would require removing the bodies from the Huron Cemetery and the purchase of a new cemetery site. Such costs would be deducted from the proceeds of the sale and the net balance would be distributed equally among the members.

Under the third proposal, the members will be asked whether they would approve sale of the cemetery to a civic body or other legal entity at the appraised value less the cost for removing the bodies in the event such an offer should be received. Under this plan the net income from the sale would also be distributed equally among the members.

Before the referendum vote could be initiated, three important steps had to be taken.

One was the compilation of a final roll of the tribal members. This was recently completed and the roll consists of 1,154 individuals--697 adults and 457 minors.

Second was a survey of the Huron Cemetery by the Bureau of Land Management. This revealed certain encroachments and unauthorized occupation of certain areas by the municipality and certain private parties.

Third was an appraisal of the cemetery based on the legal description. This was recently completed. The value of the site, with all graves removed, is estimated at \$291,000.

Because no accurate records of burials have been kept, only a rough estimate can be made of the costs of reinterment. From the information on hand, the Department indicated that there may be between 800 and 1,000 interments and the reinterment costs could conceivably be about \$130,000. Allowing for the cost of a new site and a monument, this would mean that the share of each Wyandotte member would probably not exceed \$130.

In addition to arranging for the referendum among the tribal members, the Muskogee Office of the Indian Bureau is also being directed to (a) start negotiations with the city of Kansas City, Kansas, and abutting property owners on the sale of the areas of encroachment, (b) invite sealed bids from all potential purchasers of the cemetery site, (c) secure contract proposals for removing and reintering the bodies and for other items incident to such relocation including a suitable site for reinterment, and (d) advertise for sale and solicit sealed bids for the small tract of tribal property in Oklahoma.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 5, 1959

INTERIOR RECOMMENDS AMENDING INDIAN LAND SALE BILL
TO KEEP TRACTS IN INDIAN OWNERSHIP

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today announced the Department, hoping to keep as much of the present Indian estate as possible in Indian hands, has recommended major amendments of S. 51, a bill dealing with the sale or leasing of tracts owned by two or more Indians.

One of the most important recommendations asks for a \$15,000,000 increase in the Indian Revolving Loan Fund set up to help Indians acquire land, he said.

Under existing law, a tract of trust or restricted Indian land in multiple ownership can be sold or leased under most circumstances only with the consent of all the owners. S. 51 in its present form would change this by authorizing the Department to sell or lease upon request of those owning a majority Indian interest. The Department's report pointed out that this bill, if enacted, would result in more land going out of Indian ownership.

The amendments recommended by the Department, to prevent the loss to Indians of important tracts of heirship lands, would set up two major steps to facilitate Indian purchase of the lands offered for sale. First, each of the Indian owners of a tract offered for sale would be given a preferential right to buy out the interests of the others. Secondly, if none of the co-owners is interested in purchase, the tribe would be given a right to buy the tract either by negotiation at the appraised value, or by meeting the highest sealed offer submitted in competitive bidding, or by participating in an auction.

In recognition of the fact that many Indian tribes lack the funds for making such purchases, the Department recommended special Federal loans for the purpose. The amount needed, the Department said, is difficult to estimate. However, it asked for an increase from \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000 in the appropriation authorization for the revolving loan fund of the Bureau of Indian Affairs "until some experience is gained."

Under the Department's proposal, the loans would have to be secured by a mortgage on the land purchased or on other tribal property equal at least to the principal amount of the loan. They would have a term of not more than 25 years and would be made only if the tribe has a plan for using the purchased land which is acceptable to the Secretary.

In a letter to Senator James E. Murray, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Department pointed out that it has been criticized in the past for allowing the sale of individually owned Indian lands, "notwithstanding the fact that we ordinarily may act only upon the request of all of the owners and only when we think a sale would benefit the owners." The letter also called attention to (1) a moratorium on all sales of Indian land declared by the Department last year at the request of Senator Murray pending a Senate committee review of the problem and (2) a memorandum from Senator Murray to the committee, after this review, which reflected continued criticism of Indian land sales by the Department, characterizing them as "alarming" and "potentially disastrous."

"It should be clearly understood," the Department's letter to Senator Murray said, "that if your bill S. 51 is enacted and if the authority in the bill is used effectively, it will result in more land going out of Indian ownership."

The recommended amendments, the Department pointed out, will not only help keep the lands in Indian ownership but will also go a long way toward resolving what is known in Indian circles as the "heirship problem." This is a problem which has developed because many of the Indians who received individual allotments of land on reservations under Federal law--principally in the period from the 1880's to the 1920's--have died and their interests have passed on to their heirs.

The Department estimates that more than half of the 60,000 allotted tracts, comprising some 13,000,000 acres, are now in multiple ownership and that 2,000 additional estates are being probated each year. In some cases the interests of individual owners have to be expressed by fractions with denominators in the millions. Rentals payable to the Indian owners sometimes amount to only a few pennies a year.

"The present system," the Department letter said, "works to the detriment both of the Indian owners and of the Government. All too often situations develop where the welfare of one or more of the Indian owners requires a sale of land, but a sale cannot be made under existing law because of the absence of one of the joint owners, the whereabouts of an owner is unknown, or one of the owners for no valid reason refuses to agree to a sale.

"There should be some way for each of the individual Indians to protect his own interests. Authority for the owners of a majority interest to sell or lease, with the approval of the Secretary, seems eminently fair. In the case of non-Indians, any one of the owners can compel a sale regardless of the wishes of the other owners. These ownership interests are individual property rights, and they should receive reasonable protection.

"It also seems to us obvious that the Federal Government, as trustee, should not be subjected to the exorbitant and extravagant expense of administration that is inherent in the present system, which requires an enormous amount of time to be spent in locating all of the numerous joint owners of a particular tract of land, in getting the concurrence of all of them to the proposed action, in keeping the complicated record system that is required to identify ownership and to distribute income from the land, and in maintaining accounts in which the income of each owner is recorded."

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Indians who feel that they are unfairly treated under a proposed distribution plan have a period of 30 days after the serving of general notice in which to register their objections with the Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Sacramento. All objections will be forwarded promptly to the Secretary of the Interior for consideration.

After disposition of the objections, the distribution plan as finally approved by the Secretary will be submitted to all adults who will participate in the distribution under its provisions for approval or disapproval in a referendum vote. Ballots may be cast either in person at a general meeting or by mail addressed to the Area Director. If the plan is approved by a majority of the adult Indian distributees, it will go into effect on the date approved.

When the plan has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior, he will publish in the Federal Register a proclamation terminating the special relationship of the Federal Government to the reservation or rancheria and to the distributees and their immediate family dependents.

A notice of intention to adopt distribution regulations affecting the California reservations and rancherias was published in the Federal Register last February 27. Two suggestions were received and were incorporated in the regulations as finally approved.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, JUNE 10, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR INDIAN DORMITORY AND DINING FACILITIES AT RAMAH, NEW MEXICO

Award of a \$181,400 contract for construction of a new 80-pupil dormitory and additional dining facilities to provide for Indian school children at Ramah, New Mexico, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

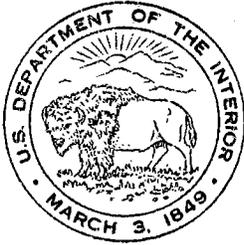
Completion of the work will make it possible for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to accommodate additional children at the existing Ramah facility while they attend the local public schools under arrangements worked out with the school district.

It will also relieve the present overcrowding.

In addition to the new dormitory and the enlargement of the dining and kitchen facilities, the contract also provides for utilities, employees' quarters and work on the grounds.

The successful bidder was Oehring Construction Co. of Farmington, New Mexico. Four higher bids were received ranging from \$188,338 to \$240,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 10, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FAVORS BILL PERMITTING CATAWBA INDIANS OF
SOUTH CAROLINA TO DIVIDE THEIR TRIBAL PROPERTY

The Department of the Interior today announced its endorsement of H. R. 6128, a bill that will permit members of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina to divide their tribal assets and discontinue their special Indian relations with the Federal Government.

The Catawba Indians have requested such legislation and have explicitly approved the provisions of H. R. 6128.

The property to be divided consists of 3,388.8 acres of land under Federal trusteeship in York County, S. C., near Rock Hill; a tribal herd of 120 beef cattle; approximately 6,500,000 board feet of timber; and nearly \$5,000 of cash on deposit with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The total estimated net worth of Tribe is slightly over \$250,000.

Under provisions of the bill, tribal members who have received an assignment or use right in particular tracts of tribal land will be given the right to select these tracts as part of their distributive shares. The remainder of the tribal assets will be sold and the proceeds distributed. Any property not sold within two years after enactment will be conveyed to a trustee for liquidation and distribution.

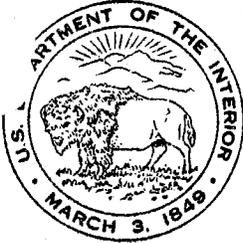
The Catawba Indians have received services for many years from the State of South Carolina but have only a relatively short history of special relationships with the Federal Government. Under a 1943 agreement among the Tribe, the State, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the land now held in Federal trusteeship was bought for the Tribe by the State and conveyed to the United States in 1945. In addition, the tribe has had for many years a reservation of one square mile which is held in trust by the State. This will not be affected by H. R. 6128 unless the State Legislature takes action to have it included in the distribution plan.

Last fall the Bureau of Indian Affairs found 62 Catawba families living on the Federal trust land, 21 families living on the "old reservation" under the State, 26 families living in Rock Hill, and 53 families living elsewhere. The total includes 614 Indians in 162 family groups.

In its report the Department pointed out that the Catawbas have advanced economically at a steady pace during the past 14 years and have now reached a position comparable to that of their non-Indian neighbors.

Last December the State of South Carolina appointed a five-man legislative committee to help the Catawbas in negotiating for removal of the Federal trust restrictions from their land. This committee has studied H. R. 6128 and endorsed it.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 10, 1959

ROAD CONTRACT AWARDED ON THE NAVAJO RESERVATION

Award of a \$235,683.40 contract for construction of 9.511 miles of graded roadway and untreated surface on Indian reservation lands in New Mexico was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The project is located between Torreon and Johnson's Trading Post in the checkerboard section of the eastern Navajo Reservation. The segment being improved serves as a part of an access road from New Mexico Route 44, near Cuba, to Torreon. The New Mexico State Highway Commission has agreed to complete the section from Johnson's Trading Post to Highway 44.

The new road will permit regular scheduling of school buses and promote regular attendance of the approximately 175 Indian children at the public school at Cuba, New Mexico, as provided for by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' educational program. This road will also serve as an outlet for the isolated section in the vicinity of Torreon where the Bureau maintains a boarding school.

In adverse weather during the school term it has been almost impossible to maintain a supply service on a regular schedule and operate buses serving the school facilities.

Funds for this improvement are provided from regular appropriated funds for the improvement of the Navajo Road System.

James Hamilton Construction Company of Grants, New Mexico, submitted the low bid of \$235,683.40.

Twelve other bids were received ranging from \$238,380.16 to \$374,959.72.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 12, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR ROADS ON CHEYENNE RIVER RESERVATION

Award of a \$243,427.06 contract for grading, drainage, and crushed gravel surfacing of 15.4 miles of roads on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Dewey County, South Dakota, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract involves construction of 12.7 miles of road south from U. S. Highway 212. This will be the first section in a project covering approximately 50 miles of all-weather road proposed for construction to serve 40 Indian families who have resettled and are established in stock-raising enterprises in the southeastern section of the Cheyenne River Reservation. Travel in the area is possible at present only during dry weather over unimproved trails.

The contract also includes construction of 2.7 miles of access road to serve 12 Indian families who have relocated from the Oahe Reservoir taking area and are residing in the northeastern section of the Cheyenne River Reservation near the present site of the Moreau Indian Day School.

The successful bidder was Roy Kindt Construction of Winner, South Dakota. Eight other bids were received ranging from \$247,874.63 to \$311,438.93.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release JUNE 22, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT WARNS AGAINST LOWERING SAFEGUARDS FOR INDIAN LANDOWNERS

Under Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett today cautioned against permitting lessees of Indian lands the privilege of meeting the highest offer when the lands are sold under competitive bidding at the request of the owners.

He said such a provision, admittedly advantageous to the lessees, would in most cases have "an adverse effect on the Indian selling his land."

The Under Secretary set forth the Department's position in a letter to Chairman James E. Murray of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Senator Murray, of Montana, recently wrote the Department that a considerable number of lessees on the Crow Reservation in his State "are desirous of participating in the land sales which come up from time to time on that reservation."

Many of them have fairly extensive leases, he continued, adding that he had been requested to ask whether the Department would agree to a procedure permitting lessees of any Indian lands to meet the high bid.

"The lessee who is using the property," Mr. Bennett replied, "is in a better position than any other prospective bidder to know the actual value of the land. He is acquainted with its potential, and can gauge the capital investment justified on the basis of the returns which he knows the property is capable of yielding. To that extent he has an advantage over other prospective bidders. Yet, if he were given the opportunity of meeting the high bid on the sale of the land, the lessee would need to make only a nominal bid with the knowledge that he had the privilege of meeting, without needing to surpass, the high bid.

"Consequently, competition would be stifled. Individuals who might desire to bid on land would readily recognize that, unless they offered a prohibitive amount in order to get possession, the present lessee could and would merely meet their bid. Thus, in actual practice, there would be no competition for the great majority of Indian land offered for sale."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JUNE 23, 1959

INDIAN BUREAU AWARDS CONTRACT FOR ROAD WORK ON KLAMATH RESERVATION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has awarded an \$83,305 contract for grading and surfacing 8.25 miles of roadway on the Klamath Indian Reservation in southern Oregon, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The work will be the last involved in a program of more than 80 miles of new and reconstructed roads being built by the Indian Bureau in preparation for final termination of Federal responsibilities on the reservation under the Klamath Termination Act. Under an agreement between the United States and Klamath County, the roads are being built to county standards and will be taken over by the county for maintenance upon completion.

Under the contract announced today, the work will be done on what is known as the Bray Mill-Lone Pine road approximately six miles northeast of Chiloquin, Oregon. The improvement is important to the reservation area for timber access and fire protection as well as for general transportation.

The work will be performed by Beaver Excavating Company, Gresham, Oregon, whose bid was the lowest of four received. Bids ranged to a high of \$105,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, June 29, 1959

DEPARTMENT PROPOSES BILL TRANSFERRING NAVAJO RESERVATION IRRIGATION PROJECTS TO TRIBAL ORGANIZATION

The Department of the Interior favors legislation that would authorize transferring to the Navajo Indian Tribe full title and responsibility for all irrigation projects on the 15,000,000-acre reservation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

Under its terms, the Navajos would permanently assume all operation and maintenance costs, estimated at \$200,000 a year. They have borne this cost since January 1, 1958.

In submitting to Congress a proposed bill that would authorize the transfer, the Department pointed out that the Navajo Tribal Council indicated a desire and willingness to take on operational responsibility for the projects in resolutions of September 18, 1957, and February 14, 1958.

The projects involved include 67 units on which the Indian Bureau maintains active records plus an unknown number of others that are inoperative, abandoned or left to management by individual Indians and not carried on the Bureau's books. They were built by the Federal Government over the years since 1884 and have been maintained and operated as a Federal responsibility for the benefit of the Indians. They range in size from 100 to 6,000 acres and embrace a total of nearly 34,000 acres.

Under the legislation proposed by the Department, the Tribe's control over the transferred projects will be unrestricted but the facilities and the income from them will be tax-exempt as long as the facilities continue to be owned by the Tribe or by a legal entity controlled by the Tribe or its members.

Reimbursable construction costs of the projects, amounting to about \$5,900,000, will not be affected by the legislation. However, under the Leavitt Act of 1932, these costs will not be assessed against the lands until the lands pass out of Indian ownership.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 2, 1959

INDIAN BUREAU CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO FOR RESOURCE STUDY ON FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst announced today that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has contracted with the University of Idaho for a comprehensive survey of the human and physical resources of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in southeastern Idaho.

In commenting on the significance of the contract, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs H. Rex Lee pointed out that for several years the Bureau has been seeking a more effective way to help the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation in improving their economic and social status.

"In this connection," he said, "we felt the need of having an appraisal of the Reservation resources and population made by a competent agency outside of Government."

On a trip to Idaho during the week of June 8, Mr. Lee explored the possibility of such a survey with officials of the State University and then discussed the proposal with the Indians in a meeting at Fort Hall on June 12. In a resolution adopted that same day the tribes endorsed the proposal and agreed to cooperate in carrying out the study.

Purpose of the study is to provide basic information that can be used by the tribes and the Bureau in developing programs for more effective use of the Indians' lands and other resources as well as for economic and social advancement of the tribal members.

The survey will be divided into four main parts. Specific projects under these headings will be agreed upon from time to time by the Bureau and the University.

The first part will be a study of the nature and extent of the physical resources of the Reservation and how these can be most effectively used for the Indians' benefit.

Second will be a study of the credit, employment and industrial possibilities, taking into consideration the financial feasibility of projects and the capabilities of individuals.

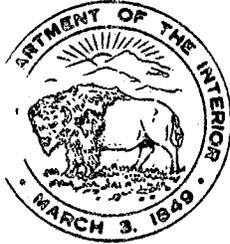
Third will be a survey of the human resources including such items as family composition, employment skills and preferences, and social conditions of the Indian people.

Fourth will be a study of the attitudes of non-Indians in the local and surrounding communities with suggestions for cooperative undertakings that would benefit both the Indian people and the surrounding communities.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has obligated \$60,000 for the total survey. Actual costs, however, will be determined as specific projects are agreed upon by the Bureau and the University. They are expected to run considerably less than the \$60,000 maximum.

Acting Commissioner Lee indicated that the survey may take two years and possibly longer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, JULY 3, 1959

ROAD CONTRACT FOR NAVAJO ROUTE 1 AWARDED

Award of a \$393,202 contract for the construction of about nine miles of highway on Navajo Route 1 in northern Arizona was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The section of road begins at Tuba City, Arizona, and extends northeast past the Rare Metals Uranium Mill, towards Kayenta, in the northern part of the Navajo Reservation.

This nine-mile section is the first project on Navajo Route 1 to be constructed or immediate takeover by the State of Arizona after the Bureau of Indian Affairs contract is complete.

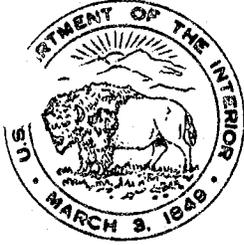
Funds for the improvement of Navajo Routes 1 and 3 were authorized under legislation passed by Congress late in the 1958 session.

Extensive interest has been generated throughout the Southwest for the improvement of this important road which crosses the Navajo Reservation and northern Arizona. The rapidly growing Four Corners oil development now borders the route to the north. Indications are that the development area will eventually spread to the south of the highway.

The low bid was submitted by C. R. Davis Contracting Company of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Four other bids were submitted, ranging from \$395,670 to \$545,850.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 2, 1959

AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS SERVICE

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior announced today the second set of four awards which are made annually "in recognition of long and outstanding services in the preservation, encouragement and development of the arts and crafts of the American Indians."

These awards, consisting of certificates of appreciation, were presented yesterday in Flagstaff, Arizona. Recipients, and the categories for which they won, include:

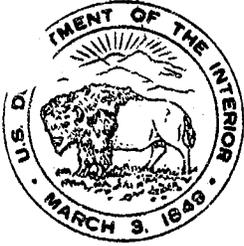
1. The Museum of Northern Arizona, of Flagstaff, Arizona--Nonprofit organizations.
2. Mr. Henry Claiborne Lockett, Tucson, Arizona--Dealers in arts and crafts.
3. Mr. Fred Kabotie, Oraibi, Arizona--Indian craftsmen.
4. Mrs. Mary Russell-Ferrell Colton, Flagstaff, Arizona--Collectors or patrons of Indian arts and crafts.

Dr. Frederick J. Dockstader, a member of the Board, made the presentation of awards this year. The basis for selection of winners is the long-standing services over and above the normal activities of the recipients in each classification.

The Chairman of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board is Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York City. Board members serve without compensation, under appointment by the Secretary of the Interior.

Other members are Vincent Price, actor and Indian art collector, Los Angeles, California, and Erich Kohlberg, dealer in Indian crafts, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 7, 1959

REGULATIONS APPROVED GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP IN CALIFORNIA INDIAN BAND

Under Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett today announced approval of Federal regulations governing the enrollment of members of the Rincon, San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians of California. Adoption of such regulations was requested by the band.

Under the regulations, which will be published shortly in the Federal Register, anyone who believes that he or a minor or incompetent should be enrolled is given a period of 90 days after publication to file an application with the Area Field Representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Riverside, California.

The regulations provide that the membership roll shall include persons alive on July 21, 1957, who were not enrolled with any other Indian tribe or band and who fall in one of the following four categories: (1) Indians whose names appear as members of the band on the census roll, (2) Indians who have received allotments on the Rincon Reservations, (3) persons descended from Indians in category (1) and having one-eighth or more San Luiseno Indian blood, and (4) persons descended from Indians in category (2) and having one-eighth or more San Luiseno Indian blood.

A notice of intention to adopt these membership regulations was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 1959. In the following 30-day period a number of suggestions for amendment were received and these have been incorporated in the regulations as finally approved.

Full details on the procedure to be followed will be included in the forthcoming Federal Register publication.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 8, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION ADDING 350,000 ACRES TO INDIAN TRIBAL LAND HOLDINGS

The Department of the Interior has submitted to Congress a proposal for legislation that would add nearly 350,000 acres to the land holdings of 18 Indian tribes or communities in 9 States, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

All of the lands affected are located within or adjacent to Indian reservations. All were bought by the Federal Government as "submarginal lands" during the 1930's to retire them from private ownership and correct maladjustments in their use. Nearly all have been used by the Indians for upwards of 20 years. Under present law, however, the full legal and equitable title is in the United States.

The total original cost of these lands to the Government was over \$1,600,000. The present-day value, although not definitely known, is undoubtedly many times this figure.

"These submarginal lands," Mr. Ernst said, "are needed by the Indians in order to obtain maximum utilization of their tribal lands and in order to augment their other income. If the lands are not turned over to the Indians, proper utilization will not be possible and the loss of the use of such lands would seriously affect the economic standards of many Indians. If the title is transferred to the Indians, further consolidation into acceptable ranch units for grazing purposes will be possible."

Because some of the submarginal lands are in the taking areas of the Fort Randall, Oahe and Big Bend Reservoirs on the Missouri River and will continue to be needed for this purpose, the proposed bill exempts these lands, totaling nearly 3,000 acres, from its provisions. The proposal also reserves to the Government the right to continue using for military purposes about 6,400 acres of submarginal land embraced within the Ellsworth Air Force Range on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Under a 1947 law all receipts from mineral leasing of the submarginal lands have been deposited in a special fund of the U. S. Treasury pending final congressional action. The fund now amounts to \$844,928.33. Under the Department's proposal, all monies accumulated in the special fund prior to enactment would be retained by the United States. Future income from mineral leasing, however, would be the property of the respective tribes.

The Department made no specific recommendations whether the lands should be conveyed to the Indian groups in fee simple title or Federal trust status. Either alternative, Mr. Ernst said, would be acceptable to the Department.

The following tabulation shows the submarginal land projects proposed for transfer, the reservations affected, the acreages involved, and the original cost of the lands.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Reservation</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Original Cost</u>
Fort Hall, LI-ID-2	Fort Hall, Idaho	8,711	\$133,213
L'Anse, LI-MI-8	L'Anse, Mich.	4,016	16,121
Twin Lakes, LI-MN-6	White Earth, Minn.	24,114	156,236
Flat Lake, LI-MN-15	White Earth, Minn.	4,436	19,428
Fort Peck, LI-MT-6	Fort Peck, Mont.	85,338	412,302
Fort Belknap, LI-MT-8	Fort Belknap, Mont.	25,530	89,936
Blackfeet, LI-MT-9	Blackfeet, Mont.	9,037	31,076
Standing Rock, LI-ND-10	Standing Rock, N. Dak.	4,086	21,612 ^{1/}
Standing Rock, LI-ND-10	Standing Rock, S. Dak.	6,878	24,911
Fort Totten, LI-ND-11	Fort Totten, N. Dak.	1,424	11,869
Delaware, LI-OK-4	Cherokee, Okla.	13,778	49,313
Adair, LI-OK-5	Cherokee, Okla.	4,960	10,934
Burns Colony, LI-OR-5	Burns Colony, Oreg.	760	14,620
Pine Ridge, LI-SD-7	Pine Ridge, S. Dak.	46,213	207,792
Cutmeat, LI-SD-8	Rosebud, S. Dak.	10,089	52,803
Antelope, LI-SD-9	Rosebud, S. Dak.	18,642	102,201
Crow Creek, LI-SD-10	Crow Creek, S. Dak.	19,627	81,591 ^{2/}
Lower Brule, LI-SD-10	Lower Brule, S. Dak.	14,290	56,990 ^{3/}
Cheyenne Indian, LI-SD-13	Cheyenne River, S. Dak.	5,110	18,202 ^{4/}
Bad River, LI-WI-8	Bad River, Wis.	13,069	32,093
Lac Court, LI-WI-9	Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.	13,185	25,598
Stockbridge, LI-WI-11	Stockbridge, Wis.	13,077	69,546

^{1/} Includes 650.09 acres located within the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project authorized under acts of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, 891) and September 2, 1958 (72 Stat. 1762).

^{2/} Includes 495 acres located within the Fort Randall Dam and Reservoir project.

^{3/} Includes 294 acres located within the Fort Randall Dam and Reservoir project.

^{4/} Includes 1509 acres located within the Oahe Dam and Reservoir project.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 14, 1959

INTERIOR PROPOSES LAND USE ADJUSTMENT BILL FOR NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO

The Department of the Interior has submitted to Congress a proposal for legislation that would adjust Indian and non-Indian land use on some 266,000 acres near the Navajo Reservation in northwestern New Mexico, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

Jurisdictions of three Federal agencies--the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service--are involved in the proposal. The basic aim is to eliminate the present confusing and intermingled pattern of jurisdiction in the area and to promote more effective land use and better conservation practices.

The proposal calls for transferring to the Navajo Tribe, in Federal trust, approximately 100,000 acres of public domain, about 3,000 acres of National Forest land, nearly 61,000 acres of submarginal lands purchased in the 1930's that have been administered for the benefit of the Tribe, and some 80,000 acres of reconveyed railroad grant lands that are being administered for the Tribe's benefit under a 1939 Secretarial order pending the enactment of legislation.

In addition, some 17,000 acres held in trust for the Navajo Tribe and about 5,000 acres of submarginal land administered for its benefit would be transferred to the public domain and approximately 2,000 acres of the submarginal land would be transferred to the Cibola National Forest.

The minerals in the tribal lands that would be added to the public domain and in the Federal lands transferred to the Tribe would be excluded from the transfers.

This legislative proposal was prepared with the active collaboration of the Navajo Tribe, and it has the Tribe's support.

Enactment of the proposed bill, Mr. Ernst pointed out, will not result in dispossession of any present users of the area. Although some non-Indians are in the area to be consolidated for use by the Navajo Indians, substantially all of the grazing resources of the area are now in Navajo use.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 15, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR INDIAN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AT FORT WINGATE, NEW MEXICO

Award of a \$1,176,800 contract for construction at the Wingate School at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, to provide facilities that will increase the school's capacity by about 325 Indian students, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The project will greatly expand the Indian Bureau's existing boarding school plant at Fort Wingate, and will include replacement of a dormitory which has been found unsafe for further use. It involves the construction of a school building containing 17 classrooms, construction of three new dormitories and rehabilitation of a fourth, and the remodeling of a kitchen and dining room and student recreation room.

For several months the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been stepping up its school construction program with the aim of providing classroom space for all Indian school-age children who are not already enrolled in public or mission schools.

This project at Fort Wingate, one of the historic outposts of the 19th century Southwest, will make the increase in enrollment possible especially at the high school level during the coming school year.

Necessary rehabilitation work to enlarge and improve kitchen and dining facilities and to repair the existing dormitory will be carried out first under the contract. Then construction will begin immediately on the new facilities so that the entire program will be completed and in full operation by December 1.

The new dormitories and classroom building will be of single-story construction.

The successful bidder was George A. Rutherford, Inc., Albuquerque, New Mexico. Four higher bids were received ranging from \$1,189,691 to \$1,333,280.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 16, 1959

CHANGE IN REGULATIONS WILL PERMIT INDIAN BUREAU LOANS TO WITHDRAWING KLAMATH MEMBERS REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD

A change in Federal regulations that will permit the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make loans to withdrawing members of the Klamath Indian Tribe of Oregon regardless of their degree of Indian blood was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Under the former rules, loans could not be made to individuals of less than a quarter degree Indian blood.

The amendment of the regulation was made possible as a result of legislation recommended by the Department and recently enacted by Congress (Public Law 86-40).

The Bureau has been making loans to withdrawing Klamath members of one-fourth or more Indian blood since last December. The loans have been made without interest and have been set off against funds payable to the borrowers under the Klamath Termination Act. Sales of tribal forest lands to compensate the withdrawing members are being made over a two-year period which began last April.

Of the 1,659 withdrawing members of the Klamath Tribe, 253 or about 15 percent are of less than one-fourth Indian blood and in position to benefit from the rules change.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, JULY 20, 1959

THREE CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ON NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION

The Department of the Interior today announced the award of three contracts totaling \$887,704 for road and bridge construction on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and New Mexico.

The largest contract, for \$366,431, involves the grading, drainage and bituminous surfacing of 4.1 miles of Navajo Route 1 running west from the Arizona-New Mexico State line.

This section is immediately south of the famous Four Corners oil field development and is at the extreme eastern end of the unimproved portion of Navajo Route 1. A 22-mile connecting section of the road in New Mexico was previously graded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and surfaced by the State.

The road is important as a link from southwestern Colorado through the Navajo country to the Grand Canyon and west. A growing volume of traffic is expected to use it as the Four Corners oil field is further developed and moves into northern Arizona.

Longenbaugh and Coe, Inc., of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the successful bidder. Four other bids were received ranging from \$393,669 to \$494,499.

A second contract, in the amount of \$348,301, is for widening and surfacing 9.6 miles of Navajo Route 3 running west from the New Mexico State line near Window Rock, Arizona, the location of the Tribal and Federal Government offices for the Navajo Reservation.

The two improvements on Navajo Routes 1 and 3 were made possible through special legislation enacted by Congress in 1958.

James Hamilton Construction Company of Grants, New Mexico, was the successful bidder on the Route 3 contract. Four other bids were submitted ranging from \$398,942 to \$445,703.

The third contract, for \$172,972, covers the construction of a 434-foot, 9-span steel and concrete bridge across the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico.

This structure replaces an obsolete steel truss bridge which now spans the San Juan River at Farmington but will carry only the lightest loads. Traffic bound for the Bisti oil field, lying south of the river, has for some time avoided using the present bridge. Completion of the new structure will provide the first link in the construction of a highway from Farmington through Bisti to a connection with New Mexico 56 at Crownpoint. This routing will also service Chaco National Monument.

Award of the contract represents the culmination of negotiations carried on over a period of several months. As a result of these negotiations, the Navajo Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs entered into an agreement with several oil companies, San Juan County, and the city of Farmington under which these latter parties pledged to furnish about half the funds that were expected to be needed for financing the structure, including the connecting approach with the city of Farmington. The State Highway Department and the El Paso Natural Gas Company will participate jointly in building a road from the bridge's south approach to the Bisti field.

The low bid was submitted by M. C. Jacobs Construction Company of Denver, Colorado. Six other bids were received ranging from \$177,837 to \$228,295.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, JULY 20, 1959

ROUTE 1 NAVAJO CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior today announced the award of a road construction contract for grading and bituminous surfacing of 13 miles of Navajo Route 1 from 9 miles northeast of Tuba City, Arizona to Red Lake (Tonalea), Arizona.

Extensive interest has surrounded the development of a program for construction of Navajo Route 1 because of the rapid development of the Four Corners oil field to the northeast and the fact that the northern part of the Reservation and of the State of Arizona has no improved highway. When complete, this route will be a short cut from southwestern Colorado to the Grand Canyon, the west coast and the whole northern part of the Navajo Reservation.

Wells-Stewart Company of Las Vegas, Nevada, submitted the low bid of \$602,993.

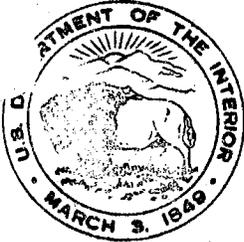
Two other bids were submitted, ranging from \$643,234 to \$652,152.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 23, 1959

NAVAJO ROUTE 1 BRIDGES AWARDED

A \$178,907.28 contract for construction of two bridges on Navajo Route 1 in New Mexico was awarded today by the Department of the Interior.

These bridges in San Juan County will replace two timber structures that no longer will carry the heavy traffic which the oil and mining operations in northern Arizona and southeastern Utah have generated.

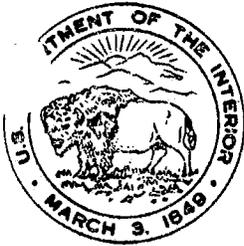
One 2-span prestressed concrete box-girder bridge will be constructed across Rattlesnake Wash west of Shiprock, New Mexico, and one 6-span steel-girder bridge with a concrete deck will cross the Red Rock Wash.

Funds will be provided from money appropriated for the improvement of Navajo-Hopi Routes 1 and 3.

These structures will carry the heavy traffic from State and Federal routes and traffic originating in the oil fields of Utah, as well as local and anticipated tourist traffic.

The Reeder Construction Company of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the lowest of 8 bids received, the higher bids ranging from \$179,294.47 to \$238,409.59.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 25, 1959

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ROAD CONSTRUCTION AFFECTING FOUR
INDIAN AREAS

The Department of the Interior today announced a proposed revision of Federal regulations to remove restrictions against road construction that have applied for more than 20 years on 310,000 acres on four Indian reservation areas in three States.

The lands that would be affected are the Columbia-San Poil Divide Area of 155,000 acres on the Colville Reservation in Washington, the Mission Range Area of 125,000 acres on the Flathead Reservation in Montana, and the Fort Charlotte Area of 19,000 acres and the Grand Portage Area of 11,000 acres on the Grand Portage Reservation in Minnesota.

The first two were designated as "roadless" areas and the latter two as "wild" areas by administrative action of the Department during the 1930's without consulting the Indians. All four areas consist not of Federal land but of tribally owned property held in trust by the United States. However, about 700 acres of the land on the Grand Portage Reservation is scheduled to be set aside in the near future as the Grand Portage National Monument under legislation enacted last year with the full concurrence of the Indians.

All of the tribal groups involved have requested removal of the restrictions to facilitate economic development of the areas.

Interested parties may submit their comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington 25, D. C., within 30 days after publication of the proposed revision in the Federal Register.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 28, 1959

AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS SERVICE

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior announced today the third set of awards which are being made "in recognition of long and outstanding services in the preservation, encouragement and development of the arts and crafts of the American Indians."

These awards, consisting of certificates of appreciation, are being presented today in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Recipients, and the categories for which they on, include:

1. The Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, of Asheville, North Carolina-- Nonprofit organizations.
2. Mrs. Lottie Stamper, Cherokee, North Carolina--Indian craftsmen.
3. Allen H. Eaton, Crestwood, New York--Collectors or patrons of Indian Arts and Crafts.

Erich Kohlberg, a member of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, is making the presentation of awards today. The basis for selection of winners is the long-standing services over and above the normal activities of the recipients in each classification.

The Chairman of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board is Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York City. Other members of the Board, all serving without compensation and under appointment by the Secretary of the Interior, are:

Frederick J. Dockstader, Assistant Director, Museum of the American Indian, New York City; Vincent Price, actor and collector of Indian art, Los Angeles; and Mr. Kohlberg, dealer in Indian crafts, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's JULY 29, 1959

NEARLY 9,000 ACRES ON TWO SOUTH DAKOTA SIOUX INDIAN
RESERVATIONS RESTORED TO TRIBAL JURISDICTION

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst today announced the restoration of nearly 9,000 acres on two Indian reservations in South Dakota to tribal jurisdiction.

Thirteen tracts totaling over 3,000 acres of the restored land are on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. An additional 5,880 acres are on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

All the lands being restored were set aside as school or administrative sites by Secretarial orders approximately 50 years ago. Since they are no longer needed for these purposes, they are being made available for use by the tribal organizations and their members.

The restorations were requested by the Indian tribal councils on both reservations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 30, 1959

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON ROYALTY RATES
FOR OIL AND GAS LEASES ON DISPUTED UTAH LAND

Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett today called attention to the results of the first sale of oil and gas leases held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the basis of a fixed bonus of \$500 per acre and competitive bidding on the royalty rates. The bids were opened at Window Rock, Arizona, July 28. The total bonus offered at \$500 per acre was \$1,245,500.

The land offered for lease comprises 3,291 acres in San Juan County, Utah, in the "four corners" area, and is the subject of litigation between the United States, as trustee for the Navajo Tribe, and the State of Utah. Bidders were warned in advance that the tracts were being offered "without any warranty or representation of good title and subject to acceptance by the duly authorized tribal representatives."

Acceptable bids were received on 16 tracts totaling 2,491 acres. The highest per-acre royalty bid on one of the tracts was 77.19 percent. The average royalty bid per-acre was 48.3 percent and per-tract 46.99 percent.

Final action has not yet been taken on the bids received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release JULY 30, 1959

FINAL ROLL OF OTTAWA INDIAN TRIBE COMPLETED

Completion of the final membership roll of the Ottawa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, following the disposition of all appeals, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The preliminary membership roll, published in the Federal Register March 21, 1958, included 549 individuals. The net result of additions and subtractions made as a consequence of appeals to the Secretary of the Interior is a final roll of 630.

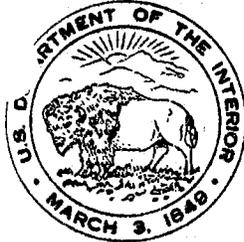
Under a 1956 Congressional law, Federal trusteeship of the Ottawa property is to be ended by next August 3.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release JULY 31, 1959

DEPARTMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION ADVANCING DATE FOR FEDERAL PURCHASE OF KLAMATH MARSH

Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett today announced the Department has submitted to Congress proposed legislation that would advance the date for Federal purchase of the 15,000-acre marsh on the Klamath Indian Reservation in Oregon.

Under existing law the marsh is scheduled to be purchased on April 1, 1961, and set aside as a National Wildlife Refuge. The Department's proposed legislation would provide for the purchase to take place on the earliest date after September 30, 1959, that duck stamp money is available to pay the purchase price.

The new date for the acquisition is being proposed so that the Government can pay immediately to the Indians the purchase price for land which the Government has already decided to buy, instead of lending them money to meet their current subsistence needs. The realization value of the Klamath Marsh, as established by a reappraisal completed last December, is \$474,841.

"The Indians who have elected to withdraw from the tribe," Acting Secretary Bennett pointed out, "will be without funds for subsistence until the purchase price from the sale of the marsh and the forest is available for distribution. These subsistence needs will, therefore, have to be met with loans from the Indian revolving loan fund. If the sale date for the marsh is changed as proposed, the need for additional loans from the revolving loan fund will be decreased. If the Federal Government is already committed to the purchase of the marsh, it seems unreasonable to make loans to the Indians rather than pay them the purchase price that is due. If the bill is enacted, funds will be available for the payment of the purchase price from the sale of stamps under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, as amended."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 4, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS JUDGMENT FUND BILL FOR OKLAHOMA INDIAN TRIBES

The Department of the Interior has recommended the enactment of S. 2085, a bill authorizing the use of a judgment fund of approximately \$1,860,000 awarded to the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian Tribes of Oklahoma by the Indian Claims Commission, it was announced today.

The Department's report, signed by Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst, says the basis for the judgment was an inadequate and unconscionable compensation for lands ceded to the United States by the Tribes under legislation enacted in 1900. In 1957 the Tribes were awarded a net judgment of \$2,067,166. After deduction of attorney's fees in the amount of \$206,716.60, the balance of \$1,860,449.40 was appropriated by Congress last May and is now on deposit in the U. S. Treasury bearing interest at four percent.

S. 2085 would make the money available for use as determined by the tribal governing body subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

The population of the three tribes is estimated at around 8,000 including about 4,000 full-bloods.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release August 6, 1959

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS CHANGING LAW TO SET UP PRIORITIES FOR INDIAN ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Department of the Interior has recommended changing the law under which adult Indians are being provided with vocational training at Federal expense to establish three priorities of eligibility among the Indian candidates, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

First priority would be given to Indians residing on trust or restricted lands or Federal lands under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

Second priority would go to Indians who within the preceding three years have moved to urban communities from residences on or near Indian reservations under the Relocation Services Program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Third priority would be given to Indians residing on or near reservations but not on trust, restricted, or Federal land.

The Department's proposal for amending the 1956 Indian adult vocational training law is embodied in its report to Congress on S. 1565. In its present form the bill would require that the program be made available to Indians who live on or near an Indian reservation without regard to residence on trust property. The effect, Mr. Ernst pointed out, would be to nullify a Department regulation which now makes the program available "primarily" to Indians in the top priority category proposed. He recommended that the bill be enacted only if amended as proposed.

"We believe," Mr. Ernst wrote, "that there is general agreement that the Department's first responsibility is to provide special Federal services to Indians who reside on trust or restricted land. For many years appropriations have been justified and made on that basis. Both the Department and the Congress have consistently taken the position that the Federal Government's responsibility for providing special services to Indians stems from the original concentration of the Indian population in reservation areas on tax exempt land. Indians who leave the reservation areas to settle in towns and cities throughout the country become parts

of communities in which they settle and cease to be a special Federal responsibility. They take their places as citizens of the State where they live, entitled to participate in the normal State and Federal programs.

"It is also generally agreed that the Indian trust property will support only a fraction of the Indians who are now living there. The United States has a responsibility to help solve the excess population problem. The Vocational Training Program is a very effective tool for relieving the population pressure on the inadequate land base. From the standpoint of the most effective use of Federal appropriations, this group should have first priority.

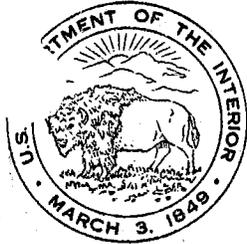
"Second priority as long as funds are limited should go to Indians who have voluntarily relocated themselves in areas removed from the reservations under the Bureau's relocation services program. Experience has shown that some of these Indians lack employment skills that are needed for a successful adaption to employment conditions, and that timely vocational training assistance may prevent some of them from giving up and returning to the reservations...

"Third priority should go to the Indians who live on or near reservations, but not on trust land. Inasmuch as they are living on taxable land, and are a part of the States and county system to a greater degree than are the Indians who are living on trust land, they should have a lesser priority than the Indians in the other two categories."

Mr. Ernst also noted that S. 1565 would eliminate language in the 1956 law which now limits annual appropriations for the Indian Adult Vocational Training program to \$3,500,000. This, he said, would be "a desirable change" and would make the amount of the annual appropriation subject to the normal budgetary process.

At the end of June there were 901 Indian men and women, principally between 18 and 35, receiving vocational training under auspices of the Indian Bureau program in more than 50 schools in 16 States. In addition, the Bureau had on hand over 700 applications for vocational training, or considerably more than it can handle with funds available for the program in the present fiscal year.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 12, 1959

DEPARTMENT FAVORS BILL TO PERMIT LEASING OF COLORADO RIVER
INDIAN RESERVATION LANDS

The Department of the Interior favors the enactment of legislation that would permit further leasing of lands on the Colorado River Indian Reservation in western Arizona and southeastern California, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

In a report to Congress on S. 2286, a bill to authorize such leasing, Mr. Ernst pointed out that the absence of leasing authority is now "hampering the orderly development of the reservation." In addition, he said, many leases previously granted will be expiring soon and the lessees are unable to plan sound programs without assurance of renewal.

S. 2286 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease the portions of the reservation not assigned to individual Indians and to approve leases of the assigned lands made by the holders of the assignments.

Special authority is necessary to authorize leasing of Colorado River Reservation lands, Mr. Ernst explained, because of the uncertainty as to beneficial ownership of the property. The Reservation was established by an 1865 law for the "Indians of said [Colorado] River and its tributaries." Whether the Indians now settled on the reservation are the exclusive owners is a question now in litigation.

Recognizing this uncertainty, Congress in 1955 passed a law authorizing the Secretary of the Interior, for a period of two years, to lease the unassigned lands. The authority expired August 14, 1957. The day before it expired, an Arizona corporation signed a 25-year lease on some 67,000 acres of the reservation. However, the lease was cancelled May 13, 1958, when the corporation failed to explain satisfactorily its failure to post a \$5 million performance bond. The terms of the lease required the bond.

The reservation contains slightly over 100,000 acres of potentially irrigable land. Approximately one-third of this has so far been developed for irrigation through the use of Federal funds.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 13, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FAVORS BILL TURNING OVER TO CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX INDIAN TRIBE LAND AND BUILDINGS IN DEWEY COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Department of the Interior today announced its support of H. R. 4786, a bill that would turn over to the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Tribe approximately 16 acres of land, together with a Government-owned cottage and warehouse-office building, in Dewey County, South Dakota.

The land was bought by the United States from a private company in 1915 and was for many years used as the site for an Indian Bureau farm station. Its use for this purpose was discontinued in 1948.

The Government cottage and warehouse-office building were formerly used by the Indian Bureau tribal field aid, were built at a cost of \$3,104, and are currently valued at \$5,352.

In addition to these two Government buildings, there are on the land five tribally owned houses occupied by Indian welfare clients and two privately owned Indian homes.

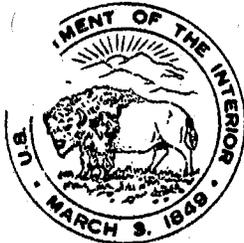
The Department recommended amendment of the bill so that it conveys the title and does not require the execution of conveyancing instruments by the Department. No opinion was expressed on whether the property should be conveyed to the tribe in trust or unrestricted status, nor on whether the tribe should be given title to the privately owned homes.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rev. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 18, 1959

INDIAN BUREAU PERSONNEL MOVES ANNOUNCED

The Department of the Interior today announced the retirement of one Indian Bureau agency superintendent and the transfer of two others in a related series of moves.

Retiring August 31 is Elbert J. Floyd, Superintendent of the Zuni Agency in New Mexico for the past five years. He will be replaced September 6 by Richard D. Butts, Superintendent at the Cherokee Agency in North Carolina since 1955. Mr. Butts, in turn, will be succeeded September 20 by Darrell Fleming, who for the past two years has headed the work at Uintah and Ouray Agency, Fort Duchesne, Colorado. A new superintendent for Uintah and Ouray has not yet been named.

Born at Hartsville, Missouri, in 1900, Mr. Floyd came with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1925 at the Consolidated Ute Agency in Colorado and served there for 17 years as laborer, farm leader, and agricultural extension agent. In 1942 he transferred to the Klamath Agency in Oregon as agricultural extension agent and remained in that position until he was appointed superintendent at Consolidated Ute in 1950. Four years later he transferred to the Zuni post.

Mr. Butts is a native of Harrington, Kansas, and a graduate of the Oklahoma A. and M. College. He joined the Bureau in 1948 as a soil conservationist at Colville Agency, Nespalem, Washington. Since that time he has served as superintendent of the Umatilla Agency in Oregon and the Red Lake Agency in Minnesota in addition to his more recent duties at Cherokee. Prior to 1948 he served for six years in the Army and attained the rank of Major.

Mr. Fleming was born of Cherokee Indian descent in 1911 at Bernice, Oklahoma, and attended the Haskell Indian Institute at Lawrence, Kansas. He came with the Bureau in 1933 as a clerk at Crow Agency, Montana, and subsequently served in a variety of administrative positions with the Bureau. In 1954 he was named superintendent of the Fort Belknap Agency, Harlem, Montana, and served there three years before transferring to Uintah and Ouray. He was in the Navy for two years during World War II.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 18, 1959

DEPARTMENT FAVORS BILL TURNING OVER 7,579 ACRES OF FEDERAL LAND TO
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE INDIAN TRIBE

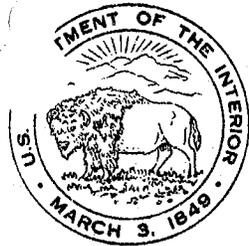
The Department of the Interior favors legislation giving the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe of Arizona beneficial ownership of 7,579 acres of Federal land on the Fort Apache Reservation, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

The acreage involved was originally set aside many years ago as the Fort Apache Military Post and has more recently been used as the site of an Indian Bureau school. The lands, exclusive of improvements, were appraised in 1958 at an estimated value of \$141,000.

In a report on S. 2268, a bill to effect the transfer, Mr. Ernst pointed out that the Indians have been using most of the land that is not used for the Theodore Roosevelt Indian School. Under the bill's terms the land would be held in trust for the Tribe by the United States.

The Department recommended a technical amendment of the bill to provide explicitly that the Tribe's beneficial ownership of the property would be "subject to the right of the Secretary of the Interior to use any part of the lands and improvements for administrative or school purposes for as long as they are needed for those purposes."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 19, 1959

DEPARTMENT ADOPTS REGULATIONS ON QUAPAW TRIBAL JUDGMENT FUND ROLL

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst today announced the adoption of regulations governing the preparation of a roll for distribution of the Oklahoma Quapaw Indian Judgment Fund.

The roll is being prepared under the provisions of a recently enacted congressional law in order to identify the persons entitled to share in a judgment awarded to the Tribe in 1954 by the Indian Claims Commission. The amount of judgment money now on deposit in the U. S. Treasury to the credit of the Tribe is nearly \$1,000,000.

Under the congressional law and the regulations, applications for inclusion on the judgment fund roll must be submitted to the Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Muskogee, Oklahoma, on or before January 17, 1960.

Persons eligible for enrollment include those of Quapaw blood whose names appear on the tribal membership roll of January 4, 1890 (on the basis of blood membership rather than adoption) and descendants of such persons living on July 17, 1959. The burden of proof in establishing eligibility is placed by law upon the applicant.

Provision is made in the regulations for review of the applications by the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee in the period of three months after January 17, 1960, and for appeals to the Secretary of the Interior from decisions made by the Indian Bureau's Area Director. Decisions of the Secretary are final.

Application forms may be obtained from the Area Director at Muskogee, the Bureau's Quapaw Area Field Office at Miami, Oklahoma, or members of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee.

The regulations will be published in the Federal Register in the near future.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 22, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS BILL TO TRANSFER ABOUT
5,000 ACRES OF FEDERAL LAND TO OGLALA SIOUX INDIAN TRIBE

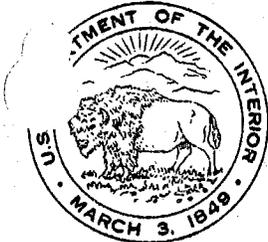
The Department of the Interior today announced its endorsement of legislation that would transfer to the Oglala Sioux Indian Tribe of South Dakota approximately 5,000 acres of federally owned land formerly used for grazing a beef and dairy herd at an Indian Bureau school.

The land is located on the Pine Ridge Reservation and is entirely surrounded by tracts belonging either to the Oglala Sioux Tribe or to individual Indians. It is no longer needed in connection with the school.

In reporting on H. R. 4613, the Department pointed out that the land to be transferred could be used by the Tribe in grazing its beef herd or as a site for an industry or an airport. All three possibilities have been considered.

The Department recommended some language changes in the interest of clarification.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 25, 1959

DEPARTMENT FAVORS LEGISLATION TRANSFERRING 10,500 ACRES TO ROSEBUD
SIOUX INDIAN TRIBE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The Department of the Interior today recommended the enactment of legislation that would transfer about 10,500 acres of federally owned land to the Rosebud Sioux Indian Tribe of South Dakota.

The lands to be transferred are located on the Rosebud Reservation and were acquired by the Federal Government between 1933 and 1950 for use in farming and ranching operations of the Rosebud Indian Boarding School. They are no longer needed for this purpose.

The original cost of the lands was approximately \$45,000. Their present value is about \$223,000. Also involved in the transfer would be improvements valued at around \$2,000. These include a barn, bunkhouse, small house, granary, wellhouse and tower, garage and addition, and wellhouse and mill.

In a report on H. R. 2460, a bill providing for the transfer, the Department called attention to a \$500,000 loan made to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last fall for land acquisition purposes. Donation of the lands involved in the bill, the report said, "will supplement the Tribe's land acquisition program."

Except for a few scattered tracts, the lands are in a compact block and can be readily utilized by the Tribe. In one block of about 280 acres, the Tribe already owns a 15/126 interest and the Federal Government a 111/126 interest.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 27, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FAVORS BILL PERMITTING NINETY-NINE-YEAR LEASES ON
CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA INDIAN LANDS

The Department of the Interior today announced its endorsement of legislation that would permit the leasing of Indian lands on the Palm Springs Reservation in California and the three Seminole Reservations in Florida for periods up to a maximum of 99 years.

Under present law the maximum term permitted for such leases is 25 years with an option to renew for an additional 25 years.

In a report on H. R. 8712, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst pointed out that the bill is needed to permit leases with a long term enough so that the lessee can obtain financing for the type of real estate development contemplated at the Palm Springs and Seminole Reservations. In both cases intensive development for residential or commercial use is being considered.

"Difficult problems arise under present laws limiting leases to what is the equivalent of a 50-year period," Mr. Ernst explained. "By the time financing is obtained by the lessee, the lease has less than 50 years to run. The Federal Reserve Act and the National Housing Act require a minimum of 50-year leases before approving loans secured by leaseholdings."

"A longer term will permit the financing of maximum development of the tribal lands," he explained. "This does not mean that all leases will be for the maximum term allowed by law. The Department will not approve leases for terms longer than needed to get the best return for the Indian owners."

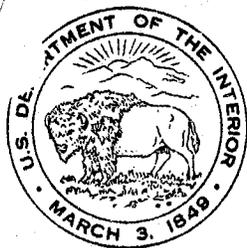
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 31, 1959

TWO CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ON SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Award of two contracts totaling \$255,749 for road and bridge construction on the Cheyenne River and Lower Brule Indian Reservations in South Dakota was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The larger contract, for \$205,818, involves the grading, draining, and crushed gravel surfacing and construction of one bridge, 93 feet in length, on 12.4 miles of Cheyenne River Reservation Route 8 running west from Willow Creek. This is the second section of approximately 50 miles of all-weather road proposed for construction to serve 40 Indian families, including many who have resettled from the Oahe Reservoir taking area, being established in stock raising enterprises in the southeastern section of the Cheyenne River Reservation. A 12.7 mile section of this road extending south from U. S. Highway 212 to Willow Creek is presently being constructed under a previous contract. The road, when completed, will serve for school bus, mail route, and farm to market travel.

The successful bidder was Delzer Construction Company of Selby, South Dakota. Eight other bids were received ranging to \$259,378.

A second contract for \$49,930 provides for construction of reinforced concrete bridges over Cedar Creek, Straight Creek, and LaRoche Creek on the Lower Brule Reservation Route 10 in Lyman and Stanley Counties, South Dakota. The construction of the bridges is a part of the improvement to all-weather standards of some 43 miles of road extending west from the Lower Brule Subagency, north of Reliance, South Dakota, to a connection near the northwest corner of the Lower Brule Reservation to a Stanley County road leading to U. S. Highway 83 and on to Pierre, South Dakota. Besides benefiting farm and ranching operations, mail delivery, and education of Indian children in a large area along the south side of the Missouri River in Lyman and Stanley Counties, this road will also have recreational value. It will provide access to much of the shoreline of the impounded lake that will be created when the Big Bend Dam across the Missouri River is completed.

The contract for construction of the bridges was awarded to Burton Jensen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Nine bids were received ranging to a high of \$73,233.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

ROSEBUD SCHOOL CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior announced today the award of a \$372,551 contract for the construction of educational facilities at Rosebud, South Dakota.

The contract includes a modern, fire-resistant, eight-classroom school building with a kitchen and multipurpose room, a bus garage, four new employees' quarters, the relocation of two existing houses, and related equipment, utilities and site work. The project will replace an existing Bureau of Indian Affairs two-classroom day school. The new school will be operated under the Todd County Public School System, and will provide for 180 additional pupils.

The successful bidder was L. R. Foy Construction Company, Inc., of Hutchinson, Kansas. Three higher bids, ranging from \$375,000 to \$463,000 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

INTERIOR FAVORS LEGISLATION GIVING NAVAJO TRIBE BROADER LAND AUTHORITY

Legislation giving the Navajo Indian Tribe broader authority in the leasing, sale and management of its tribal lands is favored by the Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

The Department's views were set forth in a report on S. 2456. This bill would authorize the leasing of Navajo tribal land for terms up to 99 years, would permit the Tribe to sell or lease lands it owns in fee simple without the approval of any Federal agency, and would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer Navajo tribal property to a State corporation or municipal corporation organized by the tribal entity.

Authority to lease the tribal land for as long as 99 years is desirable, Mr. Ernst explained, because of financing difficulties that arise under existing law which permits leasing for 25 years with one 25-year renewal.

"A 50-year lease," he added, "normally has less than 50 years to run at the time the loan is negotiated by the lessee. This prevents the lessee from getting a loan from a national bank or a Federally-insured loan because the applicable statutes preclude loans secured by the mortgage of a leasehold estate unless the lease has not less than 50 years to run (12 U.S.C. 371, 1707, 1713). If long-term lease authority is to be used effectively, it must be for a term that is long enough to permit the financing of maximum economic development."

Authorization for the Tribe to sell or lease the lands it owns in fee simple is needed, Mr. Ernst said, because of two recent court decisions involving the Tuscarora Indians of New York. The effect of the decisions has been to prevent the sale or lease of fee simple lands owned by an Indian tribe except by treaty or convention entered into pursuant to the United States Constitution. According to Department records, the Navajo Tribe in recent years has purchased a little over 99,000 acres in fee simple, and the Department believes the title should be unrestricted. These fee simple lands are apart from the main body of the Navajo Reservation, which is held in trust by the United States.

Authority to transfer tribal property to a corporation owned by the Navajo Tribe and organized under State law or to a municipal corporation organized under State law would be desirable, Mr. Ernst said.

"We do not know of any immediate desire on the part of the Tribe to use this authority," he added, "but the grant of authority would be a step in the right direction. The authority could be used only on request of the Tribe, and even then the Secretary would be permitted to exercise his discretion in determining whether a transfer requested by the Tribe would be in its best interest."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

BONUS BIDS TOTALING OVER \$10,000,000 RECEIVED ON COLORADO INDIAN LANDS

High bonus bids totaling over \$10,000,000 for oil and gas leases on Ute Indian lands in southwestern Colorado were opened by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on September 2 at Gallup, New Mexico, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst announced today.

On 41 tracts of Ute Mountain tribal land, comprising 92,062.96 acres, the average bonus bid per acre was \$112.53 and the total of the high bids was \$10,359,671.30. On one of the tracts the bid was \$539.25 per acre.

Bids received on three tracts of Southern Ute tribal land, totaling 5,806.21 acres, averaged \$27.44 per acre and brought in a total of \$159,354.59.

One tract of individually owned Southern Ute land, comprising 640.54 acres, attracted a high bonus bid of \$26,845.04 or \$41.91 per acre.

The leases were offered under the terms of \$1.25 per acre annual rental and a royalty of 16-2/3 percent on production.

Final action on the bonus offerings has not yet been taken by either of the tribal organizations or by the individual Indian landowners.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

APPROVAL GIVEN TO TEN PLANS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS TO CALIFORNIA INDIANS UNDER 1958 LAW

Ten plans submitted by Indian rancherias in California for distribution of lands and other assets among the individual members under a 1958 law have now been given final approval by the Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst announced today.

In total, the plans provide for distributing 904.79 acres among 137 individual Indians.

Six of the plans have also been ratified by referendum vote among the Indians affected and are now being put into effect.

The Act of August 18, 1958, under which the distribution plans were approved, applies to 41 small tracts of Government land in California set aside for Indian use and known as rancherias. Seventy-five other Indian areas in the State are not affected. The law was enacted at the request of the Indians involved and covers a total of 7,617 acres.

Under the procedure established in conformity with the law, the plans for distributing the lands and other assets are drawn up on each rancheria by the Indians themselves and submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After receiving tentative approval from the Bureau, they are posted in a public place on the rancheria for 30 days.

If no protests are received, the plan is given final approval by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. If protests are received, the plan is submitted for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior. Following final approval, a referendum is held among the distributees. If the vote is favorable, immediate steps are taken to put the plan into effect.

Once the property has been transferred, the Indian beneficiaries are no longer eligible by the terms of the 1958 law for special services because of their status as Indians. Thereafter all laws of the United States and of the several States apply to them as they do to other citizens.

The distribution plan most recently given final approval by the Department was for the Lytton Rancheria in Sonoma County. It covers 50 acres to be distributed among nine individual Indians.

Following is a list of the other nine rancherias whose plans have been given final approval, together with the acreage involved and the number of Indian distributees in each case:

<u>Rancheria</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>People</u>
Strawberry Valley	Town lot	1
Table Mountain	160	51
Chicken Ranch	40	16
Nevada City	75.48	2
Cache Creek	160	3
Paskenta	260	2
Buena Vista	67.5	2
Ark West	35.13	5
Scott's Valley	56.68	46

Sixteen other plans have been submitted by rancherias and are now in process prior to the stage of final approval.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's SEPTEMBER 16, 1959

TIMBER SALES BRING INCREASED INCOME TO INDIANS IN FISCAL 1959

Sales of timber from lands belonging to Indian tribes and individual Indians brought the owners an income of \$10,937,485 in the fiscal year 1959, or 17 percent more than the amount in 1958, Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett announced today.

The volume of timber cut under contract on Indian lands was 551 million board feet, an increase of 98 million board feet over the 1958 total.

Sawmills owned by three Indian tribal groups--the Menominee of Wisconsin, the Red Lake Chippewa of Minnesota, and the Navajo of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah--converted to lumber about 40 million board feet of the total cut. Besides producing a profit for the tribal organizations, these mills also furnish employment for the resident Indians, Mr. Bennett pointed out.

Over the country as a whole, there are about 6,500,000 acres of commercially valuable Indian timberland, Mr. Bennett explained. Eighty-three percent is owned by tribal groups and the balance by individual Indians. Ponderosa pine is the predominant species.

Cutting is concentrated on the mature and overmature trees which are susceptible to mortality from insect attacks, disease and old age. Their removal leaves vigorous young stands with fine growth potential.

Over the past 50 years about half of the commercially valuable Indian timber has been improved by such selective cutting under sustained yield management. Recent inventories indicate that the yearly cut can safely be increased on a substantial portion of the remaining timberlands.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 16, 1959

BEAR REAPPOINTED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM AS CREEK PRINCIPAL CHIEF

Reappointment of Turner Bear as Principal Chief of the Creek Indian Tribe of Oklahoma for a two-year term beginning October 5 was announced today by the Department of the Interior. He has been serving in the position for the past two years.

Under a 1906 law the President was empowered to appoint a Principal Chief periodically for each of the so-called "Five Civilized Tribes" of Oklahoma--Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole and Creek. In 1951 this appointing authority was delegated to the Secretary of the Interior.

The primary function of the Principal Chief is to represent the tribe on public occasions and in the execution of documents relating to tribal property.

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Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 26, 1959

FORT THOMPSON MUNICIPAL CENTER CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior announced today the award of a \$120,788.86 contract for the construction of a municipal center on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation at Fort Thompson, South Dakota.

The contract provides for the construction of a concrete masonry building to serve a multiple use in the Indian community. The building will contain offices for a judge, jail administration space, quarters for incarceration of prisoners, and a large room which will serve as a library and be used for community gatherings, as well as for a courtroom.

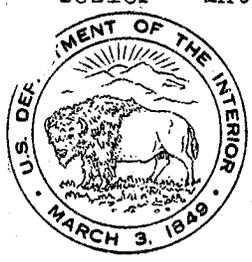
The successful bidder was Buildings Materials, Inc., of Chamberlain, South Dakota. Three higher bids, ranging from \$129,870.00 to \$500,000.80, were received.

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Rm 4229 - 10

Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release SEPTEMBER 29, 1959

NEW INDIAN FOREST REGULATIONS GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL

Final approval of an extensive revision of the Federal regulations on the management of Indian forest lands was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Among other changes, the new rules provide a system of appeal to the Secretary of the Interior from decisions made by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on timber sales contracts.

Notice of intention to revise the regulations was published in the Federal Register on November 27, 1958. In the period which followed, the Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs received comments and recommendations from four representatives of Indian tribal groups, from the Western Pine Association, and from its own Area Office at Portland Oregon.

Several of the recommendations received were adopted and incorporated in the finally approved revision of the regulations. The most important of these provides that if an appeal is made to the Secretary by either party to a timber sales contract, the other party will be notified so that he can protect his interests.

In addition, the new regulations contain features carried over from the proposed version as published last November. Among the more important are a provision making it easier for an Indian to cut and sell timber from his own land and a new definition of the kinds of Indian lands that must be managed so as to produce a sustained yield of timber.

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Rm 4229-10

Tozier - Int. 4306



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 1, 1959

ZOLLAR NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY

Martin M. Zoller, Superintendent of the Klamath Indian Agency in Oregon since 1956, will be the new superintendent at the Uintah and Ouray Agency, Fort Duchesne, Utah, effective October 4, the Department of the Interior announced today.

He succeeds Darrell Fleming who recently transferred to the Cherokee Agency in North Carolina.

A native of Soudan, Minnesota, Mr. Zollar first came with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1931 as a junior clerk at the Consolidated Chippewa Agency in Minnesota. Subsequently he served in administrative positions at Bismarck, North Dakota; at the Red Lake Agency, Minnesota; the Rosebud Agency, South Dakota; Consolidated Ute Agency, Colorado; and the Crow and Fort Peck Agencies, Montana. In 1955 he moved to the Klamath Agency as administrative officer and the following year was appointed superintendent.

Since activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Klamath Agency have been reduced substantially as a result of the termination program, the Bureau does not plan to name a successor as superintendent. After Mr. Zollar's transfer, the officer in charge will be Earle Wilcox, sales manager, who has his office in Klamath Falls.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 2, 1959

MAYTUBBY REAPPOINTED GOVERNOR OF CHICKASAW TRIBE

Reappointment of Floyd E. Maytubby as Governor of the Chickasaw Indians of Oklahoma for a two-year term beginning October 18, was announced today by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst.

Mr. Maytubby has served in the office continuously since 1939.

Under terms of the appointment he will receive \$250 a month from tribal funds for expenses.

The appointment was made under authority of a 1906 act of Congress.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 5, 1959

WHITE RIVER UTILITIES CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior announced today the award of a \$252,990.00 contract for the improvement of the water and sewer systems at White River Agency, White River, Arizona.

The improvements will benefit Indian homes on the Fort Apache Reservation as well as the Agency headquarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The contract provides for approximately 9-miles of 8-inch water line, 24 w fire hydrants, a new sewage treatment plant, one-half mile of sewer line and three-quarters of a mile of earthdike.

The successful bidder was Twin Butte Contractors, Inc., of Tempe, Arizona. Fourteen higher bids, ranging from \$268,000.00 to \$582,424.00 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, OCTOBER 8, 1959

BALDWIN NAMED AS FORT PECK SUPERINTENDENT

Appointment of Dale M. Baldwin as Superintendent of the Fort Peck Indian Agency, Poplar, Montana, succeeding David Paul Weston, was announced today by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Baldwin has been with the Bureau since 1949 and for the past two years has served as program officer in the Washington office. Mr. Weston has been at Fort Peck since 1957 and is transferring to the Washington office as program officer. Both moves will be effective November 14.

A native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, Mr. Baldwin graduated from Oregon State College in 1949 and entered on duty immediately thereafter with the Indian Bureau as a soil conservationist at the Colville Agency, Nespelem, Washington. Two years later he moved to the Umatilla Agency in Oregon and subsequently served at the Fort Hall Agency in Idaho and the Riverside Sub-Agency in California. He had three years of service with the Army during World War II and attained the rank of captain.

Mr. Weston joined the Bureau in 1946 as a soil conservationist at the former Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency in Oklahoma. In 1947 he transferred to the Winnebago Agency in Nebraska and later served at the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota and the Area Office in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Oklahoma A & M College. He had five years of service with the Army in World War II and achieved a captaincy.

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M. M. Tozier
Indian Bureau, Room 4229
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release OCTOBER 9, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS 52,000 ACRES IN UTAH TO NAVAJO INDIANS

Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett today announced he has signed an order transferring to the Navajo Indian Tribe approximately 52,000 acres of public land in the McCracken Mesa area of Utah.

He said the transfer substantially completes a land exchange agreement under which the Navajo people receive additional acreage in Utah's "Four Corners" area in compensation for lands they surrendered to permit construction of Glen Canyon Dam, key feature of the billion-dollar Upper Colorado River Storage Project.

General terms of the exchange were spelled out by Congress in the Act of September 2, 1958 (72 Stat. 1686). The exchange does not include mineral rights.

The Acting Secretary said he has simultaneously rejected a tribal protest against permitting the State to select other public domain lands for several sections of State lands included in the acreage transferred to the Indians. The tribe had argued the State was not entitled to alternate lands, but Mr. Bennett upheld the State's right to selections in lieu of those transferred. The State has already selected other public domain lands, he said.

Acting Secretary Bennett also said he has directed the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation to proceed expeditiously in compensating the present range users for their investments and loss of grazing privileges.

The McCracken Mesa area, used primarily for grazing, will extend the Navajo Reservation's northern boundary.

The transfer agreement represents a compromise agreed on in negotiations between the Department and the Tribe. Acting Secretary Bennett said the transfer includes more than 20 water developments and range improvements. Valid existing mining claims will continue to be recognized, he added.

The boundary adjustment was accomplished with the least possible disruption of present grazing operations, Mr. Bennett said. He explained that tribal negotiators, who originally sought a boundary revision that would have left islands of public land inside the reservation, compromised on a more compact grouping. At the same time, the needs of the tribe were taken into full account, he said.

The area transferred by the land order extends about 12 miles north of the San Juan River, is about 10 miles east of Bluff, Utah, and is roughly bounded by Recapture and Montezuma Creeks.

A complete description of the affected lands and terms of the transfer will be published in the Federal Register.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 10, 1959

RULES CHANGE PROPOSED ON BONDS FOR MINERAL LEASES ON INDIAN LANDS

The Department of the Interior today announced plans for liberalizing the Federal regulations covering the bonds required in connection with leases and permits for developing minerals other than oil and gas on Indian lands.

The purpose of the proposed change is to allow bonds of less than \$1,000 in cases where the Department believes that such bonding will adequately protect the interests of the Indian landowners. Bonds in the amount of \$1,000 are the lowest permitted under the present regulations.

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., within 30 days of publication of the proposed change in the Federal Register.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 19, 1959

KLINLICHEE SCHOOL EXPANSION CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior announced today the award of a \$813,533 contract for the expansion of school facilities that will provide for 150 additional Indian children at Kinlichee School on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona.

The contract covers the construction of a 256-pupil dormitory, a five-classroom school building, twenty employees' quarters, a kitchen and dining hall, and a generator building. The existing school is also to be remodeled under this contract.

The successful bidder was Rutherford Construction Company, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Three higher bids, ranging from \$858,612 to \$917,000 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 29, 1959

OGLALA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED

The Department of the Interior today announced the award of a \$574,589 school construction contract which will provide facilities for 120 additional Indian children at the Oglala School on the Pine Ridge Reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The contract provides for construction of a two-story brick and concrete masonry building with 24 classrooms and a library. This new building will replace the existing elementary school which is extremely overcrowded and structurally unsound. Capacity of the school will be increased from 786 to 906 pupils.

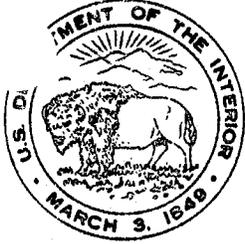
The successful bidder was L. R. Foy Construction Company, Inc., of Hutchinson, Kansas. Four higher bids, ranging from \$641,750 to \$698,000 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, OCTOBER 29, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CONSTRUCTION ON HOGBACK UNIT OF NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION

Award of a \$298,469.48 contract for construction of additional irrigation works on the Hogback Unit of the Navajo Indian reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

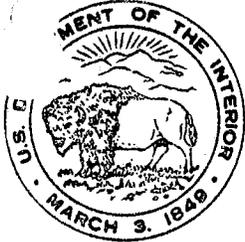
Two major items are included in the contract: (1) 5,932 linear feet of main canal with a capacity of 130 cubic feet per second, and (2) 3,600 linear feet of 60-inch diameter steel pipe across Malpias Arroyo.

The construction work on the main canal will provide for irrigation of an additional 5,745 acres. This amount, added to the present irrigated acreage, will bring the project up to its planned total of 15,000 acres. The present contract, however, provides for no additional land development.

When completed, the Hogback Unit will give approximately 500 Navajo families an opportunity to make a living from irrigation farming.

The successful bidder was Daniels Construction Company of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fourteen higher bids were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 30, 1959

LEE NAMED TO REPLACE GREENWOOD AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN BUREAU

Promotion of H. Rex Lee, Associate Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to the position of Deputy Commissioner was announced today by Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Lee replaces W. Barton Greenwood, who has been Deputy Commissioner since the position was established in 1956, and who is retiring November 1.

A graduate of the University of Idaho in 1936, Mr. Lee entered the Federal Service the following year as an agricultural economist with the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1942, he joined the staff of the War Relocation Authority and served with that agency throughout the wartime period as chief of relocation and chief of evacuee property. After liquidation of the WRA in 1946, he was appointed assistant director of the Office of Territories in the Department of the Interior. He served in that post until 1950 when he was named Associate Commissioner of the Indian Bureau.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and their five children, Sherry, 19, Dixie, 17, Linda, 16, Duane, 12, and Carlson, 9, reside at Route 1, Fairfax, Va.

Mr. Greenwood is retiring after 40 years of Federal service and has spent 33 of those years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He first joined the Bureau at the age of 23 in the fall of 1920 as a clerk in the fiscal division. In the years that followed he advanced steadily and in 1938 was appointed business manager and budget officer. Meanwhile he attended night courses at George Washington University and National University in Washington, D. C., and received a law degree from National in 1933. He was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in the same year.

In 1942 he was promoted to chief administrative officer and one year later left the Bureau of Indian Affairs for five and one-half years of service with the Budget Bureau as budget examiner. He returned to the Indian Bureau in 1949 as Executive Officer and in 1954 was named Assistant Commissioner for Administration. In 1958 he received the Department's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

He was born in McKeesport, Pa., in 1896, attended Cornell University for two and one-half years, and is a veteran of World War I. He and Mrs. Greenwood live at 129 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release OCTOBER 31, 1959

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE ON TERMINATION PLAN

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Department of the Interior are now in agreement on a plan developed by the Tribe for future control of its property and service functions after Federal trusteeship is terminated next year, Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett announced today.

The plan was developed by the Tribe under terms of the Menominee Termination Act of 1954 and was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior on July 28. It includes six major parts.

One of these consists of two recently enacted Wisconsin State laws which set up the Menominee Reservation as a new county of the State and make special provision for managing and taxing tribal forest lands. The other parts include articles of incorporation and bylaws of Menominee Enterprises, Inc., a common stock and voting trust, a bond indenture, and a Menominee assistance trust.

While the plan was approved in principle by the Department last July 31, the Department at that time availed itself of an offer made by the Tribe to take an additional 90 days for further study of its detailed provisions. The Department's responsibility under the Termination Act has been to insure that the plan is equitable and is in conformity with law.

The Tribe agreed that changes, qualifications or refinements might be made in the plan during the 90-day period provided they were not inconsistent with the basic principles of the plan and provided tribal representatives were afforded consultation on these modifications.

"The Menominee Tribe's plan," Acting Secretary Bennett noted in a letter to tribal chairman James G. Frechette, "has been studied intensively by many people in the Department of the Interior and the State of Wisconsin over the past three

months. Then on October 26 through 29, representatives of the Tribe, its attorneys, officials of the State of Wisconsin and the Department of the Interior met for many hours in negotiations over a great many refinements in the plan. At the end, there was unanimous agreement on the basic concepts of the changes adopted, and concession by all parties that the modifications had not substantially altered the intent of the plan that had been approved in principle by the Acting Secretary on July 31."

Several additional days will be required, Mr. Bennett said, to complete the redrafting job and incorporate the changes on which agreement was reached. Thereafter the Department will act to certify adoption of the plan as of July 31, 1959.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 6, 1959

CHANGE IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS PROPOSED TO LENGTHEN TERM FOR OIL AND GAS
PIPELINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS INDIAN LANDS

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst today announced proposed changes in the Federal regulations on the granting of rights-of-way across Indian lands.

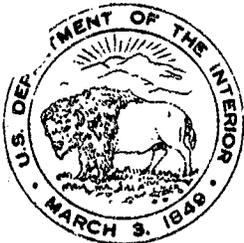
The major effect of the proposed amendments would be to increase the permissible term on rights-of-way for oil or natural gas pipelines from 20 to 50 years.

The 20-year limitation, Mr. Ernst explained, was originally adopted many years ago and has become obsolete. Modern trunk pipelines, he added, are engineered to last much longer.

The proposed amendments would also eliminate the requirement for filing with the Bureau of Land Management certain records pertaining to rights-of-way across Indian lands and would reduce the number of maps that must be submitted by an applicant.

Interested parties may submit their comments on the proposed amendments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington 25, D. C., within 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 20, 1959

SCHUNK NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT ROSEBUD INDIAN AGENCY

The Department of the Interior announced today the appointment of Harold W. Schunk as Superintendent of the Rosebud Indian Agency, Rosebud, South Dakota, effective November 27. He succeeds Graham E. Holmes, whose transfer to the Gallup Area Office in New Mexico, as Assistant Area Director for resources, was effective today.

Mr. Schunk has been with the Bureau since 1933 when he was appointed camp manager on emergency conservation work at Rosebud, S. Dak. His duties with the Bureau have included a principalship at the Cherry Creek, S. Dakota day school; agricultural instructor and education specialist at the Cheyenne River boarding school; and in March, 1953, he became administrative officer at the Sisseton Agency, Sisseton, So. Dakota. In November, 1954, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent and assigned to the Turtle Mountain Agency at Belcourt, N. Dak. Since June 30, 1957, he has been Superintendent of the Standing Rock Agency, at Fort Yates, North Dakota.

He was born July 25, 1907 at Philip, S. Dak., and is a graduate of Southern State Teachers College, Springfield, S. Dak., where he received his B.S. degree in 1931.

Born at Whitefield, Oklahoma, February 13, 1913, Mr. Holmes came with the Bureau as Probate Attorney with headquarters at Wewoka, Okla., in March, 1951, and later became Area Counsel at the Aberdeen, So. Dakota Area Office. Prior to his appointment as Superintendent of the Rosebud Agency in May, 1956, he was program officer in the Aberdeen Area Office. He holds a law degree from the University of Arkansas.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 25, 1959

PAPAGO INDIAN RESERVATION ROAD CONTRACT AWARDED

Award of a \$561,656.50 contract for road construction on the Papago Indian Reservation in Arizona, was announced by the Department of the Interior today.

The contract provides for grading, draining, and bituminous road-mix paving of 19.164 miles of road from Chiuchu to Komelik, Arizona. This will complete 52 miles of construction from Covered Wells, Arizona, to the north boundary of the reservation, and will connect State Route 84 at Casa Grande, Arizona, with State Route 86 at Covered Wells.

When completed, the road will serve as a paved outlet for people living along the route and will be the main north-south cross reservation road.

M. A. Dunlap of Phoenix, Arizona, was the successful bidder, having submitted the lowest of twenty-three bids ranging to a high of \$814,950.54.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 25, 1959

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR A 1,000-PUPIL SCHOOL AT CHINLE, ARIZONA

Award of a \$3,079,459 contract for construction of school facilities that will provide for 719 additional Indian children at the Chinle School on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract provides for construction of a new educational plant to take care of 1,000 elementary pupils. The new buildings will replace existing overcrowded and obsolete facilities and will include a kitchen-dining room, a 34-classroom school building, four 256-pupil dormitories, an electrical generating plant, thirty 2-bedroom duplexes, nine 3-bedroom duplexes, six 6-unit efficiency apartments, and the necessary roads, walks and other site improvements.

The successful bidder was Lembke Construction Company, Inc., of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Nine higher bids, ranging from \$3,106,000 to \$3,518,365 were received.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Rm. 4229

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release DECEMBER 3, 1959

INDIAN LAND TRUST RESTRICTIONS EXPIRING IN 1960 EXTENDED FIVE YEARS

Trust restrictions on allotted Indian lands, scheduled to expire in calendar year 1960, have been extended for an additional five years, Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett announced today.

This order, and a similar order issued last December extending trust restrictions expiring during 1959, reverse a custom started in 1951 of limiting such extensions to a maximum of only one year. In 1951, the then Acting Secretary was considering terminating trust status on individual Indian lands on a year-by-year basis. Each trust case would be subject to review every year.

Acting Secretary Bennett said the new orders reemphasize the Department's stated policy of taking all precautions against ending Federal supervision over Indians before they are competent to end their status as Federal wards.

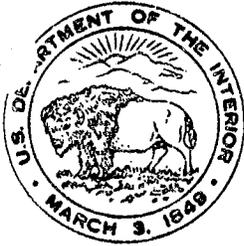
The General Allotment Act of February 8, 1887, authorized allotments of land for individuals both on reservations and on the public domain.

Homesteads for Indians off-reservations were also authorized by an Act of February 28, 1891.

The 1934 Indian Reorganization Act extended trust restrictions over lands of Indians who accepted the Act's provisions. Tribes and groups which were not so covered--so-called "unorganized" Indians--have had their trust protection extended for varying periods, until the 1951 decision established the one-year rule.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs said that it had no accurate estimate of the acreage covered by the new order, but that it would run into the thousands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's, DECEMBER 5, 1959

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN INDIAN TRIBES AND
ATTORNEYS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO OFFICE OF SOLICITOR

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today approval of a recommendation made by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons for transfer of the Department's function of approving contracts between attorneys and Indian tribes. Commissioner Emmons recommended that the function be shifted from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of the Solicitor of the Department.

The transfer will be effected as soon as the necessary order has been developed and formally approved by the Secretary.

Congress has required by law approval of such contracts by the Secretary of the Interior. In recent years the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has been performing this function under a delegation of authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release To PM's DECEMBER 9, 1959

NESSET NAMED NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF STANDING ROCK INDIAN AGENCY

Transfer of Noralf Nessel from superintendent of the Cheyenne River Indian Agency in South Dakota to superintendent at Standing Rock Agency, Fort Yates, North Dakota, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Nessel succeeds Harold W. Schunk, recently transferred to the Rosebud Agency in South Dakota. The new move is effective December 13, according to Indian Commissioner Glen Emmons.

A native of Maddock, North Dakota, Mr. Nessel joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1936 as a teacher at the Fort Yates Community School on the Standing Rock Reservation. In 1944 he was named principal of the school and one year later became principal of the Bureau's school at Fort Totten, North Dakota, on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. He resigned in 1949 to become self-employed and returned to the Bureau in 1950 as Reservation Principal at the Cheyenne River Agency. Two years later he was appointed superintendent at Cheyenne River and has been serving in this position ever since.

He attended college intermittently beginning in 1930 and received an A.B. degree from Valley City (North Dakota) State Teachers' College in 1944.

A new superintendent of the Cheyenne River Agency will be named later.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release DECEMBER 22, 1959

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE ON WESTERN OREGON JUDGMENT FUND AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE,
SEATON ANNOUNCES

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will make a payment at the earliest possible date to persons who are entitled to share in the Western Oregon Judgment Fund. The checks should be in the mail during the next few weeks.

The Western Oregon Judgment Fund was set up as a result of two claims cases against the United States which were decided by the Court of Claims in 1950 and 1951. Seven groups of Western Oregon Indians were entitled to share in the fund which originally totaled over \$2,600,000. Since it was originally established the fund has been reduced by attorneys' fees and increased by accrual of interest. It now amounts to approximately \$3,000,000.

The payment which is being made at this time, Secretary Seaton explained, will be only partial since the rolls of those entitled to share in the Fund have not yet been finally determined. At present there are approximately 2,000 persons named on the rolls of the various groups. Almost 1,000 other individuals have appealed from their exclusion from the rolls. Their appeals are being processed.

In determining the amount which should be paid at this time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs made the hypothetical assumption that each appeal would be decided in favor of the appellant. Thus the amount to be paid now represents a minimum entitlement and may be supplemented by a later payment if any number of the pending appeals are subsequently rejected.

Payments will be made first to competent living adults whose names are on the rolls. Because the 1954 congressional law governing distribution of the fund requires special action by the Secretary to protect the interests of minors and mental incompetents, the payments on behalf of such individuals will require additional time. In the case of deceased persons whose names are on the rolls, probating of the estates will be necessary.

The following tabulation shows the number of individuals now on the rolls of each group and the payment which will be made at this time to each eligible individual.

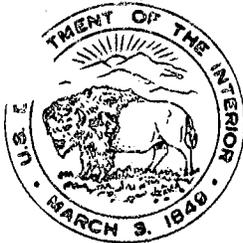
<u>Name of Group</u>	<u>Number now on Roll</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Alcea Band of Tillamooks	183	\$3,200
Coquille	263	2,100
Chetco	670	520
Confederated Bands of Umpqua and Calappoias Tribes	410	520
Totootoney	471	425

In addition to the six groups sharing in the five funds, a judgment has been awarded to the Molallala or Molel Band. No names are on the roll of this group at the present time although a number of appeals for inclusion on the roll are pending for determination.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 28, 1959

WILLARD W. BEATTY NAMED TO INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD

Appointment of Willard W. Beatty, executive vice president of the Save the Children Federation of Norwalk, Connecticut, as a member of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior, was announced today by Assistant Secretary Roger Ernst.

Dr. Beatty was appointed to fill the unexpired term of James W. Young, Pena Blanca, New Mexico, who recently resigned. The term expires July 6, 1960.

A native of Berkeley, Calif., Dr. Beatty has had extensive experience with American Indian people. From 1936 to 1951 he was Director of Education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During this same period he also served as a member of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board in the first year of its existence, 1936-37, and again from 1943 to 1951.

Before joining the Bureau of Indian Affairs, he was supervisor of teaching at San Francisco State Teachers College from 1914 to 1920, assistant superintendent of schools at Winnetka, Ill., from 1920 to 1926, and superintendent of schools at Bronxville, N. Y., from 1926 to 1936. After leaving the Bureau in 1951, he served for two years as deputy director of the Department of Education of UNESCO with headquarters in Paris and for four years as educational consultant with the architectural firm of Perkins and Will at White Plains, N. Y. In 1958 he joined the Save the Children Federation as associate program director and more recently was appointed executive vice president.

He has a bachelor of science degree in architecture and a master of arts in education from the University of California and also did graduate work at the University of Chicago and at Teachers College of Columbia University. In 1937 he was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of education by Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

Assistant Secretary Ernst also announced that Vincent Price, the well-known actor who has been serving as a member of Indian Arts and Crafts Board since 1957, has been reappointed for an additional term expiring on July 6, 1963.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board was established in the Department of the Interior under provisions of the Act of August 27, 1935. Its principal functions are to encourage the production of indigenous arts and crafts by Indians and to help in the effective marketing of such products.

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