

The other major aspects of the Indian picture today, as contrasted with a few years back, can be summarized quite briefly. Just ten days ago the Alabama and Coushatta Indians of Texas became the first tribal group in recent history to move outside the scope of Federal trusteeship and Federal laws especially applicable to Indian people. Five other groups covered by roughly similar laws enacted by Congress last year are now at work on specific plans and programs which will eventually give them unrestricted control over their property and full responsibility to manage their tribal and individual affairs. And right here I want to emphasize that these readjustment laws were not designed, as some have contended, to break up the tribes or dissipate their land resources. Under the terms of the acts the Indians have every opportunity to maintain their tribal lands intact and continue managing them on a group basis if they wish to do so. They can do this either through a corporate body organized under State law or through a private trustee of their own selection. The groups involved are the western Oregon Indians and four Paiute bands of Utah, who have a little over one year left for completion of the readjustment process; the Klamath Tribe of Oregon and Menominees of Wisconsin, who still have more than three years to go; and the mixed blood people of the Uintah-Ouray Reservation in Utah, who are planning in terms of a final separation from Federal controls by August, 1961.

Other legislative enactments have brought significant changes during the past couple of years. One, for example, brought the great majority of the Indian areas in five States---California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wisconsin---under the law enforcement jurisdiction of the State and county authorities. Another put Indian people on the same footing with other citizens, at least so far as Federal law is concerned, in the purchase of alcoholic beverages. A third removed some antiquated and discriminatory provisions of Federal statute affecting the purchase of firearms and other similar matters.

Coming down now to the more recent period of this year 1955, there are just two additional developments which I merely want to mention. One is the progress which we have made during the past seven or eight months in completing arrangements with 12 States for Indians to receive assistance and guidance of the agricultural extension type through the land grant colleges and the regular county agent set-up. The other is the highly cheering news that Federal appropriations for Indian affairs this year, which the Public Health Service money includes, have reached the highest point in history with a total of more than \$100,000,000.

And that last item certainly brings us to the threshold of tomorrow. Now that Congress has provided the funds for Indian work in more generous measure than ever before, it is naturally going to expect some substantial and tangible accomplishments in the early future. The job and the challenge which we in the Bureau and the Indian people in the tribes jointly face is a big one and it will call for the very best efforts which we can cooperatively put forth.

In the remainder of this talk I do not intend to make any extensive forecasts of the shape of things to come because predictions in a field as complex as this one are always risky. But I do want to outline for you, at least in broad terms, what our long-range goals and targets are and how we are proposing to proceed toward their accomplishment in the