

of 13 health centers, the use of traveling public health nurses and mobile clinics, the employment and training of many sanitarian specialists, and contracting with private physicians for part-time services and with private hospitals for available bed space. While many of our hospitals are comparatively small, others are large and substantial medical institutions. All told, our work in the field of health adds up to a very sizeable undertaking which requires large numbers of personnel, not only professional employees but many other types who are responsible for the wide variety of functions involved in hospital operations.

Similarly, in the field of education we are operating over 300 schools in the United States and Alaska including about 55 schools with boarding facilities. This also means large numbers of personnel-- not only teachers but dormitory attendants and cooks and janitors and many, many others. Altogether we now have nearly 4,000 employees who are engaged one way or another in the task of educating Indian children and this is almost one third of all Bureau employees. The plain fact is that you cannot operate a large medical center or a boarding school without a substantial staff of personnel.

Our welfare activities are aimed primarily at the needy Indian families who are not receiving some form of public assistance under the ordinary State and local programs. The work is similar in many ways to that of a county welfare department and includes also the important function of finding foster homes for the large numbers of dependent, neglected and orphaned Indian children who have been attending Indian boarding schools. While the number of personnel involved is not at all comparable to that in health or education, it does add a little over a hundred employees to our total roster.

In the field of law and order the Bureau has many far-reaching responsibilities growing out of the basic fact that most Indian reservations and other areas of Indian trust land are not subject to the ordinary criminal and civil jurisdiction of the State courts. Without going into any details on this extremely complicated phase of our work I just want to say briefly that we have about 70 employees engaged in law enforcement activities throughout Indian country. Many of the tribes also have their own organizations for the maintenance of law and order; and there is close cooperation between the Bureau and the tribal groups in this particular field of activity.

Relocation is one of our more recent activities but it is one which we plan to emphasize increasingly in the future. Lying behind this program are two fundamental facts which all of us should bear in mind whenever we think about the problems of the Indian people and the difficulties involved in their solution. One is the fact that a very large percentage of the land available to Indians today on reservations and similar areas is comparatively unproductive because of low rainfall, poor soil, or other limiting factors. As a result, these lands, taken all together, will not provide a decent level of living for more than about 50 to 60 percent of the population now residing on reservations. The second fundamental fact, which complicates the problem still further, is that the Indian population is rapidly increasing -- in some tribes at a much faster rate than the general population of the United States.