

As I shall indicate a little later, I personally believe that there are abundant opportunities for creating a more dynamic type of economy in the vicinity of many Indian reservations and I hope that we shall be able to do something tangible about this in the comparatively near future. Going right along with this, however, we also need a relocation program not only for those reservation areas where the possibilities of economic expansion are sharply limited but also in fairness to those Indians who actively wish to reestablish themselves away from the reservation areas. We know that there are a number of such people on practically all reservations and we are anxious to help them, as fully as possible, in making the transition to a new way of life. Under the relocation program we provide them with guidance before they leave the reservation and in some of the larger western cities we maintain small offices to help them after arrival at their destination. In cases of need, we provide transportation for the relocating Indians and their families and small cash grants to assist them through the initial period of adjustment in their new localities. Altogether we have about 70 employees throughout the country engaged in this type of work.

This will, I believe, give you at least a general idea of what we are doing in the field of community services. Turning now to the resources phase of our operations, I want to emphasize first one basically important fact which is not always clearly understood. This is that the Bureau of Indian Affairs carries trusteeship responsibilities, on behalf of the United States Government, affecting some 54,000,000 acres of Indian land. A little over two-thirds of this acreage is tribal land, belonging to all the members of a particular tribal group, while the balance is allotted land which belongs to individual Indians.

Now what does this trusteeship mean in terms of practical operations? First of all, it means that the land cannot be alienated or disposed of without the approval of the Bureau and in the case of tribal land, without authorizing Congressional legislation. Secondly, it means that the Bureau must handle a large volume and a wide variety of land transactions such as agricultural, commercial, oil or mining leases; exchanges of land and sales of land between Indians; applications for fee patents and for supervised sales; permits for fee patents and for supervised sales; permits for grazing and for timber cutting; and others too numerous to mention. It all adds up to one of the most complicated and far-reaching real estate operations that has ever come to my attention. In fact, I doubt if there is anything quite like it anywhere outside the Indian Bureau. Needless to say, this also requires substantial numbers of personnel and the unpleasant fact is that we are almost chronically understaffed for this type of work.

Another point which I want to emphasize about our trust responsibilities has to do with the charges of paternalism which are frequently made against the Indian Bureau. I would be one of the last to deny that the Bureau is sometimes paternalistic in the sense that we cannot always accept the recommendations of the Indians concerning the management of their resources. Occasionally we have to substitute our judgment for theirs in order to protect the resources or safeguard the long-range interests of the total group. If you think about it a little, though, you will realize that some degree of paternalism is inescapable and inherent in the very concept of trusteeship itself. Without this element, the trusteeship would be meaningless and the Indians might just as well be given fee-simple title to manage and dispose of their lands as they see fit. As you probably know, it is our