

policy to work toward a termination of trust responsibilities wherever we find that the Indians are capable of managing their own resources and their own affairs without Federal supervision. As long as the trust responsibility remains, however, there will always be some element of paternalism involved in the relationship.

In addition to our real estate operations, we have a number of other specialized programs in the field of resources which I merely want to mention. These include soil and moisture conservation work which is being carried out over wide areas of Indian farm and range lands; forest and range management activities; irrigation programs; agricultural extension and home demonstration work; and the construction and maintenance of roads and trails serving Indian reservations. All of these programs are an outgrowth of our basic trust responsibilities and are designed to help the Indians in safeguarding their resources and in using them effectively and productively.

Then we also have our construction or building and utilities work which is now headquartered on a national basis in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We have a credit program aimed at helping Indian tribal organizations and individual Indians to obtain the financing they need for agricultural and commercial enterprises. Finally, we have the variety of administrative activities which are commonly found in almost all government agencies including such things as personnel management, budget and fiscal work, and other "house-keeping" functions.

From this very brief description of our operations which I have given, you can readily see why the Bureau of Indian Affairs has sometimes been referred to as a "Government in miniature." The range of our activities is extremely broad and each one of these functional programs I have mentioned has its own specialized problems and complexities. When you add them all up, it becomes a little easier to understand why we have something like one employee for every five or six Indian families.

This is not to say, however, that the roster of Bureau functions is unchangeable or that the extent of the Bureau's involvement in Indian affairs can never be reduced. On the contrary, it is our policy to narrow the scope of our activities by transferring functional responsibilities either to the Indians themselves or to other agencies of government wherever this can be accomplished without working a hardship on the Indian people. One of the most significant steps we have ever had in this direction came last June when President Eisenhower signed a bill affecting the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. Under the provisions of this legislation the Menominees will gradually take over full responsibility for managing their own assets -- including the fine, productive commercial forest and the sawmill -- during the next four years. Eventually, and not later than December 31, 1958, the Bureau's trust responsibilities will be terminated and the members of that tribe will assume exactly the same status as other citizens of the United States. However, this does not mean that the tribe will be destroyed or that its assets will be broken up. The tribe has every opportunity under this legislation to keep itself intact and to continue managing the resources on some kind of corporate basis. From the evidence I have seen so far, I have almost no doubt that this will be the outcome.