

of better than 60 percent. This was accomplished by a hard-hitting, emergency-type program which involved substantial expansion of Bureau school facilities on the reservation, enlarged enrollment of Navajo youngsters at off-reservation boarding schools, increased use of mobile facilities such as trailers and quonset huts, and the placement of Navajo students in public schools of the border towns where board and room have been furnished by the Bureau. Additional funds for this program, by the way, have been provided by Congress for the present fiscal year and the prospects are now highly encouraging. This coming fall I have every confidence that we will reach our ultimate goal and provide, for the first time in American history, educational opportunities for all Navajo children.

Another development of the past few years which deserves emphasis here is the Bureau's voluntary relocation program. As most of you probably know, this was initiated before I took office and we have since been carrying it forward as broadly and vigorously as the available funds would permit. In essence, the program is designed for the benefit of those Indians who want to leave the reservation areas and establish themselves in cities like Los Angeles and Chicago where job opportunities are more abundant. Since many of these people lack the necessary funds to make the move, the Bureau provides financial grants under the program to cover the family costs of transportation and of getting established in the new locality. On the receiving end---in Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and Oakland---we have field staffs who help the relocating Indians not only in job placement but in finding suitable housing and in all the other multivarious details that are inevitably involved in such a readjustment.

Practically all the reports that have been coming in on this program recently are encouraging. Many large employers are increasingly enthusiastic about the caliber of Indian workers they have hired and are anxiously seeking additional recruits. Perhaps even more important, interest in relocation seems to be rapidly growing among the Indians on reservations as they receive first-hand information on city conditions and opportunities from friends and relatives who have already made the move. In each of the past two fiscal years the Bureau assisted in the relocation of about 2,600 people including both workers and their family dependents. For the present fiscal year, which began just ten days ago, Congress has increased the Bureau's funds for relocation work from the previous level of just over half a million dollars to more than \$900,000. Because of this increase and the growing Indian interest, it seems quite clear that the volume of relocation will be substantially stepped up in the months ahead and it might eventually even double the rate that has prevailed in recent years.

This program is important and beneficial, it seems to me, in two major ways. First, of course, is the broadened opportunity for economic advancement which is opened up for the relocating Indian people. That is the major reason for carrying on the program and investing Federal funds in its performance. But there is a secondary benefit, somewhat less obvious, which should not be overlooked. This is the easing of population pressures on the limited resources of the reservations. While there has not been enough relocation so far to provide really tangible relief of this kind in any specific locality, the possibility is a very real one for the future if interest continues to mount and necessary funds are provided.