



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office

April 20, 1956

Mr. Click Relander
City Editor
Yakima Daily Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

The copy of the annual report you requested is being sent you under separate cover.

Thanks for the clippings you forwarded, particularly the one on the Wanapum ceremony. I wish I had heard about it earlier for I would like to have been present.

Somewhere in the shuffle of moving I lost my file on the Wanapum tribe and have had some difficulty convincing the BIA here that such a tribe ever existed. As you may recall I had rather a lengthy quote from Puck Hyah Toot at the time the PUD named the upper dam, and I would like to get it again if possible. I believe it was tape recorded at the time of the ceremony. I had intended to look further into the religion of the tribe after hearing the religious leader on that occasion, since it seemed that their religious ideas were a bit different from the usual primitives.

I checked with BIA this morning on the Yakima election hearing and they report they have received absolutely nothing to indicate what the Secretarial decision will be.

My wife and I have an apartment at 813 S. E. 29th Avenue and the welcome mat is out. I must confess that I don't get this business of "hitting the road" October 6. Would you care to elucidate?

Best personal regards to you and the Wanapums.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Ulrich
Acting Regional Information Representative



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office

August 13, 1957

Mr. Click Relander
City Editor
Yakima Republic
Yakima, Washington

Click:
Dear Mr. Relander:

As you know the Congress has extended the termination legislation covering the Klamath Indian reservation an additional two years, or until August, 1960.

This means that the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will have additional duties to perform in connection with terminating Federal supervision over the affairs of the Klamath Indians. It means also that Klamath will loom large in the news for some time to come.

In view of this legislation and knowing your interest in the Klamath termination, we have arranged a "briefing session" for 1:30 p.m. Friday, August 23, in the Small Dining room of the Interior Building, 1001 N. E. Lloyd Blvd., Portland.

The plan is to have Mr. Don C. Foster, Portland area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and his staff outline the progress to date and the future of the termination procedures and responsibilities of the Bureau, and to answer any questions you and your colleagues may wish to ask.

Frankly, there is no expectation of immediate news in this briefing session. We hope that we will be able to give you background information that will ease both your task of covering the progress of the Klamath termination and our own task of keeping the public informed.

If you or your representative will be present at the meeting won't you let me know by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

John

John R. Ulrich
Regional Information Representative

P.S. I told Don that I didn't think you'd make the trip but we knew you'd be interested



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office

January 15, 1959

Mr. Click Relander
Yakima Daily Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

I believe you will find the enclosed material fairly self-explanatory.

You may be able to find some use for it in keeping the record straight in the future.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Ulrich
Regional Information Representative

Enclosure

[Enclosure. 15 Jan 59]

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington 25, D. C.

November 26, 1958

Dear Mr. Kintner:

Thank you for your telephone call concerning the November 16 "Kaleidoscope" network show. As I understand your position, you believe the objectives of the Indian policy of the Department of the Interior were fairly treated on that program, that the assertions of the narrator were "documented," and that we have no justifiable complaint. Please permit me to review, briefly, some of the reasons why we believe NBC committed a serious disservice to the American Indian people, and your television audience, as well as to this Department.

It may be that the narrator was "sold a bill of goods." For that reason, we do not wish to be thought hypercritical of his efforts. The very reaction to this program demonstrates that he is effective. However, we do question his approach to this problem. The entire tone of the program followed a pattern often espoused by a vocal, dissident element that asserts we are ogres without souls and avowed enemies of Indians. About half, and possibly more, of the Indian Bureau employees are Indians. I can only imagine how they must feel after hearing this unfounded accusation.

The basic themes of the program, that this Department seeks to separate the Indian from his land, and that sales of individual Indian allotments are a part and parcel of the termination program are wholly untrue. In our opinion, the presentation certainly had political overtones. Mr. McCormick brought a Democratic Congressman on-screen by describing him as "a student of Indian affairs." In contrast, Glenn L. Emmons, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for almost six years (as long as Mr. Metcalf has been in the Congress) and a Republican, was dismissed curtly as "the former banker at Gallup, New Mexico." This reference to Mr. Emmons was accompanied by the sneering implication that he was content to sit in Washington spouting philosophic dissertations. Mr. Emmons has lived among and worked closely with the Indian people for more than 30 years. He is beloved by the Navajo Indians, who, we understand, are willing to assist the Department in any way to rectify the damage done to the progress of our positive Indian program by the "Kaleidoscope" television presentation.

At the end of the program, Mr. McCormick volunteered the suggestion that Secretary Seaton might be playing politics with the fate of the Indians so that Senator Goldwater could be re-elected. No such suggestion of political motivation was made concerning the Congressman. This flies in the face of Mr. Seaton's repeated insistence that the plight of the Indians has no place in politics. Any one who knows Secretary Seaton would deny the narrator's assertion. And if Mr. McCormick had bothered to check with the Secretary, or his office, he would have discovered that the Secretary stated a principle he has followed since his appointment in 1956. What made the statement significant was that the Secretary announced that his past policy would continue to be the policy of this Department so long as he is Secretary, despite the beliefs of many people that the withdrawal of Federal supervision from Indian tribes can be accomplished only if the Indians themselves are not consulted.

We have received a number of telegrams, letters, and post-cards from viewers who were shocked at the appalling picture painted by "Kaleidoscope." The same themes recur through their pleas--"I am heartsick" or "I am physically ill from thinking about it" or "I am ashamed to call myself an American after seeing what we are doing to the Indians." Many of them lay the blame directly upon President Eisenhower, the present Secretary of the Interior, and even the Republican Party. These people who have written to us have the clear impression that under this Administration the American Indian faces a heartless plot designed to eradicate him. That impression is dead wrong, we submit.

We have a very constructive program in Indian Affairs. As the enclosure points out, this Administration is devoting twice the amount of Federal funds for Indian assistance as was the case in 1952. More Indian children are in school now than ever before. And, we have dedicated ourselves to the elimination of discrimination against Indians--in schools and elsewhere. We do not look upon American Indians as museum pieces or second-class citizens, but as full-fledged Americans who deserve the utmost in patience and understanding. After years of absolute paternalism and being shut off from progress, we are trying to help the Indian find his rightful place in his own society as well as ours.

We would never undertake to argue that there are no Indian needs, nor that theirs is the best of all possible worlds.

And, of course, I do not assert that we have a magic solution for every single problem in connection with the administration of Indian affairs. We all know much remains to be done. But the telecast's innuendo and half-truth managed to convey that we are doing nothing constructive and instead are following policies designed to (1) wrest the Indian from his land so that non-Indian plunder barons may buy it for a song; (2) violate and break treaty obligations; and (3) reduce the Indians to poverty, degradation, and even death. I might add that if Mr. McCormick has evidence of any action providing even a scintilla of proof of the granting of a special privilege to a plunder baron, we would appreciate having it. Immediate steps would be taken to rectify such action.

Secretary Seaton's September 18 radio broadcast summed up his policy on ending the trustee relationship of the Federal Government to Indian tribes. I have re-read it repeatedly and I cannot conceive how anyone could misconstrue it. It is as direct and four-square as anything I can imagine. A copy is enclosed and I think you will agree with me. Also enclosed is a point-by-point reply to the telecast's charges. I would like to touch on some of them here briefly.

A typical example of the program's inability to reconcile utterance with fact is the way the Menominee Forest issue was handled. The narrator said the Menominees' "only capital asset" was "the tax-free status of their forest." The Menominee assets, to the contrary, were the \$35,000,000 forest itself and the tribal lumber mill. Mr. McCormick said the tax-free status "was guaranteed by the most solemn promise the Government can give, a treaty." Congress held hearings on that allegation and the tribe's own attorney admitted no such treaty guarantee existed. Mr. McCormick left the inference in the minds of his onlookers that we plotted to remove the forest from Indian control and hand it over to white men. Never at any time was anything of the sort contemplated. To be succinct, Mr. McCormick was wrong three times.

On land sales, our record on tribally owned land is not even open to question. Tribal lands can be sold only under specific Congressional authorization. Individual Indians can sell their individual land holdings just as you or any other American citizen. But even in individual sales, our policy leans over backward to give the tribes the first opportunity to buy the land. The sale formula is

so arranged that the tribe has, repeatedly throughout the land sale procedure, a preferential right to obtain the land. The policy goes to the legal limit in protecting the Tribe. If it went any further, the individual might well have a valid accusation to level against us, charging us with failing our trustee duties to him. As it is, the individual Indian must obtain our consent to the sale. This is a safeguard to protect gullible, unsophisticated Indians from the unscrupulous.

From time to time various individuals have charged that we are guilty of abrogating or at least violating Indian treaties. The accusations are seldom specific. Of course, we all know, and the Courts have held that Indian treaties have, in the past, been broken by this country. Our Nation during the 19th Century had a shameful record of dealing with Indians. The settling of the West, and the East, for that matter, witnessed some monstrous crimes. But, "Kaleidoscope" ran the centuries together and hewed to the tradition of loose charges. As far as I can determine, this Administration has not knowingly violated any Indian treaties. I can assure you that it is our intention to continue to honor both the letter and the spirit of all treaty provisions now in effect.

You doubtless know that the Indians have a kinship with the land which borders on religion, and in instances their land has religious significance for them. The facts of economics are hard, however, and the facts are that there is a limit to the number of people a specific acreage can support. In nearly every instance, reservation populations have outgrown their reservation resource bases. There are more Indians in our Nation today than at the turn of this century. Moreover, many Indians have no desire to farm or operate livestock projects. They can no longer support themselves by living as their forefathers did. They need skills and jobs. To meet these needs, we are furnishing vocational training to improve their skills and increase their earning capacity; attempting to attract new industries to reservation areas; and assisting those Indians to find housing and employment who want to create homes for their families away from reservations and win a higher standard of living for themselves and their descendants.

Why did "Kaleidoscope" fail to so much as acknowledge the existence of these programs?

The case of the Blackfeet and their request for relief money is another item in point. We stand ready to prevent hardship and suffering on the Blackfeet Reservation. Yet our simple suggestion that the Tribe furnish an audit--including a report on the disposition of very substantial oil revenues--in justification of its request was brushed off by "Kaleidoscope" as "gobbledegook." It seems elementary that any applicant for public funds should give an explanation of his need for them. Certainly the Congress of the United States insists on it, so do State, County, and local governments, and I am sure you in your own industry require your department heads to explain why they need operating money. The tribe has acknowledged the need for a financial report. Yet the telecast left the idea that a callous bureaucracy, so snarled in its own red tape that it couldn't recognize human suffering, had dismissed starving, freezing Indians with a brutal admonition to go home and do their arithmetic.

This program was not responsible journalism, in my view. It can hardly qualify as impartial, dispassionate reporting of the news. At best we can view it only as editorializing which obscures or ignores the facts.

Point by point, our rebuttal statement is directed at the straw men presented by "Kaleidoscope." We believe the Department deserves the opportunity to present the other side of the coin, the positive gains. One of the other networks recently ran a magazine advertisement keyed to the question whether two sides of a question are enough. I doubt that you feel only one side is enough.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Elmer F. Bennett
Acting Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Robert E. Kintner
President
National Broadcasting Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York

Enclosure

STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CONCERNING THE
"KALEIDOSCOPE" TELEVISION PROGRAM OF NOVEMBER 16, 1958,
ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN

To correct the misleading impressions that were created by the "Kaleidoscope" presentation, two points should be emphasized at the outset. One is that the Department is working for and not against the best interests of Indian people. The other is that steps are being taken and progress is being made to help our Indian population in realizing their full potentialities as human beings and as citizens of the United States.

Later in this statement we discuss at some length all of the important charges and accusations made on the "Kaleidoscope" program and the numerous distortions and false statements it contained. First, however, we present here some highlights on a significant part of the present-day American Indian story which the television program omitted almost completely--a few facts on what the Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs are doing today to help Indian people.

Facts About Interior Department Indian Programs

In 1923, just 35 years ago, the United States Government spent a little over \$11 million on its special work to help the American Indian people. By 1952 this amount had gradually increased to about \$72 million. Today it stands at the record-breaking level of \$163 million.

This amounts to \$542 for every man, woman and child in the population of about 300,000 now living on Indian reservations. For a family of five it is a little over \$2,500. And this is just the amount for programs of the Department of the Interior and the United States Public Health Service that are special ones for the Indian population. It does not include the many other types of services and benefits which Indians receive from the Federal Government in common with all other citizens.

We stress these facts because the "Kaleidoscope" program carried no hint or suggestion that Interior Department activities for Indian improvement have been dramatically enlarged in recent years. In fact, the only piece of positive or constructive information in the telecast was a casual remark by the narrator toward the end of the

saving soil and water are being spread across the farm and range lands of the reservation. Roads are being improved and new ones built so traffic will flow more readily to and from the formerly isolated areas of Indian country. Progressive steps are being taken not only to protect the forest and range resources against waste but to provide the Indian owners with maximum income from their controlled use. Development of oil and gas and other mineral resources on the reservations is being pushed.

It is interesting to note, in view of the comments about oil development on the "Kaleidoscope" program, that the total income to the Indians from oil and gas leasing of their lands has approximately tripled over the past six years, increasing from about \$19,125,000 in 1952 to more than \$55,000,000 in 1958. In 1957 the figure was \$72,616,000.

But, the reservation resources cannot possibly support more than a fraction of the present population. Furthermore, the proportion of Indian people who actually want to engage in farming or livestock operations is about as small as it is in the general population; in other words, it is definitely a minority group. To provide opportunities for those who prefer some other line of work, we are going ahead with three main types of action.

We help those who wish to leave the reservations for urban areas where there are more jobs, and better ones. We do not force them into leaving. But if they ask for help, we give it. Offices are maintained in ten cities located in the area between the Pacific Coast and Cleveland, Ohio. Indian workers and family dependents are given financial aid in making the move and are given practical help in finding jobs, locating suitable housing, and getting generally adjusted in their new localities. Over the past six years more than 20,000 Indian men, women and children have moved from the reservations with Bureau assistance under this program, and a substantial majority of them are undoubtedly enjoying today better incomes and higher standards of living than they have ever previously known.

At the same time, however, the Bureau also keeps in mind the needs of a third group of Indian people--those who have no prospect of making a living from the reservation land and no wish to take up life in a wholly strange environment. To help provide them with greater employment opportunities, the Bureau is working with tribal organizations and local community groups to attract new industries into the vicinity of reservations. Although the program is still comparatively young,

In spite of the appeal for caution, about 80 percent of the eligible tribal electors, in the democratic way, voted in a mail referendum on the question of full distribution. Two-thirds of those voting voted to receive full payment. Once this decision was made, we had no way under the law of compelling them to take less.

As for the statement that the tribal treasury shrank to "almost nothing", the truth is that at the most recent closing of the Menominee books the Tribe had treasury balances of \$2,276,000. It also has a multi-million-dollar economic enterprise debt-free and unencumbered, as noted above, and it has a lumber yard inventory valued at more than \$1,500,000.

Contrary to the impression which the narrator left with his audience, we are certain that the Congressmen, the tribal leaders who endorsed the program, and all other responsible persons who had anything to do with the termination legislation have always believed that it would work. Rather than being frustrated as claimed by the narrator, they are delighted that their faith in the Menominees is paying off.

According to the Telecast (Congressman Metcalf)...

"Well, the country's Indian policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are calculated to sandbag the Indians into selling their land and their other resources. Whether these are intentional or inadvertent, they're working for the benefit of outside pressures to force the Indians to get rid of their resources such as mineral resources and all these other land values that are so important on the Indian reservations."

The True Facts...

The Congressman's statement is totally untrue. The Bureau does not "sandbag" the Indians into selling their lands and other resources. It does not even encourage such sales. In fact, the Bureau policy goes so far in helping tribes to buy up the lands offered for sale by individual Indians that it is incurring the risk of violating individual property rights.

To make this whole matter more understandable, a few background facts are essential. Indian lands today are of two principal kinds: (1) tribal lands which are owned in common by all the members of the tribal group, and (2) allotted lands which are the private property of individual Indians.

It is against this background that our present policy was adopted. The heart of this policy is that it recognizes the property rights of the individual Indian as superior to the interests of the tribe. If the Indian wants to sell his land and it seems clear that a sale would be advantageous to him, not just immediately but over a period of years, then a sale is authorized. In some cases, where the Indian has demonstrated that he can take care of himself in business transactions, this is accomplished at the request of the Indian, by giving him an unrestricted deed to his property. In other cases, where the Indian is not so skilled in these matters, the Bureau of Indian Affairs handles the sale on his behalf and makes the money available to him under a plan set up to protect him against waste or dissipation of his assets.

As already indicated, the policy also helps the tribal groups to buy up these individually owned lands if they wish to do so. This is accomplished in several ways. First, the Bureau encourages the Indian to let the tribe make an offer for the land. Secondly, if the Indian owner insists on free competitive bidding, then he is urged to let the tribe match the high bid. Finally, if the tribe has not been able to buy the tract under either of these methods, it is given another chance to make the purchase at an auction in competition with other bidders.

From this brief summary, it should be clear why we said at the beginning that this policy goes so far in encouraging tribal purchases that it comes dangerously close to violating the property rights of individual Indians. We believe that if it were pushed any further, the Department could justifiably be accused of penalizing the individual Indian citizen in the interests of tribal organizations.

According to the Telecast (Congressman Metcalf)...

"Outside of the more obvious pressures of the power company to gain control of the dam site - or grazing operators to get key strips or water holes - there are some pressures from inside the Bureau. For example - the Indian tribes that are reluctant to provide for a termination plan don't get credit from the Bureau - or the Bureau will not release funds to the tribes. Now, they have a loan program for loaning those tribal funds to Indians to build up their herds or to build their homes -- and the Bureau will withhold the tribe's own funds and their own credit facilities - or surround them by so much red tape that you can't get a loan in time."

The valuable water resources involved here is very much like similar water resources elsewhere. Their potential value cannot be realized until money is spent to develop them. In this case, more than \$100,000,000 was invested to develop the dam and generating facilities. Private enterprise was the only available source

The Flathead power project started in 1930 when the Federal Power Commission issued a license for the work. The Kerr Plant, as it is now known, was completed in 1938. Under terms of the license, the tribe has received a total of \$3,603,782. The present rental rate is \$175,000 per year, and it will be increased by at least \$50,000 a year now that a third generating unit is installed. Negotiations for the increase are under way.

The tribe will be getting around \$225,000 rent from the project. Under the 50-year term of the Federal Power license, it is estimated--and the estimate is conservative--that the tribe will receive more than \$8,000,000 in rentals. The project has also provided employment for the Indians. During the construction, individual Indians had preference clauses in various contracts, and got jobs that paid them more than \$1,000,000.

The power project also benefits the irrigation system. It permits cheaper operation and maintenance rates for delivering irrigation water to the land. The project provides 15,000 kilowatts of low cost power for pumping and other purposes.

According to the Telecast...

"The (Flathead) termination bill died in committee, yet Indian Bureau officials haven't given up. The Bureau Area Director has frequently reminded the Flatheads that they must some day accept termination, that they must begin preparations now. As a matter of plain fact, the pressures on all Indians to accept termination are pervasive. They aren't always specific but they're there, sometimes expressed by the attitudes of Indian Bureau officials, sometimes by propaganda, sometimes by downright threats, and sometimes the Indians are afraid to fight back."

The True Facts...

"Kaleidoscope" gives the impression that the "Termination Policy" is of recent origin. The inference is that it has existed

proceeding in like manner until the whole objective is attained. While there should be fairly well-marked stages in the elimination process, there need be very little pause between the stages, so that all may be accomplished in one to three years."

In 1946 the Indian Claims Commission Act was passed, largely on the justification that giving the tribes their day in court for a financial settlement of all grievances would clear the way for a final resolution of any special status for Indians. As of last March, 134 out of 852 claims have been decided, and \$34,000,000 in awards before offsets have been made.

On February 8, 1947, Acting Commissioner Zimmerman appeared before the Senate Civil Service Committee and submitted a list of tribal groups which, he said, "could be denied Federal services immediately or in the future, whichever the Congress should decide." Included were the Klamaths of Oregon, the Menominees of Wisconsin, the New York Indians, the Potawatomi group of Kansas, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band of North Dakota, and several others.

In 1948, Acting Commissioner Zimmerman advised his field officials, "The objective of the program should be the eventual discharge of the Federal Government's obligation, legal, moral, or otherwise, and the discontinuance of Federal supervision and control at the earliest possible date compatible with the government's trusteeship responsibility. This may mean the early termination of all Federal supervision for some groups, whereas for others it seems obvious that certain Federal activities including the development of resources, must be continued for many years." In 1950, House Joint Resolution 490 (the Bosone resolution) was introduced, "authorizing a study by the Secretary of the Interior re qualifications of Indian tribes, lands, and groups to manage their own affairs without supervision and control by the Federal Government."

In 1953 the former Chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee introduced House Concurrent Resolution 108. This Resolution was passed by the House and Senate without a dissenting vote.

The author of the bill indicated at the time that he was naming tribes on the basis of Mr. Zimmerman's 1947 statement that certain tribes were ready for immediate termination. The bill's author said that if the groups listed were ready for termination in 1947, they certainly should be ready six years later. However, Congress in 1954 did not approve all of the terminations suggested by Mr. Zimmerman in 1947.

acceptance of the plan prior to action by the Congress. I shall continue to insist this be the case and I hope and believe that Congress and its leaders will pursue the same course. To make my position perfectly clear, as long as I am Secretary of the Interior, I shall be dedicated to preserving the principle which I have just enunciated."

Since the submission of bills under House Concurrent Resolution No. 108, which directed the Department to prepare termination bills for certain specifically named tribes, the Department has not proposed a single termination bill to Congress without the concurrence of the Indian group affected.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has not descended to heckling, threatening, economic bullying or otherwise pressuring unwilling tribal groups to accept termination.

In essence, all the Department has done has been to advise tribal groups it is not realistic to expect Federal trusteeship to continue for eternity. Tribal groups have been told they should begin planning for their own economic and social progress so they can be prepared and equipped for eventual independence, on the same plane as other Americans.

According to the Telecast...

"The Blackfeet are desperately poor and getting poorer. The Indian Bureau has not as yet seen fit to do more than ask that the tribe audit its books... A desperate request for \$50,000 for relief assistance last spring ran into a mass of Indian Bureau gobbledegook and disappeared from sight."

The True Facts...

We are ready to take any steps necessary to prevent hardship or suffering on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Contrary to the impression created by the telecast, the Blackfeet Tribe has had considerable tribal income in the past few years. From oil and gas resources alone, the tribal income since 1953 has been as follows:

1953	\$ 390,000	1956	\$2,497,000
1954	433,000	1957	684,000
1955	2,010,000	1958	335,000

Thus, the six-year tribal income has been \$6,349,000. Since the Tribe has about 1,000 families, this is the equivalent of \$6,349 for each family.

There has been also additional tribal income from other sources. However, that amount is not known to the Bureau since the Blackfeet Tribe under its constitution is not required to report such income or expenditures to the Bureau. By referendum, the Tribe has adopted a policy of paying out 50 percent of tribal income in per capita payments to tribal members. In addition, some tribal members who own individual allotments have been receiving income from oil and gas leases. During the past six years they received \$2,497,811 from oil and gas resources alone.

It is in this context that our request for a statement of the Tribe's financial condition must be considered. The Tribe has previously been willing to help provide general assistance for its own needy members.

The same procedure is followed in non-Indian communities. The Federal Government does not pay the relief bills for all the cities and towns in the country. Each community is expected to do all it can to care for its own people. Under the arrangement that has been in effect in the past, the tribe has contributed \$40,000 annually for this purpose. The two adjoining counties have contributed a total of \$15,000 each year and have administered the program. This arrangement has been in line with the general policy that tribes with adequate money should help their needy members and that Indians should receive welfare assistance, wherever possible, from the same agencies that provide it to non-Indian citizens.

Last May the Blackfeet Tribe submitted to the Bureau's Area Office in Billings a request for \$50,000 of Federal funds for general assistance for the coming fiscal year. The Tribe did not explain what money it had on hand. The Area Office asked the tribe to submit a justification of the need for Federal funds for assistance, including a statement of the tribe's financial condition. This was not "gobbledegook." When a Federal agency goes to Congress for money, it must explain why it needs the money, and tell what money it already has available. State legislatures require the same information. So do local governments. Private businesses make their various division heads explain why money is needed.

The request to the tribe was wholly understandable. The Area Office had no way of telling whether the tribe had enough in its bank account to take care of the relief needs on its own. To date, the tribe has not submitted the justification, although it has reported it is working on it.

The True Facts ...

The so-called Hill 57, near the thriving community of Great Falls, Montana, is not even remotely connected with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is not a reservation. It never was part of a reservation. The people living there include Indians from Canada and Indians who never have lived on a reservation as well as some who have lived on reservations.

Hill 57 is a blighted urban area and entirely the responsibility of the citizens of Great Falls. Great Falls utilizes Hill 57 residents as a labor pool.

The situation at Hill 57 is precisely like the slum areas of the Nation's Capitol and all the slums in all the other cities of the country. It is a local problem. We hope Great Falls finds a cure for it as we hope all cities can find a solution to all the slums.

According to the Telecast ...

Among the vast areas the Blackfeet have been forced to sell, according to tribal leaders, there are many key tracts.

The True Facts

No Indian owner has been forced to sell his land, key tract or not. Indeed, insofar as concerns key tracts--that is, tracts which actually control the use of surrounding or adjacent lands--we do not believe any of them have been sold on the Blackfeet Reservation or any other reservation.

When the rights of the individual Indian landowner to dispose of his property were finally given full recognition in 1955, the Bureau's policy contained special provisions covering the problem represented by these key tracts. In brief, the policy provided that where a key tract was offered for sale by the Indian owner, the Bureau would take the initiative in consulting with the tribal organization to work out a satisfactory solution. In the three years since that time, we have not been aware of one specific case where a controlling key tract has moved out of Indian ownership.

According to the Telecast ...

(Iliff McKay, Blackfeet Tribal Secretary) "Indian land is held by the United States Government for the Indian owner and the land has to be leased according to rules laid down by the Department of the Interior, and I believe that actually discourages an operator from coming on the reservation to lease land for development . . ."

The True Facts ...

While it is true that Indian lands held in trust have to be leased for oil and gas development in accordance with Federal regulations adopted by the Department, there is no basis for the charge that this discourages leasing or development. The fact is that income to the Indians from lands leased under these regulations has jumped dramatically in recent years, increasing from \$19,125,000 in 1952 to more than \$55,000,000 in 1958. In 1957 the figure was \$72,616,000.

According to the Telecast ...

(Walter Wetzel, Chairman, Blackfeet Tribal Council) About 50 years ago . . . "the Government adopted its policy of what I call, a policy of inaction, which it has been, entirely, as far as this reservation is concerned, has been entirely effective in encouraging Indians to dispose of their land. Indians aren't able to get loans to develop their property. They aren't able to get credit. We are unable to give them the help they need, with our own income. The only collateral they have is their land. So then in order to live, in order to get an existence, they have to dispose of their land to get some immediate cash to live on."

The True Facts...

Blackfeet Indians who have need for loans and qualify for them should have no difficulty in obtaining credit. Loans, however, must not be confused with grants. On June 30, 1958, the tribe had \$892,800 outstanding in cash loans, 6,259 head of cattle being used for credit purposes representing an investment of more than \$500,000, and had posted a guaranty fund of \$50,000 to enable a local production credit association to make loans to tribal members who were unable to qualify for loans under the association's credit



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

March 4, 1963

Mr. Click Relander
1212 N. 37th Street
Yakima, Washington

Dear Sir:

Please send this library one copy of your publication
"Strangers on the land."

Payment will be made upon receipt of material and an invoice.
Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Burghardt

James H. Burghardt
Assistant Librarian

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