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CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

589 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 31, 1967

EAR
Mr. Tom Thomas, Executive Editor
Yakima Herald and Republic
114 North Fourth Street
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Carnegie Corporation of New York, the educational foundation, has prepared the attached press release especially for newspapers likely to have a particular interest in the problems of Indian students and those of Mexican descent. Although the United Scholarship Service is a small organization, it is doing vitally important work in a largely neglected field. Perhaps some of the information we have included will make it possible for you to develop a local "angle" on the USS story.

Sincerely yours,

Kate Woodbridge

Kate Woodbridge
Editorial Assistant

Enclosure

CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK



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NEW YORK, April 4 -- Carnegie Corporation of New York today (TUESDAY) announced a three-year grant of \$150,000 to the United Scholarship Service, Inc. (USS), a Denver-based organization, for expanding its work with a new program of graduate school counseling and assistance for American students of Indian and Mexican descent. At present, USS reports, practically no members of these groups attend graduate school.

According to Alan Pifer, acting president of Carnegie Corporation, poor early education and their different cultural background can place even talented students from these groups at a disadvantage in their first two years of college. Many of them catch up with the other students by the senior year, but admission to graduate school, and especially selection for fellowships, are usually based on the whole college record.

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USS will work with college students so that they may be more fully informed of the requirements for graduate work and better prepared to continue their studies. It will also encourage qualified young graduates who are working to return to university for graduate study in line with their own developing career interests and potential, and it will help students to secure more adequate fellowships. A consultant on graduate work will assist the present staff in developing this new phase of USS programs.

Mr. Pifer pointed out that foundations have long been helping to provide equal educational opportunities for Negroes. But Indians and students of Spanish-American and Mexican descent find it just as hard to achieve educational equality with the white majority and have had much less attention from foundations.

The U.S. Government, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is providing young Indians with \$1.9 million in 1967 in college scholarships. Various restrictions on the amounts and uses of individual scholarships, however, limit the Government program.

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In most American Indian communities the pattern of life has been one of bare subsistence and some of the nation's most serious pockets of poverty are to be found on Indian reservations, a 1966 report of the Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian states. (The report was published by University of Oklahoma Press as the book, The Indian: America's Unfinished Business.) In this situation, the school dropout rate is far higher than it is in the general population, so that relatively few Indians graduate from high school and are in a position to go to college. Even fewer finish college, and not many of these consider going to graduate school. Many of those who enter college must work so hard to support themselves that their studies suffer and they give up. Arizona, for example, with the largest Indian population (about 90,000 of the more than 500,000 U.S. Indians) has only 44 undergraduate Indian students in its state university, and only one graduate student. The situation is similar in California universities for people of Mexican descent.

In trying to develop bright youngsters into potential leaders for these two groups, USS has been helping some of them go to independent secondary schools throughout the country

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and has also been assisting students in college. This year it is giving substantial financial aid to 44 high school students and 82 in college, and is providing encouragement and counseling to others.

USS was formed in 1960 by the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church. The National Indian Youth Council, Inc., became a third sponsor in 1966. USS is the only national voluntary agency directly concerned with the educational needs of young people of both Indian and Mexican background.

Although financial assistance is vital to students, USS finds its other work just as important. Its representatives visit Indian communities and families, both on and off reservations, to acquaint them with opportunities and to recruit students. Then USS helps with school applications and test arrangements. USS workers visit the students regularly at school and also visit their families. The agency makes holiday arrangements for those far from home. It even arranges such matters as graduation gifts and travel for parents to attend graduations. It helps with summer plans and placements, and assists the high school students with college plans. Some of the financial help is not given

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as scholarships, which some students receive from the schools or other sources, but for travel, clothing and other basic expenses.

Many of the USS-assisted students find everyday customs at their schools and colleges difficult to adjust to. Young Indians, for example, are often taught never to question the word or judgment of an elder, and it is difficult for them to argue, however respectfully, with a teacher who deliberately may have made a mistake in order to stimulate the students. There is also the fact that English is, at best, a second language to many of the young Indians and also to those of Mexican descent. There is such a lack of literature on Indian societies, USS reports, and so little experience among white educators in dealing with Indians that a school or college often does not know how to help a new Indian student.

The Executive Director of USS is Miss Tillie Walker, an Indian of the Mandan and Hidatsa Tribes, originally from Mandaree, North Dakota. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and was formerly on the staff of the American Friends Service Committee. One field representative, Miss

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Angela Russell, is an Indian of the Crow Tribe, who grew up in Lodge Grass, Montana, and graduated from the University of Montana. The other field representative is William B. Bachrach, originally from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who graduated from Harvard University and served one year in VISTA before joining USS in 1966. The headquarters of the organization is in Denver, Colorado (1452 Pennsylvania Street). There is an Eastern office in Cambridge, Massachusetts (140 Mount Auburn Street).

Serving as staff consultants are Charles F. Kettering II, of Denver; Edward Dozier, professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona; and Katherine Spencer, research director of Boston University's School of Social Work.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of USS is Mrs. Robert L. Rosenthal of Lexington, Massachusetts, who is on the staff of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. She is an anthropologist, a specialist in Indian affairs holding advanced degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University. The Vice Chairman is Melvin D. Thom of the Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nevada, a graduate civil

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engineer. Other directors are:

Mrs. Juan U. Archuleta of Denver, Colorado

Mrs. Roger S. Clapp of Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Mr. Robert V. Dumont, Jr., of Lawrence, Kansas

The Rev. Serge F. Hummon of New York, New York

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Mr. Clyde Warrior of Talequah, Oklahoma

Carnegie Corporation of New York was founded in 1911 by Andrew Carnegie for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the peoples of the United States and certain Commonwealth countries. Its assets now total approximately \$302 million at market value. Grants are made from income only.