

your appropriation acts, is that the Federal Government operates only one major program which provides a special service for our Indian population. That is the Indian Health Service, a division of the Public Health Service, which has done a great deal to improve Indian health conditions. Yet, as Secretary Udall's statistics indicate, we still have far to go before health conditions on Indian reservations will approximate the national average.

If we look at appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, we find that the bulk of the appropriations is a form of relief to the States. Close to 60 percent of the Indian Bureau appropriation is for education (both operation and construction), a service which if not rendered or paid for by the Federal Government would have to be assumed by the States. The second largest BIA appropriation item is for the construction and maintenance of roads, roads serving Indians as well as non-Indians, roads which would otherwise be built or maintained by the States. The Federal appropriations for the maintenance of law and order on Indian reservations fall into the same category. By the time you get down to the programs designed to improve economic conditions on Indian reservations, you will find that they are narrow in scope and limited by the size of the appropriations. This is why, in spite of the existing Federal programs, there is a need on our Indian reservations for a comprehensive attack on poverty.

Let me make it clear, at this point, that I do not want to suggest that H.R. 10440 will cure all Indian problems overnight. What it can do, however, is provide the funds, the flexibility and the personnel (including in particular, the volunteers under title VI) to attack some of the root causes of poverty. Programs could be developed to rehabilitate people and to start youngsters on a path which will not require later rehabilitation. Projects could be started to improve the educational opportunities of young people from nursery school age up. Nor should we overlook the need to provide employment for heads of families, to give Indian people the opportunity to acquire skills which would fit them into our general economy, which has less and less use for unskilled people and, above all, to provide them with opportunities to use these skills.

Let me be specific for a moment. Title II would make it possible for Indian tribes to provide day-care centers for preschoolers, providing better surroundings for the great many children who come from broken homes, and making it possible for all participating children to be better prepared for schoolwork when they enter the first grade. Title I, parts A and B can reach the teenage group, taking the dropout children off the streets and putting them to work in activities useful to them as well as to their communities and the Nation. Titles III, IV, and V, as well as community projects under title II, could enable adults to become economically independent and self-sustaining. Finally, the volunteers provided under title VI could do much to assist Indian people in developing their own potential and to do this at a very low cost to the Federal Government. In conducting these programs, the Office or Economic Opportunity could help bring to bear on the problems on Indian reservations the resources made available by various other departments of the Federal Government, resources such as those provided by the Department of Agriculture, of which Indians have not heretofore availed themselves.

To make these projects successful, it will, of course, be important to work with the communities rather than imposing them on the communities from the outside. Projects should be developed jointly with Indian tribal councils and should be designed to give key planning roles to the Indian people themselves. This approach would not only safeguard the success of the project but would also provide valuable leadership training for the participants.

There are two points of a purely technical nature which I would like to call to the committee's attention. Secretary Udall has already stated that Indian tribes are intended to be covered by the antipoverty program. It would, nevertheless, be helpful if the committee report were to make it clear that certain terms in the bill, such as "local agencies," "publicly owned and operated," and "public agency" encompass Indian tribes and their property. Furthermore, I would suggest that on page 25, line 17, in section 302(b), the word "qualified" be stricken and the word "able" be substituted. This section refers to families eligible to obtain help under the title III program. As presently written, families "qualified" to obtain assistance under other Federal programs are not eligible. Almost all Indian families would be "qualified" to obtain help from the Indian revolving loan fund. However, they may not be able to obtain loans because of the insufficiency of funds in the Indian loan program. The