

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes; definitely. There is a Public Health Service study that was put out some years ago that made the point that by providing doctors and nurses and all that, you can bring Indian health standards up to a certain point. But if you have environmental conditions that breed disease and general economic conditions that result in malnutrition or improper diets and, above all, poor housing conditions, all of this creates a health situation which presents us with certain problems that no amount of doctors and nurses can solve.

Mr. GIBBONS. Would it be fair to say that to blame the Indians' poor health on Government medical services is ridiculous?

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes; I would say so. From all the evidence I have seen wherever you have had improved medical care, you have had improved health conditions among Indians. If you talk to the Indian people themselves they will tell you that. There is no question that more and better medical care has helped to improve conditions on Indian reservations. If you take a look particularly at the problem of infant mortality, the sharp decline coincides with the stepping up of the Public Health Service assistance. I think this tells the story in itself.

Mr. GIBBONS. Is it because the Indians live such an isolated life on their reservations that they really have no interest to get medical help other than by this?

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes. In a way, the problems are similar to other parts of rural America, but it is so much worse on most reservations in terms of inadequacy of medical care.

Mr. GIBBONS. That is all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. PERKINS. Proceed.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Another type of assistance, to come back to the chairman's question, is rendered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As to that, one point ought to be understood. If you take a look at the annual appropriations made by the Congress to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, more than half of the amount appropriated is really aid to the States. For example, 60 percent of this year's appropriation is for education alone. If this were not done by the Federal Government, it would be a burden on the States to furnish that particular help.

In the same category is Federal assistance for the construction and maintenance of reservation roads. Local and State governments would have to supply that to serve not only the Indians but non-Indians as well if the Federal Government did not do it. Federal supported law and order on Indian reservations is in the same category, as are certain types of welfare assistance.

So really, when you get down to the economic development type of help, there is very little of it in the Bureau of Indian Affairs program, simply because there is very little money for that. Whatever they have, by and large, Mr. Chairman, has worked out quite well.

If you take a look at some of the Indian reservations throughout the country, you will find the beneficial effects of economic development programs. If you examine the self-supporting Indian families, you will find that a good number of them got their start back in the 1930's through a lending program which is somewhat similar to what you have in title III of this bill.

Another group of self-supporting people got their start in the 1930's in the CCC. As a matter of fact, the way the CCC was carried