

certain things, but we have said to you here—well, the answer to your question is “No,” we can’t see that anything has been done.

Let me say to you, as you know, Mrs. Gereau is our expert on Indians and I am sure she will have more comment. This is the reason why we are saying to you that the Congress should have a committee to study this as they did the DOD.

Mr. MEEDS. You suggested last year as I recall that a special, either a subcommittee of this committee or some special committee of Congress look into the problem of Indian education. In keeping with this, and perhaps I should direct my question to you, Mrs. Gereau, it has been my observation that in those schools systems and in those Indian reservations, all those Indian reservations in States such as my own where all the education is public education, that there is a great lack of resources from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to those Indians who are still on reservations and attending public schools.

If I may I will give you an example. I have six Indian tribes, I have more than six Indian tribes but I have six full-fledged reservations in my congressional district. There is one person from the Bureau of Indian affairs, who serves as a liaison with all of those tribes and all of the public institutions’ agencies to go and talk with the Indian people, get them to attend school, talk to the parents, the students. This is wholly inadequate as I see it.

Yet under the bill as it is presently written no money could be made available to that purpose unless it went directly to a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. Then is that your understanding and interpretation?

Mr. LUMLEY. The bill provides for money to go to the Federal schools. That is right.

Mr. MEEDS. I certainly intend to propose at least an amendment which will allow money under this title to be used by Indian tribes, or by the Bureau of Indian affairs, in the aid of students who are attending public schools in the States or abutting on reservations. Do you think that would be at least a step in the right direction?

Mrs. GEREAU. Most of the States that have a fairly large percentage of Indian children have been for many years assisted through an old bill we call the Johnson-O’Malley Act. This was the provision that provided assistance to the States and through the States to the public school systems who made a special effort to get Indian children into the public school.

Then later on Public Laws 814 and 874 were amended and made it very attractive to the public school to go out and seek the Indian children.

As a matter of fact in your State and mine and many others there were literally thousands of Indian children who for centuries should have been the responsibility of the Indian service whom they completely ignored, they were wandering around on the prairies. It was not until they got the Public Law 874 and 815 that the public school went out and got the children.

The Indian service schools, the number of them, was reduced rapidly at first when the Indians came under 815 and 874. All through the northwest area that you and I are familiar with, and Wisconsin, Florida, and Oklahoma and most of the States these children have now become part of the public schools.