

previous and continuing efforts to lift the Indian out of deprivation. The American Indian people have had a long history of poverty.

We know, for example, that unemployment is running at a much higher rate on some Indian reservations than even in the most impoverished counties of this country. Unemployment among Indians is 10 times that of the national average. Moreover, there is inadequate housing, inadequate roads, inadequate water supply, and an atmosphere of economic depression rarely found anywhere else.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has historically been the Federal agency primarily responsible for the economic, social, and political development of the Indian people for whom the United States has a special trust responsibility. Over a long period, significant advances have been made, but it has become evident that if Indian people are to achieve economic and social equality with other American citizens, additional resources must be brought to bear on their problems.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has already been instrumental in renewing efforts to help Indians and broadening resources available to them. Indians are doing more to help themselves and Indian tribes are becoming increasingly aware of the many additional and new programs available to them. They are being encouraged more than ever to deal with all agencies—Federal, State, and private—that can provide resources and assistance to help them solve their own problems.

The Office of Economic Opportunity, this Department and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, together with other agencies, are working hard to see that Indian people benefit from all relevant Federal programs. An Indian task force of the Economic Opportunity Council was formed last year to strengthen such interagency cooperation, at my recommendation.

There is no quick solution of the complex problems of the Indian people and their resources. The Indian people know this and I compliment them and their tribal leaders for their efforts to help themselves.

The impoverished Indian has benefited in many ways through the Economic Opportunity Act and the coordination of efforts made possible through the Economic Opportunity Council.

The overall impact of the program is impressive. There are Job Corps conservation centers on eight reservations; 6,500 in the Neighborhood Youth Corps; community action programs on 105 reservations including such components as Headstart, Upward Bound, and legal services; 300 VISTA's assigned to reservations; more than 1,000 small business loans, totaling \$2.2 million; additional job training for unemployed Indians under work experience programs.

I would like to give you two specific examples, Mr. Chairman, in order to get down to cases, of Indian benefits under Economic Opportunity Act programs.

OEO spearheaded a pilot program to help solve inadequate housing and lack of job training on the Red Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota. Both of these have been continuing problems for Indians on all reservations.

Through OEO funding, the reservation community action agency provided training for 30 Indian men in the home-building trades. The