

rate (up from three to over four percent a year) resulted in further population increase. Reservation economic opportunities, however, have shown no corresponding rise.

In fact, economic activities on the reservations are somewhat unresponsive to such Indian problems as population pressure and rising employment aspirations. Take, for example, the BIA leasing system: As a broad but valid generalization, it may be stated that on reservations where there is profitably usable farm land, such land is ordinarily leased to non-Indians or farm corporations. This is also the case with profitable cattle-grazing land. The land leasing program—managed by BIA—began soon after reservations were created and is a well-entrenched tradition. Where reservations have natural resources in the form of mineral deposits, timber, petroleum or abundant water, exploitation is usually under BIA management through a leasing system with non-Indian corporations. Income from leases is distributed by the BIA. Flexible response to population growth is obviously not a characteristic of this system.

In 1954 the BIA began two programs related to increasing population pressure and the difficulties of reservation economic development. The initial emphasis was on the Voluntary American Indian Relocation Program. The aim of this Program was minimum subsidy of urban migration and employment placement of Indian families and adult individuals in certain industrial centers. These centers have included: Cleveland, Ohio; Waukegan and Chicago, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland, California. Particular centers used in any one fiscal year has varied, though Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles and San Jose have usually been included.

In 1961 the title of the Relocation Program was changed to Employment Assistance. With the title change there has been an increase in interest in employment placement in proximity to the reservations, and general effect of Employment Assistance has been to remove from reservation those Indians best qualified by education and work experience for adjustment to the urban-industrial milieu.

A second program, directly related to Employment Assistance, is Vocational Training, authorized by Public Law 959 and other public laws applying to specific tribes. Generally, vocational training under such legislation is applicable to persons between eighteen and twenty-five, with exceptions made for individual cases, and usually involves short-term trade school courses with employment placement on graduation. In recent years this program is largely taking the annual secondary school graduating classes from boarding schools and reservation schools. Another source of candidates, both for this and the Employment Assistance Program, is the graduates of the BIA vocational trade schools at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

Still further efforts have been made by BIA to meet Indian economic needs. Since 1950 there have been a number of BIA-directed attempts to develop industrial plants and tourist attractions on or near reservations. There is an industrial diamond cutting plant near the Gila River Reservation in Arizona; several small plants on or near the Navajo Reservation; an electronics component assembly plant on Laguna Pueblo land in New Mexico; a fishhook snelling plant on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; a jewelled roller bearing plant near Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota. Similar plants are in operation or planned at other reservations.

All of these plants have certain common characteristics. All have small labor forces and with piece-work pay. All are either sub-contractors or feeder plants of larger companies. The chief attraction for these plants seems to be an inexpensive and abundant labor supply with no union involvement, BIA-subsidized training programs, Federal reservation tax shelter, and low-cost lease arrangements for building without the necessity for the company to buy or build a plant. Some of the disadvantages are distances from major markets, absence of a social base for well developed utilities and facilities (roads, electric power, water) and the difficulty of attracting management personnel to live in isolated rural areas.

Since 1950 opportunities for off-reservation wage work in seasonal agriculture have steadily decreased with mechanizing farm operations steadily eliminating the numbers of farm laborers needed. On some reservations this decrease threatens a major source of income, as on the Papago Reservation, where seasonal farm work formerly supplied one-third of reservation income.

Steadily rising population pressure on reservation resources is only partially alleviated by subsidized relocation and small-scale employment in local in-