

(3) *The Ranger Corps Component.*—The Ranger Corps component was requested in October 1965 and approved December 1 effective through 30 June 1966 for a total of \$45,050.

James Brown, previously Assistant Head of South Dakota Fish and Wildlife Service, was hired to direct the program. Position for Ranger trainees were advertised in the post offices and reservation general stores. 127 men applied, and Mr. Brown eliminated ninety-seven of these applicants. He gave the rest a psychological test ("mainly because they expected it") and a physical examination. Their police records were examined, with attention to recent drunkenness or disorderly conduct. The first group of ten Ranger trainees was hired on 8 February.

The trainees live in a dormitory set up in the building used by the OED. On Weekends they frequently go on training trips. The three-month training period includes daily lectures on such subjects as game management, first aid, tourism, and tracking. Trainees lead seminars themselves and are given pointers in public speaking. Much of the training is done in cooperation with the Consortium at Vermillion, and cooperation has been excellent since good communication has been established. (The first two letters requesting training aid reportedly went unanswered.) Vermillion has provided necessary books, and arranged and paid for many training trips and lectures by specialists. The original component application requested \$3,000 for training, but OEO reduced this to \$1,500. This cut would have severely hampered the program, according to Mr. Brown, if Vermillion had not made up the difference. The intensive training will equip the Rangers to qualify for many state, Federal, and private jobs.

Mr. Brown asserts that the program has been hampered by certain other unwise budget cuts, and that had OEO consulted an expert in conservation, the cuts would probably not have been made. For example, the plan to reduce transportation costs by allotting each Ranger \$20 a month to keep a horse is impractical in view of distances to be covered and the impossibility of keeping the necessary string of horses on \$20 a month per Ranger.

The first group of Rangers went into the field in May. During the remainder of the period of this study they worked primarily at making a wildlife inventory. This will allow the program, in cooperation with the Tribal Council, to plan and implement the restocking of game animals and fish. The Rangers also maintained a tourist booth in Pine Ridge town, and are rebuilding an abandoned camp ground at the Oglala reservoir. They sell hunting licenses to non-tribal members. State hunting licenses were sold haphazardly on the reservation before the Rangers arrived, but the State has no jurisdiction and no one seems to know where the money from them went. Money from the sale of licenses now goes into a special tribal fund, which the Rangers will use for conservation purposes.

The Rangers have organized an Indian powwow singing group, which has received favorable publicity in some large off-reservation newspapers. Mr. Brown heard of a number of jobs for Indians as extras in a motion picture production, and recruited Pine Ridge Indians to fill them. He persuaded US Forestry and local officials to modify signs on a major tourist route near the reservation so that they point directions to the Pine Ridge Reservation rather than to certain small towns.

Two of the first ten Rangers who showed special interest and aptitude in particular areas were able to receive additional training. One Ranger studied reptiles and reptile-handling at the largest "reptile garden" in South Dakota. Another entered a two-month training program in pulpwood production given by a Black Hills firm. Following the training he will become a crew leader for the firm, and will hire and train ten Pine Ridge Sioux to work under him.

The Ranger program has encountered no major problems so far. The Rangers like their work, which is mostly outdoors and carries the status of a uniform and a good deal of independence. More than two hundred men applied for the second group of ten jobs advertised in April. The Rangers have received good cooperation from the Tribal Council, the BIA, and other agencies and firms on and off the reservation. However, interviews indicated that few people understood what they were doing. Many expressed anger at the low number of people employed, and allegations were made that most of the people were hired away from other jobs. One incumbent Tribal Council representative who attacked the OED during his campaign for reelection claimed that most of the first group of ten Rangers had worked for Wright-McGill fishhook snelling plant, and that the people who really needed the jobs could not get them.