

Actually, only two of the first twenty Rangers had jobs with Wright-McGill. The manager of Wright-McGill criticized the OED for stealing his employees, and when the second Wright-McGill employee was hired by the Rangers in the second group the criticism apparently went to the Tribal Council. During an OED staff report to the Tribal Council, Tribal President Johnson Holyrock cautioned Mr. Brown against hiring Wright-McGill employees without consulting the manager, and one outspoken tribal representative strongly attacked Mr. Brown, saying that the Tribe owned a lot to Wright-McGill and did not want his firm to leave the reservation because of Mr. Brown and the OED.⁴

After a fairly heated exchange between a few tribal representatives and some of the OED staff involving the issues of OED project director autonomy over their components, and the legality and wisdom of the Council dictating to tribal members that they cannot move up to better jobs, one Councilman ended the confrontation by explaining to everyone that the ex-Wright-McGill Ranger in question had quit Wright-McGill because of a difference with the manager. The incident is important, however, because it involves the more general problems of need versus qualifications as the main criteria for OED employment, and the desire of many members of the Tribal Council to tighten control over OED activities. These issues will be discussed in Section d. (Problems in Implementation of CAP Components).

(4) *Nursery School Component.*—Funding of the Nursery School component was first requested on 14 May 1965 and approved 30 June for \$157,765. Budget changes reduced the component director's salary from \$15,000 to \$8,640, and travel expenses from \$27,546 to \$19,015. Consumable supplies were reduced from \$9,155 to \$1,830 on the advice of an OEO education specialist.

Dr. Harold Abel (the child development specialist who helped with Day Care Center plans) had helped to design the component in the form in which it was submitted to OEO, and upon funding was officially retained as a consultant. The position of Director of the component was advertised, but there was difficulty finding a qualified person. Dr. Abel finally located Miss Marilyn Cole, who was approved by the screening board. She arrived in Pine Ridge on 29 August. Ten teacher aides had already been selected by the staff of the NYC component, which at that time consisted of two VISTA workers. The aides had already begun an eight-week session at the Indian Community Action Center in Tempe, Arizona.⁵ Two aide trainees were dismissed there, but the rest graduated successfully, according to Miss Cole.

After the initial group was in training in Arizona, OEO established another branch of the Three-University Consortium at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, and directed the OED to arrange for any further teacher-aide training to be done there. Another memorandum from OEO required that all aides hired thereafter be over twenty-one years of age. (A request that the minimum age requirement for aides be waived was refused on 27 August 1965.)

Difficulty in finding a qualified director and qualified teachers (who were also selected by Dr. Abel and approved by the screening board) delayed opening of the Nursery Schools. Another difficulty that caused delay was the problem of suitable buildings. The component application said that arrangements for space for the Nursery Schools would be made in the community buildings. The Tribal Council was willing that the buildings be used to house Nursery Schools, but there proved to be a resistance to this plan in the individual communities. Furthermore, work, such as the installation of plumbing, was needed on many of the buildings before Nursery Schools could be operated in them.

Some communities were reportedly reluctant to surrender partial control of their community buildings. The psychological value of the issue may be appreciated when one considers that the community buildings were virtually the only things that most communities had control over, that they were gathering places for community events, and that from the point of view of most Sioux, everything of value they ever had, individually or as a tribe, was taken from them by force or guile by whites. Some communities demanded rent for the buildings. Others agreed that the buildings be used on condition that the Nursery Schools pay all utilities and maintenance costs.

⁴ By way of background, the Wright-McGill fishhook snelling plant has been on the reservation for some five years, and continues to pay minimum wages despite promises of salary increases when they first came. They have reportedly hinted a number of times that the reservation needs them more than they need the reservation, and many tribal representatives have heeded this warning.

⁵ A branch of the Three-University Consortium located at Arizona State University.