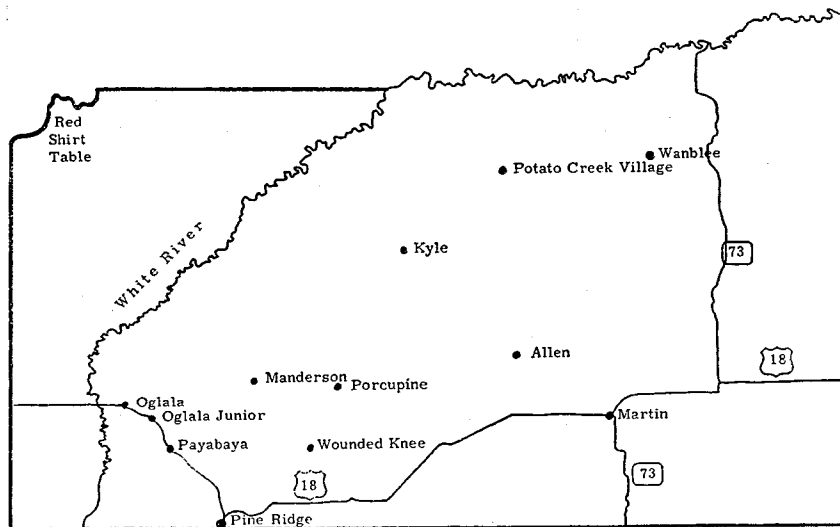


ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3925

OEO increases the holding (and pulling) power of the reservation. By equipping Sioux who are presumably the most able members of their communities with skills they cannot use on the reservation when OEO leaves (unless industry or other Government programs replace it), by trying to instill the values of the larger society in its employees, by operating programs like the Nursery School and the NYC that try to prepare the younger generation of Sioux for lives they could not lead on the reservation with its present lack of an economic base, the OEO makes it more difficult for Sioux to remain where they are.

Though local criticism and attempts to influence the programs in ways that may not be to the liking of OEO officials will probably continue and increase, to end the OEO on Pine Ridge would be one of the worst setbacks the reservation could receive. If OEO ends its effort there before an economic base has been developed, the hopes as well as the frustrations the program has aroused would be extinguished, leaving the reservation in a sense poorer than it was before.



PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA