

through this component, the fast-disappearing language. It is too early to determine whether interest is sufficient for successful programs of this type, though they are believed to have value in instilling pride in Indian background.

(4) *Remedial Reading Component.*—This component was designed to cope with the inadequate reading skills of White Earth students, who averaged fifth-grade reading ability at the time they entered the predominantly white high schools. It seems beyond question that this inadequacy is a major factor in high drop-out rates in high school. The program is entirely in the hands of the schools; the teachers have state certificates in remedial education and work in the school system. The program is little known to the general public, however, since only the student and his family are aware that he is receiving this educational bonus.

Results of first-year efforts in this remedial program were available from two schools, indicating a considerable increase in reading ability on the part of participants—ranging from a one- to three-year improvement. One of the participating schools was without a Remedial Reading program because of a conflict over choice of a remedial teacher, but the program will be operative there in the forthcoming academic year. In general, the program appears highly successful thus far, if not widely publicized.

(5) *New Components.*—Newly authorized components are too recent to be given consideration. The Home Management component is not operative for lack of a qualified home economist to fill the professional position. The Building Skills component, perhaps of the greatest in long-term importance, has been approved by OEO, but not by the various other Federal agencies who must participate in this operation. The Legal Aid component was not authorized by OEO because it had requirements unacceptable to the legal profession. The RBC then concluded, for reasons unknown, that the component was not needed.

d. CAP Problems at White Earth

(1) *Fundamental Problems.*—As seen by the general population, the most important local problem is unemployment in the vicinity of the reservation. While the CAP publicity, nationally and locally, has emphasized that CAP is a local community's program to solve its problems, it is generally agreed that CAP and the RBC are not coming to grips with the key problem at White Earth—viz., development of business and industry to provide general employment. There is widespread conviction that CAP efforts should be devoted to this problem. There is, moreover, conviction that the RBC, independently or through CAP, is not doing all that could be done to solve it. With respect to the RBC, some question the good faith of members as well as their competence to deal with such problems.¹¹

While the jobs made available to the poor are highly valued, it is universally held that the number of such jobs is inadequate to needs, since only a minor fraction of the unemployed are affected by CAP as far as employment is concerned. Indeed, more attention is given to the number of jobs created than to the goals of the projects for which the poor are hired. Many consider that CAP jobs are the "make-work" sort, less valuable than those of the WPA in the 1930's because they show no tangible results. It is felt that CAP jobs will last only as long as Federal financing and the specific programs continue, and that they do not provide training or experience of particular value in the normal labor market. Experience as a recreation or social work aide, without specialized training or education, is of little lasting benefit, according to thoughtful people at White Earth.

That some jobs have been brought to the community is favorably regarded by all, but the program "does not go far enough!" Criticism is made of comparatively high salaries paid to the professional and administrative staff, as indicated above, and many believe that these funds would be better spent in providing jobs for the poor. The professionals, they say, would be employed anyway, regardless of CAP. Many people are also convinced there is too much paperwork (which they term "Mickey Mouse work"), requiring too much of the time of too many people. Observations by project researchers would tend to support this view.

Inquiry was made of the two stores in White Earth town to determine the impact of CAP presence on this aspect of local economy. The storekeepers agreed that there were some increases in sales, but not of great significance. While CAP salaries are earned in the reservation communities, they are mainly spent in

¹¹ These statements reflect public opinion, which is often ignorant of what can be done by which organization in terms of legal and financial limitations. It is clear, however, that OEO-CAP publicity oversold itself to many people.