

conversant with the problems posed in education and were sympathetic to the Ojibwa students. A general attitude expressed was that education was the means for "uplifting" the Indians and bringing about assimilation and the end of the reservation, although not all were equally certain that this would occur in the foreseeable future.

Another common attitude held by several educators was that "there isn't much you can do with the Indians," or "it will take generations to change them." Some considered the Indians to be, with some exceptions, uneducable, and based this position on the fact that the educational system had succeeded with very few over a period of many generations. The senior researcher at White Earth suggests that this position is an apologia for "the system" and justification for failing to come to grips with the problem of providing necessary conditions and programs for the students in question. The educators holding this position were, not coincidentally, those who knew the Indian communities and families the least. If successful education at the elementary and secondary levels requires considering each student as an individual, these educators may themselves be a major reason for failure to adapt the system to the local needs.

The CAP programs were, on the whole, viewed as desirable by the educators. There is common recognition that the Indian student is considerably behind his white peers when he enters high school—particularly in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The disadvantage is critical at this point and is probably a major factor in influencing the drop-out rate. Since the major effort of the CAP was directed to improvement of education through the Remedial Education, Study Hall, and Social Work components, and the Recreation component was designed to remedy a deficiency in extra-curricular activities, the approval of the educators was to be expected.

Some educators regarded the existing programs as inadequate, citing a need for improvement in the family and local situations from which the students came. This was sometimes combined with a view that contributing to solution of background problems would contribute to dependency.

(6) *CAP as Seen by the BIA.*—The BIA (Minnesota Agency, Bemidji) was of great assistance in developing the Minnesota Indian CAPs. An official was detailed to work with the RBCs in developing programs that would meet the needs of the population as expressed through the RBCs, groups, and individuals. Meetings were conducted in collaboration with the RBCs at various points on the reservations to obtain views on what was needed. At the end of this phase, the BIA representative assisted the RBCs in drawing up formal proposals for submission to OEO. When these were returned with the newly developed forms, the BIA representative assisted the RBCs in their preparation. When action on the Minnesota Indian CAP proposals was stalemated in Washington, the BIA representative accompanied the tribal President and Treasurer to Washington to assist in the final steps needed for approval. After formal approval of the CAPs, the BIA assisted the various RBCs in locating potential CAP directors and staff.

At this point the BIA withdrew as an active agent in the CAPs. The BIA position had been one of assisting in development to the point that the CAPs were operational, at which point they left the RBCs in complete charge. The BIA believed in the necessity of Indian operation and responsibility, and did not choose to be accused of paternalism or interference. BIA officials, however, made it clear that they were ready and willing to provide any assistance possible at the request of the CAP staff or RBC.

The BIA Minnesota Agency is located approximately one hundred miles from White Earth village, so that visits by BIA officials are made only for specific purposes or on request from the RBC or other groups of officials. The BIA has supplied the CAP with census and other data, and is currently cooperating in the development of the Building Skills component and the proposed construction of housing.

The relationship of BIA and CAP is cordial and cooperative, within the limits imposed by distance and policies. Several of the BIA officials believed that the CAP offers the best opportunity for the improvement of Indian conditions, and expressed hopes that the RBCs and CAPs would take advantage of all aspects possible.

There is a tendency on the part of a number of individuals to maintain a social distance between the BIA and CAP, indicating hostility to the BIA, which is unfortunately blamed for many Indian problems for which it has had little or no responsibility. To the extent that CAP staffs do not utilize the available information and resources of the BIA they reduce the possibility for the betterment of Indian conditions.