

INTERDEPARTMENTAL REPORT ON ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS

I. BACKGROUND OF REPORT

PURPOSE

The fundamental question of this report—whether the responsibility for American Indian education should be transferred from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the U.S. Office of Education—was raised in April 1966 at a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10) to the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior. A request was made to

SUMMARY

Because education is inextricably linked to the other human service functions and because transfer of the education function would result in further fragmentation of the total spectrum of services now afforded American Indians by the Federal Government, the Departments recommend that the Bureau of Indian Affairs should retain the education function at this time, working in close cooperation with the Office of Education to develop a high quality program of Indian education. This recommendation also reflects prevailing Indian opinion.

Wherever the locus of responsibility resides, the Departments believe that the federally run Indian education program should be an exemplary system directed at providing the highest quality education to meet the special needs of Indian people. All resources required to achieve the desired goals should be made available. Accordingly, the Departments have carefully and deliberately compiled, with the assistance of Indian leaders and other knowledgeable persons and groups, a set of recommendations which should be given consideration in any serious effort to improve Indian education.