

of this role through the years, and the present status of Indian education. Perhaps the most descriptive and valid generalization concerning the history of Indian education is that the aims and efforts made to only limited responsibility for Indian education. The national policy toward Indians during this period was one of suppression and isolation on reservations while efforts were exerted by religious groups to Christianize Indians and to teach them farming, homemaking, and the three R's. Because the great majority of Indians did not accept education during this period, these efforts had little impact.

The year 1870 is often cited as the beginning of the reservation period, which has been characterized by varying degrees of Federal paternalism. With the exception of the religious emphasis, the growing role of the Government in Indian education after 1870 was directed toward the same goals as those prevailing during the previous period and with about the same success. The new policy statements of 1889 included the intention to "absorb Indians into our national life." This intent was manifest in education through the practice of separating Indian children from their families and sending them to attend boarding schools.

The appearance of the Meriam report, a survey of Indian social and economic conditions conducted during 1926-28, contributed to a change of attitude toward Indians. Greater emphasis was placed on self-government for Indian tribes, on an improved system of education, and on the cooperation of State and local agencies in Indian affairs.

SINCE 1960

During the period since 1960, Indians have been the beneficiaries of many new Federal programs which have come into being as a result of the increased national awareness of the problems of disadvantaged citizens. Among the agencies administering such programs are the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Economic Development Administration, and the Housing Assistance Administration.

The major thrust of the Bureau's educational program is to provide a high quality education which will prepare Indian children for life in the 20th century. This includes the teaching of communication skills,