

practicable time, and directed the Secretary of the Interior to present legislation in 1954 to accomplish this objective with respect to certain geographic areas and groups of Indians. California was one of the areas specified. Such a bill was introduced in 1954 and hearings held (Joint Hearings Before Subcommittees of the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, 83rd Cong., 2d Sess., S. 2749 and H.R. 7322), but no further action was taken. In 1958 the Rancheria Act was passed, which provided for the distribution of lands and assets of various rancherias and reservations in California.

The Department, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, had been preparing during the 50's for complete Federal withdrawal from the administration of Indian affairs in California. During this decade responsibility for education and welfare services for Indians was taken over by the state and its subdivisions. Under Public Law 280, supra, the state also assumed responsibility for maintaining law and order in the remaining areas of Indian country.

In sum, the policy of Congress and the Executive during the decade of the 50's was one of termination generally, with particular emphasis on California and certain other areas. It was into this ambience that the Equalization Act was launched in 1959. Although it was anticipated at the time by the Congress and the Department that the Federal trust responsibility for Indian lands in California would soon be terminated, the 1959 Act did not effect this and no further steps toward that end have been taken since.