

right to select fiduciaries of their choice, the Bureau in most instances took no part in the actual filing of petitions for appointment of guardians or conservators, despite the fact that the section states, "the Secretary shall request the appointment * * *."

In two instances the Bureau filed petitions but, as a result of administrative appeals to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the Indians concerned, the petitions were withdrawn and no conservatorships were established for them. Exhibit 1.

At the time of equalization there were in existence 60 guardianships and nine more were established. As noted, one adult member was already under conservatorship. Thirteen more adults were placed under conservatorships and 21 were determined capable of managing their own affairs. Age of the allottee appears to have been a determinative factor for appointment of conservators. Invariably conservators were considered necessary for young adults in their twenties.

Because of the then contemplated termination of Federal responsibility discussed above, it is understandable that the Department tacitly adopted standards of competency for the Indians and criteria for the selection of fiduciaries which were somewhat different from those it would have set up had it known that termination of the Federal trust relationship was not imminent. A person who might reasonably be expected to do a creditable job of handling the income is not necessarily capable of managing the corpus of his estate. Similarly, as long as a minor's wealth is principally in the