

The ink was hardly dry on the Equalization Act before Congress and the Department began receiving complaints from the Indians. In 1961, the Department reprimanded an attorney for conflict of interests arising out of his collecting fees from the lessee for services rendered the estate of an Indian in connection with the making of a lease.

In 1962, the House Committee on Government Operations made inquiries, and the Department, taking a narrow view of its residual responsibilities, conducted a truncated investigation of certain activities of Indian guardians and conservators and reported its conclusions to the Chairman in 1963. Exhibit 2.

Early in 1964, the Tribal Council transmitted an extensive list of grievances to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about the manner in which the program was being handled. Thereafter, in 1965, the Department appointed a Resources Trust Officer in the Palm Springs office to work informally with the Superior Court in its administration of the program and to inquire into past operations. In a June 1966 report to the Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento, the Trust Officer reported that in 1965 approximately 37 percent of the ordinary income--exclusive of income from sales of land--accruing to Indian estates was consumed by fees and other administrative expenses.

On July 19, 1966, the Area Director forwarded the report to Washington. It was returned in January 1967 for further work.