

In March 1967, Homer Jenkins, Director of the Palm Springs office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, addressed a letter to Judge Merrill Brown of the Superior Court in which he strongly objected to the appointment of James Hollowell as guardian of certain Indian estates and asserted that certain fees requested by Hollowell were unconscionable. Exhibit 3. At a subsequent hearing, Hollowell received the requested fees and appointments. Under date of April 11, 1967, Judge Brown wrote to Jenkins that he would no longer allow Bureau representatives to advise the court informally with respect to Indian guardianship and conservatorship matters coming before it. Exhibit 4. This exchange of correspondence occurred about the time Judge Brown's attempt to sell land to the estate of an Indian underguardianship aborted. The land sale proposal is discussed in more detail under Section II. C. 1. p. 24, infra. After these developments were brought to the Department's attention by Mr. Charles R. Renda, Regional Solicitor, Sacramento, in early May 1967, the present investigation was initiated by the Secretary who appointed this Task Force to look into the situation and report its findings. Exhibits 5-9.