

A special committee of the Desert Bar Association has been appointed for the purpose of making recommendations as to what should be deemed ordinary and extraordinary services. This same committee has been asked to suggest a fee schedule for attorneys for routine probate matters. However, much remains to be done along these lines if the present system is to be continued, and the modest improvements effected will quickly fade unless provision is made to continue the Departmental activities which produced them.

C. Control of Trust Funds

When the investigation was launched, the Secretary ordered all income accruing from Indian trust lands retained in the control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He authorized its return to fiduciary control at the discretion of the Area Director. Exhibits 6 and 9.

This assumption of control over lease income has required the close attention of the Task Force and the Bureau to assure that the financial needs of the Indians are met. Since the start of this investigation, 14 Indian estates have been restored to fiduciary administration. Since our preliminary report, no further action has been taken to restore additional estates, pending receipt and review of audit reports. If a new system of administration is not established, we recommend that the Bureau continue the work of reviewing the Indian estates with a view to returning administration of those which have been well and economically handled to the fiduciaries.