

CONCLUSION

The principal conclusion we draw from our investigation is that the guardianship and conservatorship system under which the property of a majority of the members of the Agua Caliente Band is being administered has been intolerably costly to the Indians in both human and economic terms.

While we must observe also that it has been extremely profitable for a few non-Indians, we would caution against being distracted by this fact from the essential vice of the system which, as stated, is its inordinate cost to the Indians.

It is important to keep in mind that the function of this system, on the economic side, is the conservation, development and production of the Indians' property. It is in terms of the performance of this function that it must finally be evaluated.

Quite apart from consideration of how honestly or efficiently it is administered, a system whose function is the production of property which consumes so large a part of what it produces in administrative expenses, in our view, must be judged aberrant.

On the human side, the function of the system is to equip the Indians to take over the management of their own property and affairs. Judged in terms of the performance of this function, we submit that it has failed even more distressingly than on the economic side. With few exceptions, talks with the adult members of the Band who have been subjected to it disclosed feelings of frustration, disgust,