

the allotments in accordance with the decision in the Segundo case. Equalization appraisals were undertaken in mid-1957. Concurrently, an equalization bill was drafted and discussed with the Band. The Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives held hearings in Palm Springs on the proposed bill in October of 1957. The Land Use Plan prepared by Victor Gruen and Associates was completed. On March 1, 1957, the Acting Secretary addressed a letter to the Area Director which modified previous instructions to some extent. It stated that general application of long term leasing regulations would continue to be delayed until approval of a master land use and development plan. However, long term leases would be approved under exceptional circumstances.

An item in the Desert Sun newspaper dated October 11, 1957, carried a headline that "Judge Charges Guardians of Indian Minors Lax". This article goes on to say "Superior Court Judge Hilton McCabe charging that guardians of Indian minors have been lax in administration of their duties, yesterday ordered the guardians of 30 minors and incompetents of the Agua Caliente Tribe to file within three weeks in his court a complete accounting." . . . The Judge went on to explain the recent changes in the leasing regulations wherein the guardians could assume additional responsibilities.

On February 21, 1958, Judge Hilton McCabe of the Riverside Superior Court, called a guardianship conference related to Indian land in Indio, California. Present at the conference were Associate Commissioner H. Rex Lee, Leonard M. Hill, Robert Cole, Credit Officer from the Phoenix Area, representatives of title insurance companies, local bankers, attorneys and others. The discussion covered many aspects of the Palm Springs problems but was concerned primarily with development of Indian land. Mr. Lee spoke at length on many aspects including the fact that the Congress had set termination as the goal in California. He stated that ". . . from an overall policy viewpoint that we are trying to channel these things into normal channels, and we want the court, the guardians, to take just as much responsibility as we, under the law, can possibly give them, so one of these days when Congress does pass a piece of legislation saying you get out of California this isn't going to be a sharp cut-off, the machinery will all be set up, and is going to be operating normally. I think that is the way any kind of termination has to be, it has to be an orderly transition. That is why we are encouraging this thing to move in normal channels, as you know." In discussing the guardianship situation in relation to California, Mr. Lee went on to state that "Now, I am delighted to hear these people feel that in California you have a practical law and a practical means of approaching this problem." In his closing statement, Mr. Lee said that, "We appreciate these guardianships, and I'm sure they will work out, Judge McCabe, if we sit down and face up squarely to the problems." Thus in early 1958, the Bureau was in full accord with the guardianship arrangements.

Later that year the Commissioner authorized the Director of the Palm Springs Office to petition the Court to establish Indian guardianships. In the summer of 1958, in further attempt to involve the business community in Indian land development, Mr. Lynn Lloyd, a former bank trust officer, was hired as a consultant to review long term leases. Guardianships continued to be established.

Until the Equalization Act was adopted in September of 1959, the Department and the Bureau issued regulations and took other actions to proceed with the equalization process in accord with the decision in the Segundo case. After the Act was passed, renewed efforts were directed toward equalization in accordance with the Act.

1960 AND AFTER

It is interesting to note that in a letter dated April 13, 1960, from Eileen Miguel, Chairman, Tribal Council, Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians to Congressman D. S. Saund, it is stated that: "Section 4 of the Equalization Bill provides that the Secretary shall request the appointment of a guardian of the estate of all minor allottees and for those adult allottees who, in his judgment, are in need of assistance in handling their affairs in accordance with applicable state laws before making any equalization allotment or payment to such persons. This Section had been requested by the tribe because it did not want the Secretary to arbitrarily make a determination concerning capacities of individual members without being subject to those limitations of competency embodied in the California law. In the new regulations proposed by the Secretary, designated as C.F.R. 124.5, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has expanded the admonition of the Congress to the Secretary to include the appointment of a conservator. This has