

servator. In spite of the difficulties, dedicated conservators with the help of an interested court, within a decade, brought order out of chaos.

Cooperation between the city of Palm Springs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the conservators gradually wiped out the slum by removal of scores and scores of shacks and other unsanitary makeshifts that blighted section 14 and discouraged potential developers. This started around 1960.

By 1961, the crime rate for the same section dropped from 48 to 12 percent.

At the same time, profitable leases were being negotiated, as evidenced by such developments as the Spa Hotel, the Villa Apartments, the Springs Apartments, Canyon Country Club, Canyon View Estates, the Pitts Indian Avenue development, Palm Ramon, and others.

Prior to 1960, yearly tribal income was a few thousand dollars. Today, it exceeds \$1 million. The Agua Caliente Indians have been lifted from their economic bondage. And, the exciting part of it is that their tremendous resources have hardly been touched. Their future is a happy prospect indeed.

Since 1965, I have had the pleasure of acting as conservator for Ray Leonard Patencio, the scion of one of our best-known Agua Caliente families. He is 21, married to a high school graduate classmate, and the father of two children. Recently, he moved his family into an attractive \$40,000 home in one of our best neighborhoods. Next week Ray will be graduated with an associate of arts degree from the College of the Desert.

Ray is only one of numerous young American Indians of the Agua Calientes whose educational, economic, cultural, and financial status has been skyrocketed from relative poverty during the past decade. He enjoys a tax-free income in excess of \$30,000 per year, and that will soon rise to \$50,000 per year.

In my opinion, the conservatorship program has accomplished a miracle. Like most conservators and guardians, I am proud of the gains that have been made and trust that this legacy, with its bright promise, is not shattered by premature conclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to recite my experience.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you for a very fine statement, Mr. Kettmann. You say you're postmaster now?

Mr. KETTMANN. I'm the acting postmaster.

Mr. BURTON. Did you have anything to do with Mrs. Miguel's missing ballot?

Mr. KETTMANN. It's pretty hard for me to answer that question.

Mr. BURTON. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TUNNEY. I have a few questions. Mr. Kettmann, did you have an opportunity to read the report of investigation which was conducted by a group from the Department of the Interior, that was transmitted by the secretary of the Palm Springs task force?

Mr. KETTMANN. I had an opportunity to view the investigation, and the audit of the Ray Leonard Patencio holdings only, and I'm familiar with that, with which I'm directly concerned. I haven't seen the total report.

Mr. TUNNEY. So, when you make a statement, and I guess it is on page 4 in your prepared statement, that "In my opinion, the program