

ligently determine what, if any, legislation is needed to assist the Agua Caliente Indians.

Immediately following last year's unwarranted statement by said Secretary Udall, the vast majority of people involved in the conservatorship program felt that it would be fruitless to fight city hall, so to speak, and thus have participated little, if at all, in the attempt to ascertain and present the true facts to you today. Those of us who are here are, however, interested as I stated before in letting you gentlemen know the conditions that do exist, so that the legislation which is adopted will be for the benefit of all concerned, and not merely continue in a hodge-podge fashion, the inept system now in existence for caring for the members of this tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Virtually the first act of the association was to determine the advisability of opening up an office in the city of Palm Springs wherein maps, aerial photographs, zoning ordinances; and all other pertinent documents relative to Indian lands could be maintained at one central location. We had hoped to staff this with a former retiring member of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who would be well-versed in the problems concerned with leasing and/or purchasing of Indian lands and we therefore had intended to nationally advertise the availability of these lands.

Our efforts to establish this office met with opposition immediately from the tribal council, who felt we were infringing upon their rights and who felt that the Bureau could handle this task more readily and publicly stated so. Unfortunately, the Bureau was not equipped either physically or temperamentally to aggressively promote Indian lands as our association had anticipated, that we would do. Having met with such stanch opposition from the tribal council, our plans in these regards died a natural death.

The first constructive activity undertaken by the association was in connection with proposed zoning of section 14 by the city of Palm Springs, Section 14, as you know, is wholly Indian-owned and is in the heart of downtown Palm Springs. The city council proposed zoning for this section. I, with my extremely limited experience in zoning, felt it was improper zoning, as it was too restrictive and oppressive. The association agreed with me and we engaged the services of Herman Raney, a city planning consultant and former planning director for the city of Palm Springs. At public hearings held by the city of Palm Springs in connection with the proposed zoning, Mr. Raney, on behalf of the association, violently objected to the zoning which was being offered, although the tribal council tentatively approved the zoning and the Bureau remained mute. After our initial objections, the tribal council engaged their own planning consultant who concurred with Mr. Raney and the association that the zoning was improper and too restrictive for the Indians. Part of the association's funds were spent for Mr. Raney's services and my services as an attorney as I collaborated with Mr. Raney in the preparation of some of the presentation.

Following the tribal council's engaging of their own consultant, the association had Mr. Raney finish the project. We presented Mr. Raney's proposal to the Bureau and then we withdrew from the activity because of the heated objections from the tribal council.

When the investigation commenced in 1967 by the special task force, headed by Robert L. Cox, from the public announcements made by