

TRANSFER OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES—NAVAJO TRIBE

Public Law 86-636

By 1960, there were 67 irrigation units located on the Navajo Reservation costing the Federal Government approximately \$200,000 annually to operate and maintain. The Navajo Tribe offered to take over this operation and maintenance.

Senator Anderson introduced legislation authorizing the transfer to the Navajo Tribe of title to these irrigation project works together with equipment usable for the operation and maintenance of the works. In addition, provision was made for the Department of the Interior to train Indians to take over and operate the project facilities. This legislation became law on July 12, 1960.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF OIL ON NAVAJO INDIAN LANDS

Public Law 84-857

Under existing law, subsurface storage of oil or gas on Indian land was prohibited except during the term of a lease in actual production. Underground storage was needed for conservation of oil and gas. This is permitted on Federally-owned land. The same authority on Indian land would afford the Indian land owners an income from the grant of storage rights, conserve valuable natural resources, and increase the available supply of oil and gas in the proximity of the storage project. This would be good for the economy of the Tribe. Senator Anderson sponsored legislation to repeal existing law.

REHABILITATION OF NAVAJO-HOPI INDIANS

Public Law 81-474

The Navajo and Hopi Indians had for some time desired that a long-range program be initiated for improving education, health, and the economy of these Indians. Senator Anderson immediately began conferring with the Department of the Interior when elected to the Senate, and as a result legislation was submitted to Congress to accomplish this. Senator Anderson joined with Senators O'Mahoney, Chavez, Hayden, and McFarland in sponsoring the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act.

The Act provided for a program to improve education and provide new facilities, improve health programs and facilities, improve irrigation systems, provide new water supplies, new roads, improvement of old roads, communication facilities, and housing. A total of \$108,570,000 has been authorized for this work. This Act has benefited these tribes probably more than any other single piece of legislation.

NAVAJO-HOPI REHABILITATION ACT AMENDED TO HELP GET NAVAJO HOUSING

Public Law 86-505

It became necessary to amend the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act of 1950 to allow the Tribes to lease land for more than 25 years so that they would be eligible for Federal housing in 1960.

Senator Anderson introduced legislation which provided for the issuance of 99-year leases by the Tribes so that lenders wishing to make loans to Indians for housing or for business purposes would consider reservation realty. Under this legislation the Federal Housing Administration would be able to lend or guarantee loans for housing located on reservation property. This bill ultimately became law on June 11, 1960.

INDIAN ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Public Law 85-740

One of the most critical needs on the Reservation to bring about economic improvement and to provide mobility to the Indians on the Reservation was roads. Senator Anderson stressed this need in passage of the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act.

In 1958 Senator Anderson joined with the Arizona Senators in passage of a special road bill that authorized \$20 million for construction of roads on the Navajo Reservation in addition to that provided under the Navajo-Hopi Act.

The result has been construction to State standards of Route 3, 168 miles long, from Gallup across the southern part of the Reservation to Tuba City, Arizona; and 200 miles of road from Shiprock, New Mexico across the Reservation to Tuba City to U.S. 89 near Cameron, Arizona.