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A NEW INDIAN POLICY

In announcing the appointment of a new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Secretary Wilbur outlined his policy of Indian administration. This policy has been considered by the board of Indian Commissioners, created by Congress to advise it on Indian problems, and has been given approval by that Board. It is as follows:

"The fundamental aim of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall be to make of the Indian a self-sustaining, self-respecting American citizen just as rapidly as this can be brought about. The Indian shall no longer be viewed as a ward of the Nation but shall be considered a potential citizen. As rapidly as possible he is to have the full responsibility for himself. Leadership should be given the Indians rather than custodianship. The Indian stock is of excellent quality. It can readily merge with that of the Nation.

"In order to bring this about it will be necessary to revise our educational program into one of a practical and vocational character and to mature plans for the absorption of the Indian into the industrial and agricultural life of the Nation.

"Decentralization of the bureau shall be brought about as rapidly as possible.

"Viewed over a term of years, the Indian agent, as such, with his abnormal powers, shall be dispensed with.

"Insofar as it is feasible, the problem of health and of education for the Indians shall become a responsibility of the various States. Certain assistance for these purposes should be provided the States wherever it is equitable and desirable to do so.

"New Indian schools should only be provided if it is not possible to merge the training of the Indian into the school system of the State. Insofar as it is possible, scholarships in the institutions of higher learning of the country shall be provided for those Indian boys and girls who are capable of going beyond the ordinary high school training.

"The educational program for the Indian should be placed under the supervision of the Bureau of Education.

"The health program should be placed under the Public Health Service.

"Insofar as it is possible, except on a few large reservations that are appropriate for a satisfactory life

for the Indians, there should be continued allotment of land with full ownership rights granted to the Indians.

"It shall be the aim to provide employment for Indians for all occupations possible in connection with Indian communities.

"The general policy should be to increase the facilities for the care and development of the Indian for a short period of time, with the general plan in mind of eliminating the Indian Bureau within a period of say 25 years.

"No new appointments should be made in the Indian Bureau except in following out the above program.

"Insofar as it is possible, general legislation and general appropriations from Congress shall be sought, rather than specific legislation for specific Indian groups or to solve individual Indian questions.

"A survey shall be made of all existing laws with which the Indian question is involved, so that proper laws can be drawn rescinding former actions which are no longer necessary, and an adequate legislative program developed for the future."—*Interior Department Memorandum for the Press.*

CONFERENCE OF INDIAN SCHOOL SUPERVISORS

The recent meeting of the Conference of Indian School Supervisors in Washington is reported in the U. S. Daily. Dr. H. B. Peairs, general superintendent of Indian education, introduced Commissioner of Indian Affairs, C. J. Rhoads, who welcomed the supervisors. Mr. Rhoads presented the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Joseph M. Dixon, who read the following letter from Secretary Wilbur.

There is no more important responsibility in the Department of the Interior than that of giving constructive training to the Indian population.

We have set out to develop them as rapidly as may be into self-respecting, self-supporting, normal American citizens. This means a real job for the teacher. The Indian boy and girl must be studied physically, mentally and psychologically, and educational methods adopted which will help to fit the grown-up into the life of the nation. We must stop spoon-feeding to adults and treat our present wards so as to set them free to handle themselves and their affairs. It is a compact, interesting task of the chance to try new methods of training. The traditional in our education can be passed by readily if we can find better means of doing our work. We must not defeat ourselves by persisting in old methods and old thinking.

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