

REPORT
of the
MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



to the
Honorable Wendell R. Anderson
Governor of Minnesota
and the
Members of the Minnesota Legislature

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Pursuant with the 1969 Minnesota Statutes Chapter 3; Section 3.922 the Indian Affairs Commission respectfully submits the following report to Governor Wendell Anderson and to the Members of the 1971 Minnesota Legislature.

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POPULATION

Minnesota's Indian population is estimated at 35,000, with another factor that 50% are located in off-reservation status. Significantly is the fact that mobility of today's transportation and with job availability within urban surroundings are prime reasons to this result.

In spite of the general lack of Bureau of Indian Affairs services this seems to be little deterrent to the urban move. Few however, are now actively seeking relocation services of the agencies and do have particular homing instincts to return to reservation areas whenever possible.

It can generally be construed that with some source of economic resource and job development in the proximity of the reservation would serve to not only retain people in their home environment but would provide a place to return.

We might note here also that the Indian minority is the largest minority in relationship to an estimated 30,000 blacks.

INTRODUCTION

As we mark the 21st year of the Minnesota Legislature's Indian programs it seems appropriate to use portions of the 1969-70 report to review the historical origin of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission embracing the legislation which was significant to the present day Indian programs. It also is worthy to note that in its 21st year a significant change in the general operations of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission has taken place, representing the coming of age of Indian programs within the State of Minnesota.

Among these changes is vital the effort of the Commission in functioning more as a service agency rather than as a mere information gathering agency for the legislature. These programs have perhaps taken the greatest strides in satisfying the demands of the Indian community toward accomplishing self-determination for the Minnesota Indian.

Among these factors, we might point to programs now in pilot operation which are meeting at least a portion of the needs of Indians, and are particularly significant as first efforts in developing an equality of status for the Minnesota Indian. These programs also are identifying resources and problems within the various communities, noting specifically that at least 50% of the Indian community has now become urban and the remaining 50% remains on reservations.

With these significant populations throughout our communities, it has been necessary to note that in most cases when the Indian has left the reservation and becomes urbanized the traditional services of the federal government are no longer available to him.

In addition, no specific program generally has been available to condition or acquaint this individual with available resources nor has there been any specific program to follow up in identifying the problems that this individual has encountered in attempting to become an urban resident. We point out that in many cases these individuals eventually find themselves on or winding their way to the welfare role, encountering the law enforcement problem or the corrections problem or to the school drop out problem. With this in mind efforts have been made to assist this individual as much as possible. At the same time the various agencies are being made aware that specific programs should be set up to not only condition but also to provide direct effort toward this individual's welfare in finding his place in society.

This road for this individual generally has great hurdles. Not only must he find adequate employment, but he must also find adequate housing, and in most cases he has had to resort more toward only available housing generally found in the most detrimental neighborhoods and in most cases has found that he has had to accept meager types of employment with very menial wages which provided only for a bare existence.

It is true that exceptions to the rule do exist and certain individuals have made very successful strides in society. It is also true that this has proved to be a "brain drain" to the reservations, and this in turn creates the stagnation of progress on these reservations because those people who were the most aggressive, generally, and those who were exercising the greatest amount of self-determination were the ones who were brave enough to attempt a stride toward their own self-determination by entering into a program of relocation.

In most cases because of the lack of economic opportunity within the proximity of the reservation they had to relocate in urban areas by necessity. It is for these people that the Indian Affairs Commission has made an effort to develop immediate programs toward developing total socio-economic improvement, and at the same time to develop programs in which an individual who wants to return to his homestead might find an improved condition to return to.

It is very true that these conditions become very real, become very drastic in some instances and contribute to the recidivism of our correctional institutions. They result in perpetuation of the low-income blight areas of the inner core and they also result in the augmentation of the drop out role within the educational systems. They also result in the augmentation of the unemployment role. Therefore they become a social dependent and not because of the lack of self-determination, not because of the perpetuation of the stereotype analysis of the lazy Indian and not because of the social problems which result in resorting to alcoholism.

In other words, what we are saying is that these are very real problems which must be dealt with on a total socio-economic base. The result should be then that all of the other factors are improved by these total improvements and it is with this in mind that we would hope this report could reflect the emphasis necessary in the participation necessary by the Minnesota legislature to provide the recommendations which we make in this report as avenues of approach toward a general improvement for the Minnesota Indian.

Your considerations are most necessary. The support of the total community is necessary. The support of all the Indian organizations is requested. The unity of all of the Indian community is vital. The social exchange of all of the systems of government is necessary, and cooperation of the State of Minnesota becomes the challenge through which we might achieve the development of these important Indian programs.

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

With the appointment of the present Executive Director, Artley Skenandore, on October 13, 1969, the Indian Affairs Commission has become occupied with an attempt to identify the problem, to establish resources available, to establish communication with the Indian community, to establish communication with the state agencies, to establish a liaison to the federal agencies, and to establish better communications in general.

The Commission immediately found itself very understaffed to produce and respond to the magnitude of the problem. With this in mind, immediate consideration was given toward finding additional program monies which would improve the staffing situation, which, in turn, would improve communications and provide a remedy to at least a portion of the problems.

Several meetings were attended within the Indian community. The Commission meetings were moved to various relative locations within the proximity of the reservations. Communications were made to point out and hear the problems within the various communities both urban and reservation. An immediate response was made wherever possible to the requests from the Indian community whether it would relate to not only civil and human rights but also where it would provide a technical assistance in the development of a program that could provide a resource for the reservations, for the urban community or in many cases, for the individual directly.

With the demand upon the Commission for these type of services, immediate consideration was given in researching available federal funds to develop programs which could at least provide a resource to which these people might turn. Efforts were made to identify available resources within the community such as private foundations, county, state, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Public Health Service and all such agencies which carry or did have responsibilities in specific problem areas.

Father Weger was employed in a position created by the establishment of a gift account as a "Resource Development Assistant". Funds were solicited from private sources and his salary derived from his own efforts. This served several purposes because most of the problems result from the usual problem, the lack of sufficient budget.

Although perhaps hampered by limited budget, a function now became a reality and additional services were then made a part of the Commission operation.

To list all of these meetings as a statistical exemplification of what the Commission has been doing would serve no purpose. However, on record are the numerous dates, the numerous locations, the numerous activities in which the Commission participated. Commission meetings were called in more locations, more rapidly than had been previously and with perhaps a greater participation from the community.

Immediate efforts were made upon initial implementation of the staffing to use Indians in making these self-determinations and therefore direct communications were made in most cases to the tribal leaders, to the organizational leaders, to the community in general for their involvement in what approach might be made to correct these serious situations. To realign the Indian Affairs Commission in providing more of a service, to realign the Commission in not only identifying the problem but in attacking it, to communicate with the agencies involved were the immediate efforts.

It was then that communication was established with the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the State Planning Agency. It was discovered that in spite of existing federal programs within the metropolitan areas such as Model City, Pilot City, the M.O.E.R. Board, that no specific directives, no specific programs were made to directly deal with the Indian problem. At this time that a proposal was drawn to Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of a study to identify the off-reservation Indian housing problem with specific emphasis on program development, on technical assistance, on community organizational effort. It is with approval of this request that the first funding was made available to augment our staffing and to begin direct involvement in the identification of one of the major problems - housing.

A second proposal was immediately made after identification of another grossly neglected area within the field of law enforcement: the lack of communication between the community and law enforcement for both off-reservation and reservation Indians. And it is with this problem in mind that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was approached, and a proposal made for a specific program which through the efforts of the Commission, then became a reality, and additional staffing was placed within the Commission.

Again another problem is being attacked, identified, with capable staff directed toward a specific problem. Solutions may not always be immediately forthcoming. However, we have a very professional staff working daily to solve or find remedies and to make reasonable approaches toward a solution. It is hoped that eventually with the continuation or with the augmentation of this program, we will again alleviate a very critical problem among the Minnesota Indians.

A third approach was then made in which the development of an Indian Offender Rehabilitation Project occurred. Again with exchange of information and the cooperation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a funding source was made available through the Georgetown University. Here again with the proposal written, a problem was being attacked with the specific objective of reducing the recidivism of Indian offenders or releasees from the state correctional institutions.

With efforts to identify the resources for these releasees, a liaison man is now employed by the Commission with funding from Georgetown University. His duties are to assist in developing release programs, to develop and identify available resources, to provide whatever resources are available, to identify agencies and to relate as an Indian. As an ex-offender, he is able to attain the confidence of these individuals; to show them that society is willing to work with them and to receive them as citizens, and to rehabilitate them back to successful participation within the mainstream of life.

This program is relatively new and again its success cannot be determined on short evaluation. However, it is felt that this is a marked improvement toward reducing recidivism which in most cases within the Indian community has had the result of perpetuation of the stereotype. Despite paying his debt, the individual is punished by society through lack of confidence and failure to extend the available resources generally looked upon as society's normal contributions.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Commission be given departmental status as the Department of Indian Affairs or in lieu an equivalent departmental status as a legislative commission. This is to permit more direct implementation of programs for Indians with sub-contractual authority in redirecting this agency in service oriented programs.
2. Legislation be enacted permitting State Banking agencies to give some consideration for loan availability to tribes, tribal organization and individuals accepting leasehold interests on tribal restrictive status lands with same provisions as are provided now in federal statutes for Veterans Administration and Farm Home Administration loan processes.
3. Legislation be enacted to provide for return of administrative control for Wild Ricing to the proper jurisdiction of the Minnesota Indian.
4. Establishment of a state funded resource providing for low interest loan availability establishing a fund for total economic development for Indian tribes, groups, organizations or individuals.
5. Education scholarship base be increased to adequately provide for increased operational costs of higher education and that the criteria for limitation be examined to better meet the needs of the student.
6. Administrative realignment be made to provide staff assignments to the Indian Affairs Commission positions in Economic Development and Human Rights to be operated from the Commission office.
7. Legislative enactment to establish permissive action for the creation of Legal Services for the Minnesota Indian on a statewide base.
8. Legislative enactment be made to codify in the Minnesota Statutes all treaties enacted with the Minnesota Indian.
9. That by legislative enactment one week, preferably the week of May 10-15, be set aside as Indian Week for the State of Minnesota to be observed annually.
10. That legislation be enacted to provide equality in welfare policy for the Indian, and that some form of emergency relief be made for counties on or near reservations where economic equality is out of balance.

EDUCATION

Problem: The Commission has established a sub-committee to research and identify the problems in education in cooperation with the Indian Advisory Committee to the State Department of Education. Much perhaps can be said in regards to the inadequacies of our systems as they may relate directly to the Indian picture presented by today's curriculum. However, this is representative of only a small segment of all the related factors involved.

The magnitude of the problem can best be interpreted by the significant drop out rate being experienced by Indian.

Many approaches have been made toward possible solutions to this, and we can perhaps only speculate on the effectiveness of our recommendations. The total economic background of a community is involved. Attitudes, community involvement, leadership, and facility are all major factors. A comprehension of educational development the Indian community previously experienced through federal policy, cultural differences, and the Indians desire for the preservation of basic values is necessary.

It is not then unusual that they should desire their own involvement toward the improvement of a system by which the future rests so heavily.

The Commission has participated in many meetings and conferences regarding education. The approach has always come to much the same conclusions perhaps in different priority, but materially have the same basic factors.

1. Increase scholarship base with minimum criteria requirement.
2. More Indian involvement in administrative policy and procedure of per capita assistance being given Minnesota school systems.
3. Curriculum improvement given proper perspective to Indian History and the positive contributions that were made in development of Minnesota with Indian consultation.
4. Broaden the youth development programs to better conditions which youth participation could be encouraged.
5. Require local school systems to include Indian representation on school boards where per capita ratio indicates a high per centage Indian students.
6. Recognition of Tribal government as units of municipal status with equivalency to townships or municipality.
7. Broaden and expand the department of Indian Education to better provide services to the Indian student.
8. Provide equivalent facilities for educational development and extra curricular activities for the Indian community.
9. Provide uniformity of policy in the use and control of Johnson O'Malley funds assuring proper use for the Indian student.
10. Develop community involvement with advisory boards to all parent-teacher relationships as well as school administration.
11. Develop programs to entice a greater production of Indian educators and including school administration.

INDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Commission in cooperation with Commissioner Paul Keve of the Department of Corrections established an Indian Advisory Committee. The purpose and goals of this Committee shall be to advise the Department of Corrections regarding any of its activities that impinge upon the interests of Indians.

Preliminary organization included the establishment of an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of the selection of membership. Representation of the urban and reservation community were made based on interest and not an organizational delegation.

Continuity of operation was the first concern and although the lack of funding source provides the greatest obstacle, progress is being made.

A proposal was submitted to the Governor's Crime Commission for operation funds but to date no appropriation has come forth.

The method of operation would be to make periodic visits to each of the institutions and consult, visit with staff, administration, and the Indian community. Purpose of the visits would be to keep abreast of the feelings of the Indian community and to keep open lines of communication already in existence as well as recommendations for change.

Though these may not always be practical, at least confidence might be extended to develop favorable approaches with the operation of all concerned.

We can be hung up on the punishment but if recidivism is the result, what then is our accomplishment?

Cooperation by concerned Indians in assisting their incarcerated brothers is clear evidence that the incarcerated need and will get help.

WELFARE

The Commission has had several occasions to experience complaints from reservations regarding equality of standards in welfare distribution.

It is true of course, that counties that are on or in proximity of reservation areas have a low tax base economically. However, little cognizance is given to the fact that federal subsistence given in support of these reservations as well as the burdens being carried by supportive programs and U.S. Public Health facilities presently also help these counties.

Cooperative approaches to these problems by both the community and the reservation have proven most beneficial as can be evidenced by Beltrami County. The Commission had occasion to accompany such an approach in conjunction with Red Lake and Beltrami County. Although no fruitful solutions were found, at least a cooperative effort was made through many meetings which should bring the problem to the state for additional study of the systems.

We would recommend that a diligent effort be made to effect some procedure to provide for such low economic areas, making possible emergency relief to equalize systems operating on formulas not consistent to statewide standards. It is also a vivid example whereby reservations are still pockets of poverty and do not enjoy the equivalent of even the minimum National base of poverty level income (\$3,000 per individual).

This startling fact still looms before us in spite of a lot of facts and figures about preferential treatment of Indians.

Plans are presently underway to contact all of Minnesota's Tribal Indian leaders to urge them to give us information in their local areas as to needed changes in the welfare system.

It is hoped that this Commission can be of material assistance in the implementation of new social welfare programmed on a state level.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of the major factors contributing to the Minnesota Indian problem has been the lack of sufficient economic base within or in the proximity of the reservation. Even with great strides made by federal assistance programs there has not been enough permanent or long range development created for community job development.

Indians have the same homing instinct as any other individual and culturally maintain extremely strong family relationships. It is therefore natural to desire to remain close to the economic base which has been the Indians prime possession - land. The Commission has found that this is the preference of not only the tribal officials but the Indian community as a whole. This consensus is expressed by the urban Indian as well. It is simply to develop some stable economic base at the reservation level in order to provide incentives to stay or a place to return to.

Without some stable job it is then found that the cycle of difficulties begin which have the result in the stereotype so familiar to the non-Indian society.

Economic reasons again loom as the greatest hurdle. The criteria of federal programs with 20% participation requirement or even as high as 50% serves to stymie efforts of development.

Providing expertise in the processing has helped. However, it all depends on the availability of some entrepreneur willing to make such a venture. It is well to point out the need for seed money or flexibility in loan procedures without jeopardy to trust status of tribal lands. These avenues are definitely needed. There is prospect of some relief in the near but not immediate future.

Cooperation of the State Department of Economic Development has been difficult to obtain because reservation development involves a great deal of inter-department relationship in a multitude of bureaucracy. The Commission takes the position that the unique situations of reservation development require special attention.

We further need the total involvement of all available resources with perhaps some corporate vehicle to which the Commission may develop on a statewide basis not restricted to serve individuals, groups, organizations and tribal governments. The resources should also be established to make available extensive industrial exploration jointly with the State Department of Economic Development pointing out certain advantages available based on minority participation.

Business has not had the opportunity to evaluate locally some of these potentials and the Commission proposes meetings be established to not only lure potential entrepreneurs but also to give the tribal officials a chance to relate directly through involvement.

Training should be explored in great extent to provide not only the job development but also the management and operation of these financial ventures. The human resource of professionals-though limited-is definite and possible with proper development. Much can be done in the utilization of para-professionals in this respect and therein lies a tremendous potential not previously put to full use.

Emphasis in economic development cannot be overly done since the factors in all other diversions have a tremendous overbearing in stability of economy. Additional studies are presently in process for other contributing bases such as tourism development, marina development, wild rice enterprise, arts and crafts, mini-markets, small business, housing, motel management, franchise management, and any type of business which would contribute to the economy of any other normal community.

NEED FOR STATEWIDE LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

There is presently a great need for a much more comprehensive legal services project in the state of Minnesota.

Moreover, the need is expanding even faster than the population growth would dictate and will continue to grow due mainly to the poverty increase engendered by rising costs and job losses and the creation of even more and even deeper poverty.

The overall purpose of the legal services is to insure to every poor person who qualifies, the right to be advised and assisted by legal counsel. In short, to insure everyone equal treatment under law.

Presently the only Indian rural legal services is on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, based at Cass Lake, Minnesota. This particular project has made great gains in the areas of protecting reservation persons from unjust encroachment by badly motivated business people and justice of peace courts which were at times unfair in their treatment of reservation persons accused of crimes.

Of great interest was a case brought in the Federal District Court of Minnesota for the purpose of upsetting the present Minnesota Conservation laws relating to the rights of Indians to hunt, fish, trap and take wild rice without regard to the seasons presently set by the legislature.

The deciding of this case in favor of Minnesota Indians will ease much of the present food poverty on the reservations by permitting the reservation persons to use their time-honored and tested ways of providing in part for themselves.

Also, presently there exists a public defender system designed for indigents which in many areas works quite well, but it is usually for the purpose only of criminal defense whereas the legal services project is involved in every area of legal help possible. Indians and poor are especially susceptible to fraudulent sales, sales of shoddy merchandise, unconscionable contracts, outrageous repossession tactics and collection practices.

Further, the representation of people who have had their custody rights challenged are a major concern of legal services people.

Needless to say, of particular interest are the Indian reservations of Minnesota. These areas were designated for Indians by the civil and military authorities of many years past and were areas far from the mainstream of civilization and always in an area of poor or marginal timber and land. These areas with no employment or business opportunities have become real pockets of poverty, of the kind which breeds crime and delinquency, thus increasing the need for a system of legal representation responsive to the total needs of these persons and areas.

As an example of this it is well to look at the present inmate population of Minnesota's two major penal institutions, namely St. Cloud Reformatory and Stillwater Prison.

In both of these institutions the Indian population is very close to 10% and yet the Indian population in Minnesota in relation to the general population is approximately 1%.

The benefits are obvious: better representation of all underprivileged persons by attorneys who are above pressures of local officials; class actions on behalf of large groups of persons; the creation of a better image of the law as it relates to the underprivileged, and the use of the law as a tool rather than a club; employment cases, welfare cases and administrative agency cases such as workmen's compensation, social security, veteran's administration and unemployment compensation.

In a day and age where there is much emphasis on law and order and on representation of indigents the need is so great that it should be considered on a statewide basis. A competent and dedicated lawyer to advise and aid all qualified persons should be within their reasonable reach.

ANNUAL REPORT ON HOUSING

It has been estimated that there are 35,000 Indians in the State of Minnesota. Of this number the distribution is 17,000 in the three metropolitan cities, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

The chief problems of off-reservation Indians are unemployment, housing, and health. The housing problem is a major one, and the Indian Affairs Commission together with Minnesota State Planning Agency has gotten some "701" HUD funds for planning a program to attack the problem.

The purpose of the "701" program is to provide initial effort in coordinated program planning to meet special needs of the Minnesota Indian in urban and off-reservation areas.

We have contacted practically all of the Indian groups in the Twin Cities for available contacts in housing. In addition, we have contacted Model Cities; and Pilot Cities personnel. We have also contacted Housing and Redevelopment Agency personnel in the Twin Cities, Bemidji, Brainerd, Park Rapids, and Walker, Minn. The data we have compiled is attached as a separate part of this report.

With the involvement of urban Indians we have been able to pinpoint several problems encountered in housing.

They are as follows:

1. Slum housing -- often the only type available.
2. Overcharging of rent.
3. Poor maintenance of housing.
4. Overcrowding.
5. Outright prejudice and discrimination.
6. Lack of proper garbage disposal and removal.
7. No rodent or bug extermination.

In the matter of problem attacking the Indian Affairs Commission has been actively involved in two housing proposal projects and one proposal for obtaining Community Aides in housing. We have lent support in attempts by the Minnesota Council of Churches, Department of Indian Work, Minneapolis, to unify different Indian groups. Under the auspices of this "umbrella agency" we have lent technical assistance in preparing proposals to the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in areas of pre-employment orientation, Recreation and Avocation, and Housing. The assignment of projects was made as follows:

1. Pre-employment Orientation - Indian Advancement Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
2. Recreation and Avocation - American Indian Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
3. Housing - American Indian Movement, Minneapolis, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The proposed budget is as follows:

1. Pre-employment orientation	\$ 45,780
2. Recreation and Avocation	31,920
3. Housing	47,300
4. Administration of the above by Indian Affairs Commission	<u>5,000</u>
	\$130,000

The projects will be overseen by, and administration will be under, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission. Administrative costs will be for accounting, record keeping and monitoring by the Commission. The proposal was submitted through the Employment Assistance Branch of the Minneapolis Bureau of Indian Affairs office on December 4, 1970.

The Department of Indian Work (Minnesota Council of Churches) through Mr. Emmanuel "Hap" Holstien has been instrumental in coordinating efforts to begin a cooperative housing project with a move to obtain the old Minneapolis South High School site bounded by Cedar Avenue, E. 24th St., 18th Avenue South, E. 25th St., E. 25 1/2 St., and Trunk Highway No. 55, an area comprising approximately 13 acres. At present the sponsor (DIW) is bidding for this site in competition with about seven other groups. Supporting the Department of Indian Work are members of American Indian Movement, Upper Midwest Center, American Indian Center, and other concerned Indians. The Indian Affairs Commission is lending support and technical assistance. Architects have been engaged to prepare plans and drawings for submittal of a proposal package. The group is tentatively in process of employing a builder for the project. Townhouses are the type proposed for this project of approximately 180 to 220 units.

We have assisted in preparation of a proposal and budget for submittal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C., by the Department of Indian Work in the amount of \$18,750.

This grant would be used for hiring of a consultant and five Community Aides by the DIW. The persons hired would assist in community housing surveys and project activities directly related to overcoming housing problems.

In other activities involved in problem-attacking the Commission has investigated several cases where discrimination allegedly occurred in housing. To cite two examples: In August, 1970 our office was contacted by telephone in a situation where a Sioux Indian from Ft. Yates, North Dakota, who is now living in Minneapolis, paid one-half month's rent. This man does not have the facial characteristics of an Indian and is light in complexion. He sent his wife over to look at the apartment by herself and he sent the receipt for the one-half month's rent. The landlord, upon seeing the Indian woman, stated the unit had been rented. She then asked for the money back. She showed the landlord the receipt, he grabbed the receipt and stated she could not have the money back because she could not prove now that she had ever paid it. The husband contacted our office and we were set to act in the matter when the man called again and said he didn't want to start any trouble over the incident. He dropped the matter.

On September 26, 1970, we received a complaint on housing by a lady from St. Paul, Minnesota. She was in process of moving and had moved half of her furniture. She had paid half of her month's rent from September 15 through September 30, 1970.

- | | | |
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| 9. | American Indian Movement
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| 10. | Minneapolis CEP
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| 12. | The Four Winds
Mounds, Minnesota | Ron Libertus |

An overall internal document and planning guide with recommendations for action is in effect. Our present recommendations are as follows:

1. That the Bureau of Indian Affairs establish a new office for Off-Reservation Housing with forwarding of revised supplemental budget to cover immediately.
2. That a Minnesota State Housing Department be established.
3. That new laws be drafted for a State Housing Code and Tenants Rights.

	No. Units For Elderly	No. Units For Family	Units Occupied by Indians		Applications for Admission to Housing			
			Elderly	Family	Elderly	Family	Elderly Ind.	Family Ind.
Mpls. HRA 217 S. 3rd St. Mpls., Minnesota * non-payment o/rent	3914	1363	3	71	693	590	1	63
Housing & Redevel- opment Auth. of St. Paul	2702	1431	6	35	346	660	1	24
Housing & Redevel- opment, Duluth, Minn. 301 E. 2nd Street	296	589	None	5	None	718	None	10
Housing & Redevel- opment Auth., Bemidji, Minnesota	100	None	2	None	400	None	4	None
Housing & Redevelop- ment Auth. 410 S. 1st Street Brainerd, Minnesota	162	None	None	None	38	None	None	None
Housing & Redevelop- ment Auth. Park Rapids, Minn.	70	None	None	None	50	None	None	None
Housing & Redevelop- ment Auth. Walker, Minnesota	32	None	2	None	11	None	2	None
TOTAL	7276	3383	13	111	1538	1968	8	97

No. Eviction of Indians	No. Indians on Staff	Do You Plan to Hire Indians?	List Contacts w/ Indians	List People Who Work w/ Indians
1	3	No Direct Plan	All	Dennis Banks Dennis Morrison
None	None	No Direct Plan	Many	None Listed
None	None	No Direct Plan	Direct Referrals Only	Duluth Indian Action Council
None	None	No Direct Action Plan	None	N.A.
None	None	None	None	N.A.
None	None	None	None	None
None	None	None	None	None
TOTAL 1	3			

INDIAN CORRECTIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission has endeavored to accelerate services for the Minnesota Indians and has proposed several programs of which the Indian Correctional Rehabilitation Program would have an integral part in an already existing program. The Indian Advisory Committee to the Department of Corrections, which has already been established, can serve as one of it's supportive functions. The Indian Affairs Commission has sincere concern in the delivery of not only services but in it's overall duties, is an information gathering agency but with a priority as a service oriented agency which is a new scope for the operations of this agency. The Commission is composed of not only state representatives, but also representation of the Indian community from the various areas of the state as well as from the various urban communities. The contacts that the Commission members and Commission staff have with the Indian community in the state of Minnesota will be utilized to the fullest possible extent and sincerely fosters the principle of Indian self-determination and provides for the development of leadership within the Indian community and the utilization of Indian people in the conduct of it's activities which would be an integral part of this proposal as well.

It is fully recognized that the abilities, skills, and leadership of the Indian community have not been utilized to its fullest extent. Therefore, any program that can serve to develop this skill, or this resource, should certainly have the greatest amount of consideration. It is difficult to establish particular priorities of need for improvement in program planning. However, it is also recognized that any area of improvement is of necessity for the benefit of the Indian economy, environment and social development. The Indian Affairs Commission is composed of three state representatives, three senators and eight Indian representatives of which consist the Chairman of the Redlake Reservation, the Chairman representing the Sioux community, the Western Chippewa composed of White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs the Eastern Chippewa representing Fond du Lac, Grand Portage and Nett Lake reservations, and with appointed representatives from St. Paul, two from Minneapolis and one from Duluth. The staff of the Commission is represented by the Executive Director, Research Assistant, Resource Development Assistant and Secretary. With two federal programs presently within our administration which consist the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Grant with a staff of three and the Housing and Urban Development Program with a staff of three.

PURPOSE

For planning, development and operation of a one year demonstration project to provide services to Indians currently in custody in federal and state penal institutions within the state of Minnesota.

These services will include assistance and pre-release, counseling and planning, employment, vocational and educational training and other forms of assistance designed to assist the parolees to make the transition from the institution to the community in a positive manner. It is felt that with the present existence of the Indian Advisory Committee to the Department of Corrections serving the purpose of protecting any impingement of the rights of the Indian community within the institution or within the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections would only further serve the purpose of not only providing the service but also establishing the link necessary for the transition from the institution to society.

RECRUITMENT

- (1). The individual selected for the position should be an Indian familiar with problems of Indians in his community, the resources which may be available to assist him, and should, if possible, be familiar with the criminal justice system in his jurisdiction. He should preferably be an ex-offender.
- (2). Where possible the individual selected should have given some indication of his or her ability to function in society and have overcome some of the disabilities which can lead to a criminal record.
- (3). The individual selected should have the confidence of the diverse Indian community and should be able to relate to those other segments of the community which could be important in providing services for his clients.
- (4). The individual selected must be willing to undergo training and accept supervision from the center and advice from others familiar with working with offenders.

- (5). Loners or social isolates, or those deeply alienated from society do not engender a climate conducive to relationships of trust and confidence. Care must be taken in the selecting of individuals who cannot, or will not, relate to individuals with different backgrounds.
- (6) Severly retarded individuals, those with prolonged histories of homosexuality or drug addiction and those with a clinical diagnosis of a psychotic condition should not be considered for a position as Community Coordinator without being carefully screened. In addition to knowledge about their personal background one method of screening could be reports of those who have worked with or supervised the individual or observed him in community or group situations.

TRAINING

- (1). Since most clients will be under probation or parole supervision, the Community Coordinator must understand the problems of parole and probation officers and be able to relate to them in such a manner that the interests of his client do not suffer. Where feasible, local parole and probation officers should participate in the training sessions.
- (2). The Community Coordinator must be aware of and understand the various community resources which may be applicable to his client and may serve his client's needs. Where feasible, individuals from these community resources should participate in the training sessions.
- (3). Where necessary the Community Coordinator may act as a representative of the client in dealing with some of his community problems or may, if the offender is unable to cope with them, physically accompany the offenders to a particular agency or organization.
- (4). The Community Coordinator should be prepared to act as a catalyst in easing additional barriers between the community and the offender.
- (5). If the Community Coordinator encounters serious problems with which he cannot cope he should contact his center, and where necessary the supervising probation or parole officer.
- (6). Community understanding of the role the Community Coordinator is playing may be obtained by arranging for invitations to speak before civic, business, student, labor and professional groups.

BUDGET

Proposed budget of the Indian Correctional Rehabilitation Program.

Salary:	Community Coordinator, including fringe benefits. (per year)	10,000
	Secretary, part-time, including fringe benefits.	2,750
	Travel, eight institutions.	2,500
	Office expenses, supplies, equipment rental.	750
	TOTAL	<u>\$16,000</u>

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Community Coordinator to follow the guidelines as outlined in recruitment of an individual familiar with the problems of institutions and having been a previous offender and having met the requirements for selection.

Secretary - part-time, \$2,750. - The Commission in the development of the program feels that utilizing existing staff within a related program could eliminate a full time position and therefore the necessity for only part-time secretarial services under extreme load conditions within the salary range of \$2,750. The present secretarial staff of three within the Commission could function until the actual development of extreme load conditions would make it necessary to employ additional help.

Travel - \$2,500. - The Commission would devote and provide a portion of the travel as will be necessary in the conduct of other programs which would be related whereby duplicate travel could be eliminated therefore justification for a minimal budget for travel.

Office Expenses, supplies, and equipment rental - \$750. -
Again the Committee feels that with existing facilities, office space, existing equipment and related programs that a minimal amount is necessary for the actual implementation of office routine and that it would not be necessary for a great outlay of expense on equipment for this operation.

PARAGRAPH NOTE

The Indian Affairs Commission already in operation with existing staff, with an office facility as an integral part of the state operation could provide the maximum amount of service to develop and facilitate for the Indian Correctional Rehabilitation operation and therefore could deliver the greatest amount of services for the amount of expenditure.

Supervision would be rendered by the Executive Director of the Indian Affairs Commission and selection of the Community Coordinator would be made in the unclassified category of civil service within the normal appointment procedures.

In-kind contribution could be shown in actual monetary amounts but since guidelines did not specify we are able to justify at least the 20% requirement with services and facility being provided.

The Indian Affairs Commission would serve in supervision along with the normal audit requirements of state financial control. This would be in addition to program reporting procedure.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INDIAN OFFENDER REHABILITATION
PROJECT AFTER SIX WEEK'S OPERATION

IT'S PROGRESS:

The Indian Offender Rehabilitation Project has progressed to the point where recently released offenders can now be handled in an efficient manner. That is, there have been numerous community resources developed and made available to the offenders who find need for them upon their release from penal institutions.

DEVELOPING POSITIVE ATTITUDES:

What the offenders found as an alien situation in the past, and conditions with which they were totally unfamiliar, have changed somewhat. The situations and conditions which were unfavorable to the releasees in their endeavor to form a positive attitude in their initial trial with rehabilitative thought, have now changed to the point where the releasee can now find confidence in himself. This confidence has been brought about by the mere fact that the offender, immediately upon his or her release, finds someone in the community who is apparent in his concern that the ex-offenders succeed.

When the offenders have established this type of confidence in themselves, they have a foundation from which they may work. This foundation works as an example, or measuring stick, of worthwhile things they have done which can be used in self-evaluation from time to time.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES -- AS APPLIED TO THE PROJECT:

The resources which have received priority, to date are: housing, financial assistance, and employment.

Of these priorities, employment appears to be the one that stands out as the number one need for the recently released offender. The economic condition of the nation has not helped in the situation whatsoever.

The next priority is financial assistance. The existing facilities for aid in this area are found to be inefficient.

OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE:

As more facts and figures are compiled, the means for bringing about a better result in Indian Offender Rehabilitation will be brought forth.

ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM

The Commission has participated actively in promotion of Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs for Indians of Minnesota. The mere cognizance of the detrimental factors facing the Indian community in not having socio-economic equivalency tends to cause a great percentage of the alcohol problem. Education levels certainly contribute a major portion of the Indians weaknesses toward evasion of reality.

However, many do not care to delve into contributory reasons for the high incidence of not only alcoholism but now the drug problems as well.

These same factors are perhaps the greatest contributors to the startling statistic of having the highest incidence of suicide. Sufficient enough to reduce even life expectancy statistics to a national average of only 44 years of age.

The Commissions involvement has assisted in the formation of the National Indian Council of Alcohol and Drugs which although now incorporated has had great problems. The usual major factor has been the availability of funding. Federal involvement has aired the problem but with little or no actual assistance to perpetuate any implementation of any corrective solution or constructive development of programs.

We again feel that a greater confidence can be instilled to the afflicted when they can relate to Indian involvement.

It is true that various local programs are underway and to various degrees of success. However, no organized programs is yet being made available on a statewide base.

It is the Commissions desire to eventually develop such a program.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PROGRAM SUMMARY AND FUND EXPENDITURES

Code		Actual FY 1968-69	Actual FY 1969-70	Approved Budget FY 1970-71	Expenditures thru 12-31-70
01	Full time employees (3 employees)	\$ 8,623.50	\$18,787.74	\$28,134.87	\$ 12,962.47
02	Part time employees	.00	184.00	.00	.00
04	Boards & Commissions	70.00	90.00	.00	.00
12	Repairs & Maintenance	13.50	287.68	300.00	30.45
13	Bonds and Insurance	10.00	.00	.00	.00
14	Printing and Binding	66.61	352.16	1,300.00	157.45
20	Communication	366.21	1,363.50	1,957.00	769.79
21	Travel and Subsistence	1,650.94	6,574.95	12,800.00	2,557.21
30	Stationery & Office Supp.	93.96	1,065.58	800.00	335.64
33	Scientific & Educ. Supp.	2.00	.00	.00	.00
43	Contributions, Bounties & Rewards (MSRS, FICA)	866.29	1,597.01	2,088.00	841.77
48	Hosp. & Med. Ins. Prem.	150.00	279.45	565.00	209.09
53	Furniture, Furnishings & Fixtures	.00	595.23	1,000.00	571.50
54	Educ. & Scientific Supplies	.00	119.15	.00	.00
TOTALS		\$11,913.01	\$31,296.45	\$48,944.87	\$ 18,435.37

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
INDIAN REHABILITATION PROJECT
PROGRAM SUMMARY AND FUND EXPENDITURES

Code	Actual Receipts To Date	Expenditures thru 12-31-70
01 Full time employees (1 Community Coordinator)	\$ 5,937.00	\$.00
02 Part time employees (1 Clerk-typist)	1,547.00	.00
10 Rents and Leases	150.00	.00
17 Inter-departmental Tabulating Services (Payroll processing)	15.00	.00
21 Travel and Subsistence	1,652.00	110.70
30 Stationery and Office Supplies	350.00	.00
43 Contributions, Bounties & Rewards (MSRS) (FICA)	784.00	.00
48 Hosp. & Med. Ins. Premiums	232.00	.00
TOTALS	\$10,667.00	\$ 110.70

One check in the amount of \$10,667.00 was received from Georgetown University for the use of the State of Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission to participate in the Indian Rehabilitation Project conducted by the Georgetown University Law Center. This project is to employ a previous offender releasee to maintain parole caseworker relationship and assist in all available resources, BIA, educational opportunities, employment, housing, etc. The goal of such a project is to reduce the recidivism of Indian offenders.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

INDIAN CRIME CONTROL

PROGRAM SUMMARY AND FUND EXPENDITURES

Code		Actual Receipts To Date	Expenditures thru 12-31-70
01	Full time employees (3 employees)	\$ 8,386.00	\$ 7,161.29
10	Rents and Leases	195.00	.00
14	Printing and Binding	450.00	.00
15	Non-state employee services	1,985.00	390.00
17	Inter-departmental Tab. Services	55.00	.00
20	Communication	600.00	364.10
21	Travel and Subsistence	1,170.00	983.74
30	Stationery & Office Supplies	300.00	299.45
43	Contributions, Bounties & Rewards (MSRS, FICA)	926.00	620.34
48	Hosp. & Med. Ins. Premiums	166.00	.00
53	Furniture, Furnishing & Fixtures	1,020.00	939.10
TOTALS		\$15,253.00	\$ 10,758.02

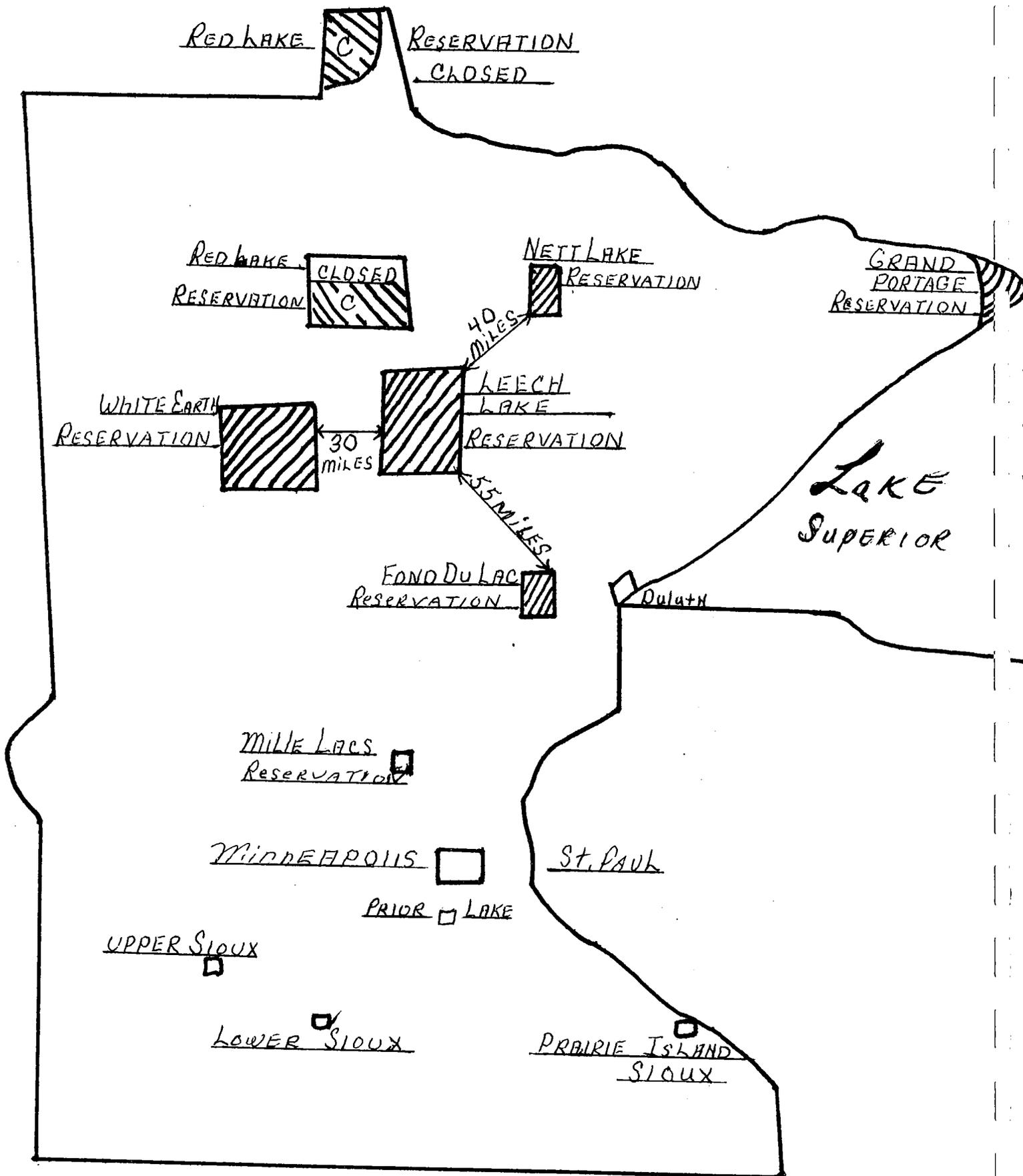
Funds for the Indian Crime Control are transferred quarterly by Journal Voucher by the State Planning Agency to the State Indian Affairs Commission on a schedule over a 13 month period in advancements of 30% each and a final payment of 10%.

The finance plan is based on \$50,844 + 13 mo. x 11 mo.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Despite almost daily referrals, job-development and actual placement, emergency loans or housing, and such like, which we feel are a necessary part of our commitment to the Indian who has often been given the run-around for years on end. Still we are able to develop some financial assistance, which report follows, over and above funds that other groups secured through our introductions.

Local participation toward Reservation	
Indian housing.....	\$11,670.66
Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission.....	6,982.00
<u>Redistribution Grants:</u>	
St. Cloud Reformatory Indian History and Culture Class.....	1,524.10
American Indian Movement Crafts Project.....	1,000.00
Urban American Indian Federation.....	50.00
Distribution Fund.....	107.88
<u>Private Sources Collected & Distributed:</u>	
Urban Indian Organizations.....	185.00
Individual Indians (loans and/or grants).....	5,648.11
Individual Indians (sales of goods).....	4,684.57
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$31,852.23



MINNESOTA'S INDIAN RESERVATIONS