

H I G H L I G H T S

of the

ROOSEVELT RECORD in INDIAN AFFAIRS



In 1932, Candidate-for-President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, promised the people that "no one in these United States shall starve" and the "forgotten men shall be remembered". The largest opportunity for great humanitarian efforts, within the authority of President Roosevelt, lay with the smallest minority group in the country, the Indians. By law, the Indians are held as the "incompetent wards" of the Federal Government. By persons, property and resources are under the complete and arbitrary control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior. The Indians have the lowest per-capita income of any group in the United States and many of them are more "ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed" than any other group.

WHAT HAS THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION DONE FOR THE INDIANS?

LOOK AT THE RECORD

PERSONNEL:

Appointed a group of people to control Indian Affairs who have well-known records for radical activities and association with, or admiration for, atheists, anarchists, communists and other "fifth columnists" in the United States, including the following:

Harold L. Ikes, Secretary of the Interior	-----	salary, \$15,000 per year,
Nathan R. Margold, Solicitor for the Interior	-----	9,000 " " "
John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs	-----	9,000 " " "
Dr. Willard W. Beatty, Director, Indian Education	-----	5,600 " " "
Walter V. Woehlke, Assistant to Commissioner	-----	6,000 " " "
Allan G. Harper, Field Representative	-----	4,600 " " "

and others who are no longer in the Indian Service.

While Americans were walking the streets searching for work in 1935 and 1936, the following were appointed to offices:

Dr. Eshref Shevky, Director, Indian Soils Conservation, salary, \$4,600, a Turkish citizen whom Commissioner John Collier persuaded to "take out his first citizenship papers" so he could be appointed to this position;

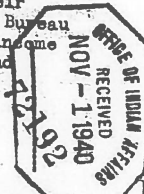
Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director, Indian Arts and Crafts Commission, a citizen of Austria who had taken out his first papers when appointed to office and who came here from Mexico where he had been working in Indian Arts and Crafts.

Gave Sally Duos Jean and Catherine Vestra Sturges, Americans who had been in Mexico for ten years "sharing the people's fortunes during the revolution" positions in the Indian Service in the Southwest.

Financed a \$1,600 trip for Dr. Moises Saenz, Mexican educator who put the Godless Communist educational program into operation in Mexico, to come to this country to advise U.S. Government about revising the program of Indian education.

Increased the regular employees of the Indian Bureau from 5,950 in 1934 to 8,362 in 1940, an increase of 2,412 regular employees, plus 4,681 part-time employees.

EDUCATION: Destroyed the existing program of Indian education in the Government schools; instituted the most crack-pot combination of Russian-Mexican communism and "progressive" education that could be designed - an experiment, according to Dr. Beatty, to educate Indian children "in the art of living", which fails completely to fit pupils for entry into institutions of higher learning, which substitutes Indian music, Indian languages, Indian arts and crafts for the usual courses in such subjects; which encourages pupils of high school age to marry and live on the campus of boarding schools, which has babies of from five to nine years living in cottages and performing all the manual labor of housekeeping and farming, learning arithmetic by "keeping a breeding chart for the pony" and English by discussions of such subjects, which starts "social science" classes in the kindergarten and which actively promotes the ideas of "collectivism" and "planned economy". The Commissioner approved as "highly desirable" the use of "New Russia's Primer" in one school and stated to a Committee of Congress that he considered the Mexican school system "almost the most perfect in the world". Spent public funds to send teachers and Superintendents to attend national conferences of the Progressive Education Association and to Mexico; encouraged teachers to spend their vacations in Mexico; prepared a huge exhibit of the "progressive education" of the Indian Bureau which was shown in Chicago and later taken to



Patzcuaro, Mexico, at public expense, for the Inter-American Conference on Indian Affairs, (part of the "Good-Neighbor" program), where one Bureau employee, Miss Alida Bowler, Superintendent-at-large, was located from January, 1940, through the conference which was held in April for which Congress appropriated \$2,000 in special funds for the State Department and Indian tribal funds were used to transport some Indians. Under this "progressive"-Mexican-Russian-communist program of education Sunday School classes in Government boarding schools were discouraged; Christian missionaries were forbidden to ask any child attending such schools to accept the teachings of Jesus; Indian pupils were locked in their rooms to prevent them from joining a Christian Church of their own choosing; disrespect for home and church were encouraged by relaxing all disciplinary measures and indoctrinating the theories of humanism into the minds of little children in the most approved Communist manner.

**INDIAN CLAIMS:** There are many unsettled Indian claims. Each Indian tribe must secure an Act of Congress permitting them to sue the Government. NO INDIAN CLAIM BILL during the Roosevelt administration has ever been "in accordance with the President's fiscal policy". A Bill to provide an Indian Claims Commission, sponsored by a group of radicals, which provided for a Commission of high-salaried people without any authority whatsoever to SETTLE anything, was introduced into Congress, vigorously opposed by Indians and defeated in the House of Representatives. After a Supreme Court ruling that Indians were entitled to "just compensation", a Bill was sponsored in Congress to FORBID "JUST COMPENSATION" in the settlement of any Indian claim. Amendment was made to an appropriation Act providing that the Government can claim as off-sets all money ever expended on the tribe concerned in any settlement of an Indian claim. For six or more years, opposed and defeated legislation which would have amended the California Indian Jurisdictional Act to give them attorneys of their own choosing--the Supreme Court has held that it is unconstitutional to deny any litigant an attorney of his own choosing-- yet employed five or six attorneys at public expense to defend the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in a libel suit, representing some of them on the payroll as employed in other cases, and gave ONE firm of attorneys a yearly contract to represent a tribe of Indians on a good salary out of tribal funds and at least fifteen other contracts to represent other tribes in their Court of Claims suits.

**INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS:** Enacted the Indian Arts and Crafts Commission Act which was sponsored by radical organizations in the United States and which places the Government firmly in control of all manufacture, distribution and marketing of Indian Arts and Crafts, a MILLION DOLLAR per year industry, at least, Rene-d'Harnoncourt, heretofore mentioned, operates the Commission at a salary of \$7,500 per year and the Indians pay a license fee less for arts and crafts under the Commission control than they did previously. On one reservation such work pays an average of three cents per hour and the best craftsmen are continuously provided with rations from tribal funds. Yet the taxpayers' money is being spent to teach Indian children to make arts and crafts!

**INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACTS:** Enacted the so-called Wheeler-Howard and Thomas-Rogers Act, now called the "Indian Reorganization Acts", which were sponsored by subversive elements in the United States. In an effort to secure Indian approval of this program, conducted campaigns designed to arouse race prejudice and class hatred and disrespect for all Government and all Courts. Spent vast sums of money to propagandize the Indians into voting to accept the "reorganization" in farce elections where the Bureau prepared the poll lists, conducted the elections, counted the votes and determined the results. DID NOT TELL THE INDIANS that by voting to accept the Wheeler-Howard Act they changed their legal status from that of "involuntary wards" to "voluntary wards" who had voted to have the Indian Bureau remain in control of their affairs forever. This is the blackest and most miserable chicanery that has been practiced against a defenseless people in these United States.

The Indians were promised self-government, land and unlimited loans for all purposes if they would accept the Act. There is NO SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE ACT. All final power and authority rests in the hands of Mr. Dictator Secretary of the Interior. No Indian can ever OWN any land which has been purchased under authority of the Act. The Government buys the land, takes title to it, and the Indian is "assigned" the use of it, subject to removal, with no rights of heirship. The Government now owns over a MILLION ACRES of land which has been thus purchased. The Government takes a mortgage for every cent that is loaned to the Indians-- on tribal assets where loaned to a tribe and on individual assets in the case of an individual loan. NO ONE can borrow any money unless he has assets. Further than this, the language of the Appropriation Acts has been changed to provide that

the Secretary of Interior now takes a lien on property, not only for all loans but also FOR ANY AND ALL MONEY SPENT FOR THE RELIEF OF INDIGENT INDIANS. Instead of "owning" more land in 1940, the Indians own less and have lost it through foreclosure proceedings and by relinquishment of fee title to the Federal corporations set up under authority of the Acts, in exchange for a slip of paper saying they own "an interest in corporate property".

The Act provides that Indian tribes shall become organized into Federal corporations, with all property, real and personal, held in common. It provides for minority control of the entire tribe and minority control of each division or section of the reservations. Courts are set up and used to punish those who do not agree with the program, with no right of trial by jury or representation by counsel. The "governments" have the power to engage in any and all business or industry, to issue licenses and collect taxes, and, in some places, to collect such payments by enforced labor and the fines in personal property. Credit associations are set up and tribal income mortgaged to borrow money for various "community purposes". Both loans and tribal funds are utilized to finance Federally-owned and operated "co-operatives". Acts providing for per-capita payments to individual Indians from tribal funds have been opposed and vetoed, thus "putting the seal of executive approval on the Indian service policy of conserving Indian assets for productive uses", (meaning the Federal "co-operatives"). One Superintendent refused to allow a tribe to use its own funds to relief suffering among the cold and hungry but graciously provided coffins out of the same fund to bury those who died. Under the "reorganization", Indians are being regimented into little reservation Soviets, patterned after the Russian "kolhozes" and "sovhozes", and forced to "farm and graze and cut timber on a communal basis" to such an extent that they now corral all rams and billy goats on the Navajo reservation and have Government-maintained birth-control of all sheep and goats. Under this program, Indians have lost land and mortgaged resources; have been denied the rights of free speech, free press and free assembly, the rights of trial by jury and representation by counsel, and the rights of inheritance, private ownership of property and individual enterprise are fast being destroyed.

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APPROPRIATIONS: The Indian Bureau has had twice as much money during the fiscal years 1934 to 1941 than was used during the previous eight fiscal years, 1924-1932. They have had:

Appropriations from General Treasury, fiscal years, 1934-1941-	- - - - -	\$226,621,179.70
" " " Indian Tribal Funds, " " " " " " " " " " " "	- - - - -	18,094,546.21
Allocations, Emergency Funds, 1933 to Feb. 1940-	- - - - -	111,328,046.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS	- - - - -	\$356,043,770.91

From these funds, the Bureau has published "INDIANS AT WORK", at a cost of more than \$40,000 and has circulated the magazine under Government frank, using it to disseminate communistic and anti-Christian propaganda, to publicize the Bureau program, and to attack any and all individuals, including Members of Congress, who opposed the program. Mary Heaton Vorse, communist, was the editor for two years at a salary of \$3,200 per year. The Bureau spent more than \$1,006,000 building a "Navajo Capitol" which the Navajo did not want and do not use; built schools to accommodate from 60 to 120 pupils at a cost of from \$28,000 to \$94,000 apiece, including fees to a firm of New York City architects of \$885 to \$4,489 per school; juggled work relief funds and regular funds; built a swimming pool for one Superintendent and \$10,000 and \$12,000 homes for other employees, while the Indians for whom Congress appropriated the money, were living in thin canvas tents, the only homes they possess, and sleeping on the ground, summer and winter, within sight of all this splendor.

In 1934, Secretary Ickes sent out a letter to all employees of the Indian Bureau and circulated it among all WORK RELIEF employees, stating that "opposition to the program will mean dismissal from the service". Under that order, which is still in effect, work relief has been used as a club to force Indians into this program. Indians have been literally told that they could accept the program or starve to death. Many chose to starve.

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Briefly summarized, under the Roosevelt administration, the Indian wards of a Christian nation have been made the guinea pigs in a communist experiment, financed with public funds and tribal money. Because of opposition to this program, Indians have been beaten, excessively fined, jailed, coerced, intimidated and denied work relief. Indians have died of neglect, have frozen to death and starved to death every year of the Roosevelt administration. Indians have eaten out of garbage cans and from city dumps. Indians are still living in thin canvas tents where the temperature is 40 and 50 degrees below zero in

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the winter time. A superintendent stated to a Committee that on a reservation of 3,000 Indians there were less than 300 homes and one six-room house served as "home" for 35 people. Another superintendent confirmed the fact, in 1939, that 86 families in one small district of a large reservation were living in tents. In the name of "religious liberty", Indians have been encouraged in the use of that degrading drug, peyote, and its spread has been appalling. There has been more strife and dissention on Indian reservations and more complaints from Indians than ever before in History. In February, 1940, the Bureau reported to the House Appropriations Committee that there are 8,000 Indian children who have NO SCHOOL FACILITIES WHATSOEVER.

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This is the RECORD in INDIAN AFFAIRS of the great humanitarian, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the mighty exponent of civil liberty, Harold L. Ickes and the valuable champion for Indian justice, John Collier. Give it consideration, AMERICANS, for Liberty Magazine carried an article in 1934 saying that the Indian program "might well point the way for all of us".  
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WHAT DOES THE THIRD TERM CANDIDATE PROMISE TO THE INDIANS?

The Democratic Platform promises to make settlement of Indian claims. Immediately after the July Convention, another "Claims Commission Bill" was introduced into Congress to fulfill that promise. This one provides not only for a Commission of high-salaried people but also for a supreme dictator who would control all Indian claims and another army of clerical, technical and professional help.  
IN OTHER WORDS, THE PROMISE IS FOR MORE OF THE SAME PROGRAM.

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Recently, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs prepared a summary of all Indian resources, - gas, oil, minerals, coal, water-power, timber, agricultural and grazing lands - which can be utilized for "national defense", reported that approximately 42,286 Indian men would be available for military service (total population of 350,000 Indians) and recommends that these men be used to form an "ALL-INDIAN DIVISION" of the Army. Commissioner Collier does all this in the face of the fact that INDIANS ARE INCOMPETENT WARDS and as such cannot be conscripted for military service any more than the inmates of an insane institution can be conscripted, nor can they ever be until the Constitution of the United States is amended and the Bureau of Indian Affairs abolished. Yet the Roosevelt administration has made plans and intends to use the resources and man-power of its helpless wards to suit its own purposes. Not even Hitler forces conquered people to fight in his army.

THIS IS WHAT THE THIRD TERM CANDIDATE PROMISES TO THE INDIANS.

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WHAT DOES WENDELL WILLKIE PROMISE TO THE INDIANS ?

The Republican Platform promises: "We vigorously condemn the New Deal encouragement of various groups that seek to change the American form of Government by means outside the Constitution. We condemn the appointment of members of such un-American groups to high positions of trust in the national Government. \* \* \* We pledge the Republican Party to get rid of such borers from within." \* \* \* We pledge an immediate and final settlement of all Indian claims between the Government and the Indian citizenship of the Nation."  
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Speaking to a group of Indians at Omaha, Nebraska, in September, Wendell Willkie promised that he would give the Indians their freedom and "assured them that Collier would not long continue in his position if he were elected".

THIS IS WHAT WENDELL WILLKIE PROMISES TO THE INDIANS.

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TAKE YOUR CHOICE VOTERS

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All facts and figures relative to the Indian Bureau program are taken from Vol. 4, Dies Hearings; Vols. 34 and 37, Investigations, Senate Indian Committee; House Indian Committee Hearings on S 2103, Appropriation Hearings, Bureau releases and other Government documents.  
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Alice Lee Jemison, Editor and Publisher; THE FIRST AMERICAN, 638 C-St.N.E., Washington, D.C.