

.....I would like to present for the information and consideration of the Committee a short summary of the economic and social conditions of the Standing Rock Reservation of North and South Dakota, and to explain briefly the need of a rehabilitation program for the Sioux people of Standing Rock as recognized by the Business Council and their people.

In order to fully appreciate and impartially consider the economic and social problems of the Standing Rock Sioux people today, I believe it most essential to present a quick review of their occupancy and use of the lands in this area. Records indicate that the Sioux people assumed occupancy and use of the lands adjacent to the Missouri River where they now live, around 1810. Negotiations and treaties between the Sioux people and the United States began as far back as 1815. Subsequent treaties and Acts of Congress throughout the years materially affected the lives of these people. (For a quick reference of the Acts and treaties, see pages 498-499 and 507 and 508 of Congressional Compilation Serial No. 30 of June 15, 1950, and for the details of the treaties, see Indian Affairs - Laws and Treaties by Kappler, Vols. 1, 2 and 3). The first Indian Agency headquarters for the Standing Rock Sioux was established in 1868 and was known as the Grand River Agency,

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Dakota Territory. In 1873, the Agency headquarters were moved north to its present location on the banks of the Missouri River, where it has remained for the past 72 years. The lands of the Reservation were diminished by various Acts of Congress between 1868 and 1907. The economic and social conditions of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe were materially affected by the many Acts during those years.

The East bank of the Missouri River was established as the Eastern boundary of the Reservation. Today, Reservation lands bound the Missouri River on the west from the Cannon Ball River in North Dakota to the Grand River in South Dakota - a distance of approximately 80 miles. From the timbered bottom lands and the adjacent prairies, the Sioux people have lived on Nature's resources. Buffalo, deer, antelope, elk, rabbit, prairie dog, wild fowl, wild vegetables, fruits and berries were their sources of food and clothing. The timber along the Missouri River - ash, cottonwood, box elder, elm, oak, and willow - provided shelter and fuel. Today, many of these same natural resources are available to the Standing Rock Sioux people.

(SHOW PICTURES OF WILD LIFE, FRUIT, AND TIMBER).

THE Sioux people of today are making use of these same resources as did

their parents and grandparents over onehundred years ago.

(SHOW PICTURES OF CANNED FRUITS, JERKING VENISON, AND TANNING HIDES).

From 1810 to 1955, the bottom land of the Missouri River and its tributaries, with timber for homes and fuel; the wild life, vegetables, fruits, and herbs for food and medicines, have been a common granary or commissary for the Standing Rock Sioux. Remains of large villages and cemeteries indicate that thousands of Indians have lived and made their homes along the Missouri River.

Today, we find that 90% of the resident population of the Standing Rock Tribe live within a six-mile area of the Missouri River or a tributary such as the Grand or Cannon Ball Rivers.

(SHOW MAP - MAP PREPARED BY OUR AGENCY REALTY OFFICER).

The original boundary of the Standing Rock Reservation encompassed some 2,332,798 acres. Today, its boundaries are noted on the maps as Sioux and Corsen Counties of North and South Dakota. The original acreage has diminished by over 50% with a present total of 987,593 acres (Agency Realty Office figures). This is subdivided by 777,048 acres of allotted land and 210, 544 acres of Tribally-owned land. Present land status is indicated on

this map (DISPLAY MAP) with the following acreages:

Trust Allotted - - - - -	77,048
Tribal - - - - -	210,544
Fee Patent - - - - -	1,255,803
Sub-Marginal - - - - -	10,965
Government - - - - -	240
County and State - - - - -	100,000
Church - - - - -	2,153
Rivers - - - - -	5,075
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TOTAL - - - - -	2,332,798

Since 1947 - 62,687 acres of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation have been alienated.

If the land of the Standing Rock Reservation could be equally divided among all of the enrolled members of the Tribe, there would be 187.48 acres per person. This in an area where conservation practices are a must, and where an economic unit of dry farm land, in production and fallow, would need be not less than 800 acres for an individual to maintain an adequate standard of living. Further, it is conceded that a successful livestock enterprise cannot be operated on less than a 125 to 175 cow head basis.

On the Standing Rock, the grazing lands have a 30 acre per animal unit carrying

capacity, established to conserve the land and grass against the dry years. Even if this carrying capacity were reduced from thirty to twenty acres per animal unit, it would take between 3,750 and 5,000 acres of grazing land, plus hay land, plus land for feed crops, and a home site for a livestock operator.

The lands of the Standing Rock Reservation have never been completely utilized by the members of the Tribe. Agency records indicate that in 1954, there were 6,061 head of Indian-owned cattle on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. 464 head of horses are listed for that same year. Non-Indian operators leased Tribal and allotted land for 26,338 head of cattle, 17,640 head of sheep, and 684 head of horses during the same year. The grazing lands for the most part are being leased for 25¢ per acre, or \$7.50 per head of cattle. Prairie hay lands are leased at 75¢ per acre. Hay production on these lands is wholly dependent on the annual rainfall. From 1/3 to 1/2 ton per acre is considered an average annual harvest.

The use of crop lands on the Reservation are:

Indian Use	3,239	
Non-Indian Use	36,032	(figures prepared by Agency reality officer)

Farm leases may be negotiated by the land owner and the fees vary. In some cases, a flat \$2.00 per acre is charged, while on other lands a charge of \$1.00 per acre and 1/4 of the crop is the rental pact.

While the acreage of the Standing Rock Reservation has been diminished over 50%, a recent census of Tribal members indicates that there has been an increase of the Tribal members over 100% since December 26, 1878, when Indian Agent J. A. Stephan, in a letter to the Commissioner, advised there were 2,583 souls, men, women and children on the Standing Rock Reservation. Approximately 58% since 1912 - 52% since 1920 - 45% since 1931 and 30% since 1941.

Standing Rock Census:

1955 - - - - -	5,265
1941 - - - - -	4,069
1939 - - - - -	3,834
1931 - - - - -	3,688
1920 - - - - -	3,453
1912 - - - - -	3,338
1880 - - - - -	2,611 (Commissioner's Report of 1880)
1878 - - - - -	2,583 (Commissioner's Report of 1878)

The Standing Rock Sioux people are not a vanishing race as records of the Agency Hospital will reveal. In 1954, there were 112 births recorded to 32 deaths. Statistically, 3 1/2 births to every death. Hospital records

further reveal that since 1947 there have been 810 births and 293 deaths, an 8-year average of 2.76 births to each death.

The economic opportunity on the Reservation is limited. Livestock operations and farming offer the only means of self-employment. Seasonal farm labor on or near the reservation is the closest source of family income other than the few families employed by the Bureau and the Tribe. The aggregate income of the 582 families visited out of the total of 690 resident Indian families in 1950, as indicated by the Missouri River Basin Investigation Committee's report of 1951, was \$786,179.00. The median income of the group was \$992.00.

Agency and Public Welfare records of North and South Dakota for 1950, reveal that \$338,906.00 was disbursed for old age assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Needy Blind, Aid to the Disabled, and for general welfare assistance during that year. During the past year, 1954, \$419,721.00 were disbursed for the same purposes, an increase of 24%. During the month of January 1955, there were 535 households on the Standing Rock Reservation receiving public assistance from the Agency, Sioux and Corson

Counties of North and South Dakota. This made a total of 78.5% of all households on the Standing Rock Reservation.

For the month of June 1955, there were 445 households representing 65.4% of all reservation households receiving public assistance from the same sources.

The reimbursable program was initiated in 1915. Property was purchased from Tribal industrial assistance funds and sold on sale contracts to the individual. In 1926, gratuity funds were made available under the Industry Among Indians appropriations. There remains some outstanding indebtedness on these loans.

At the present time, the Tribe has borrowed from the United States \$350,000.00. Of this, there is \$67,000.00 on hand. Loan applications presently being processed approximate the same amount.

The Tribe originally borrowed 3,029 head of repayment cattle from the United States to be re-issued to their loan clients on a repayment-in-kind basis. When this program was discontinued by an Act of Congress in 1952 the Tribe started to repay the obligation to the United States in cash. To date, \$152,343.00 has been paid on this indebtedness, with a balance of



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500 head of cattle to pay for from the original 3,029 head. Cash on hand to apply on this indebtedness \$45,877.00. Individual Tribal members owe the Tribe 1,257 head of cattle. None are delinquent. The Standing Rock credit rating is very good in this instance.

During the past two or three years, the tribal Credit Officers, with the assistance of Bureau employees, have revised their Credit Program, foreclosed on bad credit risks, and I am pleased to say the Credit Program is presently on a sound basis. Present loans are well secured. During the past year, 31 loans were made to operators having an equity from \$2,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in their enterprise.

At the present time, 109 individuals have loans under the local Tribal Credit Program. 75 of these are farm loans and 35 are educational loans. There are no delinquent agricultural loans, but 24 of the 35 educational loans are delinquent.

The average number of mature livestock is now 95 head per client. The average size of the loans is a little over \$8,000.00. Land ownership of our loan clients presents a most serious problem. Of the 31 loan clients mentioned,

their average individual land holdings is but 261 acres; of this, some of the lands are split in fractioned heirships and may be located many miles away from the client home base. Lack of funds for these operators to purchase their land base presents a serious problem to their successful future.

The housing situation on the Reservation may be considered sub-standard.

(SHOW PICTURES). Of the 582 homes visited by the Missouri River Basin Investigation staff, it was recorded that 80% of the homes had but one or two rooms. Inadequately constructed and in poor physical condition.

Approximately 1/3 of the families are dependent on rivers and creeks for their drinking water. Sanitation problems are furthered by the lack of sufficient out-buildings and the poor construction of those that exist.

The enrolled resident population as determined by Tribal and Bureau employees a few days ago, is recorded as 3,501. The records further reveal that 1,764 enrolled members live away from the reservation, making the total Standing Rock Sioux enrollment 5,265 members. The same records indicate that of the total enrolled population, 2,659 or approximately 50% are 21 years of age or younger. This is an important factor when considering the economic and social future of these people.

## RESERVATION CENSUS (REVISED)

Age Group	North Dakota	South Dakota	Total	Per Cent
0--21	1,347	1,312	2,659	49%
22-35	617	591	1,208	23%
36-50	308	487	795	16%
51-65	227	168	395	7%
Over 65	83	125	208	4%
TOTAL	2,582	2,683	5,265	100%

Lack of education has been a major factor in the advancement of the Standing Rock Sioux Indian people. The median number of years of school attendance, all ages, being 7.3. The Standing Rock Business Council recognizes the urgent need for education and have placed it first in their rehabilitation program.

A factor of the economic and social planning that cannot be overlooked is that of the dual language. To those who have not dealt with bilingual people, it is difficult to thoroughly understand the importance of this situation. Regardless of the ability of a person to speak English, it is difficult to convey the thought and action correctly in the mind that interprets the situation in Sioux. According to the M.R.B.I. Report No. 124,

in 25% of the homes, the Sioux language is preferred. In 30% of the homes, English and Sioux are used about equally, and in less than half, or 45 per cent, of the homes is English spoken all or most of the time.

Now a word as to the geography of the Reservation: The elevation of the Reservation varies from 1,600 feet to 2,500 feet above sea level. It might be mentioned at this point that the contour level of the proposed Oahe Reservoir is 1,620. The general topography of the Reservation is that of rolling uplands and level prairie lands typical of the Great Plains area. In some areas, the land is rough and broken. Sparse grass and a low livestock carrying capacity is very evident in these areas. Some of the lands could be considered as waste land with no present potential value.

The average growing season is about 129 days. The temperature has ranged from a high of 119 degrees to a low of a minus 50 below zero. Heaviest precipitation is generally during the growing season. Average rainfall varies from a low of 5" to 21 1/2". Adjacent weather stations have reported an average of about 15".

The soils of the Standing Rock Reservation are predominantly Morton Series. There are a few out-croppings of Pierre shale. In the northern

area, a belt of land is under laid with Fox Hill sandstone. The water table varies throughout the Reservation. Drilled wells in some areas reach water at 30' to 60', while in other areas they reach a depth of 100 to 160 feet.

There are deposits of lignite coal in both North and South Dakota areas of the Reservation. The extent and value of these deposits have never been fully ascertained. The Council has recommended that funds be earmarked for an economic and social survey which should bring to light the necessary information as to the presently unknown resources of the Reservation. With the discovery of uranium just west of the Reservation, the Council hopes its survey may be made at an early date. The resource survey will include tests for oil, gas, gravel deposits, and any other resource of commercial value or for individual or Tribal use.

The Missouri River Basin Investigation staff completed an excellent and detailed study of the social economic conditions of the Standing Rock Reservation. With your permission, a copy of the M.R.B.I. Report No. 124 will be filed with you for the record and for your reference.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is an unincorporated tribe of Indians,

having accepted the Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934. The Tribe does not have a corporate charter, and functions under a Constitution and By-Laws approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The governing body is known as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, consisting of 14 members and the Chairman. Two Councilmen are elected from each of the seven districts of the Reservation, and the Chairman is elected at large by popular vote. The Council operates the business of the Tribe under the terms of an approved budget. Tribal funds are made available through the leasing of Tribal lands and certain service fees as provided under the terms of their Tribal Land Enterprise.

The Agency headquarters is located at Fort Yates, North Dakota, county seat of Sioux County, population approximately 1,000. The Agency buildings and the townsite lie above the 1,620 contour level, but a causeway will be required to connect the Agency with the main highways leading to and from the Agency. The Agency and townsite will approach island status when the water in the Oahe Reservoir reaches its maximum level.

(SHOW PICTURE OF FORT YATES).

The construction of the Oahe Dam and the subsequent impounding of the

waters of the Missouri River in the reservoir, commonly described as the taking area, will cause complete disruption of the economy of the Standing Rock Sioux people. It will have an adverse effect on the social structure of the resident population. I would cite the Kenel townsite as an example. Here the entire area is in the 1620' contour level. School buildings, churches, shrines, cemeteries, as well as the individual homes, must be relocated.

(SHOW PICTURE OF KENEL TOWNSITE)

These factors cannot be overlooked as these people plan for their future as responsible, self-reliant members of our society.

It is difficult to determine the actual damages in dollars and cents. This is not a case of one party wanting to sell, another to buy. It is even more difficult for those unacquainted with the Reservation and the people to visualize the relocation problems of the families moving from the reservoir area to the higher, treeless prairie, without the natural resources of fuel, shelter or shade. Virtually a new country and a new way of life.

(SHOW COMPARISON PICTURES)

In equity, therefore, it is necessary to establish two separate claims. One to cover the actual damage caused by loss of land, timber improvements,

and a severance. The second, an attempt to place a dollar value on the indirect or intangible damages to the people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The photographs which I will display at this time, taken along the Missouri and its main tributaries, the Cannon Ball and Grand Rivers, within the reservoir area, I believe present irrefutable evidence of both the direct and intangible damages caused by the construction of the Oahe Dam. Damages to the individuals and to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Along the Missouri, Cannon Ball, and Grand River bottoms for a distance of some 228 miles, a distance comparable from Washington, D. C., to New York City, the shore line of the Oahe reservoir will cover the finest crop and hay lands in the states of North and South Dakota. Lands which cannot be replaced by purchase within or near the reservation.

Between the river and the upland are thousands of acres of the finest pasture and grazing lands. During the drouth years, these lands carried the livestock of the Reservation.

The value of the sheltered feeding areas along the rivers cannot be overestimated. (SHOW SHELTERED FEED LOT AREAS). I quote from the U.S.D.A. Yearbook of Agriculture - 1949:



"Dairymen, livestock feeders, and breeders have rather positive ideas of how the protection afforded by trees reduces their feed bills and increases their calf crops. Eighty-six livestock feeders in Nebraska and South Dakota placed this average annual saving at more than \$800; 62 livestock breeders reported that their savings amounted to more than \$500 annually; 53 dairymen placed their savings at \$600."

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"Another experiment conducted by V.I. Clark, Superintendent of the experiment station at Ardmore, South Dakota, involved the weighing of two herds of cattle in different pastures, one protected by the natural tree and shrub growth along a stream, and the other without protection. They were re-weighed after a 3-day blizzard. The animals that had some protection each lost an average of 30 pounds less than those in the exposed pasture."

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"Further study of the subject was made at the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Havre. Two herds of cattle were wintered on the same rations - one in the protection of trees and shrubs, the other in an open lot with some protection from a shed. The tree-protected animals gained 34.9 more pounds each during a mild winter, and lost 10.6 pounds less during a severe winter, than the unprotected herd."

(OTHER PICTURES OF SHELTERED FEEDING AREAS)

Using the statements of these experienced and trained husbandmen as to the dollar and cents value of timber and brush shelter, it may be clearly ascertained as to the financial and intangible loss to the individuals and to the Tribe when these lands are covered by the impounded waters of the Gage Dam. How can one equitably evaluate a loss of a natural resource that cannot be replaced?

The loss of the direct and indirect value of the timber on the Standing Rock Reservation within the reservoir area presents another problem for equitable consideration. The timbered area is, and has been for generations, a source of firewood, house logs, fence posts, corral posts, and of later years, saw logs. Ash, cottonwood, box elder, elm, and willow are predominant. Wild fruit and berries are abundant in the area.

The picture which I will now show represents the type of saw and house logs found along the Missouri, Grand, and Cannon Ball Rivers. The continuous annual harvest of timber in this area represents not only an annual cash income, but a source of firewood, house logs, fence posts, and poles for home use. When the lands are inundated by the waters of the reservoir, all

of these items will have to be purchased, if they can be obtained at all.

There is an increasing demand for the use of cottonwood lumber. It is now being used as the inner layers in the production of plywood and a base for veneer on various types of furniture. It makes excellent box wood. Rough cottonwood is used extensively throughout the Reservation for all types of construction work.

(COMPLETE SHOWING OF ALL TIMBER PICTURES)