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United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 89th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 112

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

No. 54

Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, March 25, 1966)

THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIANS AND THE ST. LABRE INDIAN MISSION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, in recent years periodic appeals have been distributed throughout the country by the St. Labre Indian Mission at Ashland, Mont. These appeals made up of letters, plastic dolls, and ornaments ask for funds to aid the mission in educating and caring for Indian children, mostly Northern Cheyenne Indians.

These circulars have prompted many outraged inquiries. The St. Labre Mission appeal is a legitimate one but there is need for clarification and understanding of responsibilities.

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation is located in southeastern Montana and has for many years been one of the most needy of the reservations in the Great Plains. The reservation has limited resources for the number of inhabitants. In recent years under the new administration within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, conditions improved considerably. The accelerated public works program was a shot in the arm for these people. Accelerated public works provided improved roads, management of timber resources and other resources development. The Indian health sanitation program is bringing new water and sewer facilities to areas which have been without. Self-help and public housing projects are underway. Improvements are being made, and admittedly, there is considerable to be done. Several programs under OEO are being implemented.

The Northern Cheyenne people are a proud people, their needs are great, but they ask for little. Perhaps the major

reason for the improvements and attitude is the president of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, John Woodenlegs. John is an old friend, a man devoted to the cause of his people. He is a quiet man, but determined in his effort to improve conditions and cast aside the unpleasant stigmas that have been attached to his reservation.

Next we turn to the St. Labre Indian Mission which is located at Ashland, Mont., in an area adjacent to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The mission does provide food, shelter, and education for many needy Indian children. These children come from families who have migrated away from the reservation and have become dependent on local welfare and the mission. The mission work among the Indian children is financed from funds received from the appeals circulated by the mission. The plastic articles which are enclosed in the appeal are manufactured by a small factory located at Ashland. The factory was constructed by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and employs some 30 Indians. I believe that the mission is the sole purchaser of these items, thus there is an interdependence between the mission and the Indians.

Quite frankly the St. Labre Indian Mission, in preparing its printed appeals, exploits a dramatic situation which is no longer associated with the entire reservation, but is somewhat limited to an off-reservation area. The situation highlights a continuing problem of who is responsible for the welfare of Indians who move away from their reservations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' responsibility ends after a period of time and often local welfare agencies are hesitant to

take on the additional load. In this instance, the mission is filling a void.

As I indicated earlier, the Northern Cheyennes are a proud people but they need help. The best way to see that they get this assistance is for all interested parties to work together, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the St. Labre Indian Mission, and the State welfare and education departments.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at the conclusion of my remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a series of newspaper clippings and reports which provide additional information.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 20, 1966]
AMERICAN INDIANS' SELF-HELP

To the EDITOR:

I would like to compliment the Times on Homer Bigart's news articles on Indian tribes in Montana and North Dakota (March 13, 14).

Montana's Northern Cheyenne tribe is today often cited by those who work in Indian community development as one of the most successful tribes in the Nation. In the last 5 years permanent employment and family income have doubled. Morbidity and mortality rates have been cut in half.

Under the leadership of President John Wooden Legs and the tribal council, the Cheyennes operate programs in land acquisition, livestock production, crafts, and tourism. There is a total of 332 new homes either under construction or scheduled for construction. The tribe has just established a \$250,000 scholarship fund.

The Cheyennes are the first community in Montana to have a community action program approved by the Office of Economic Opportunity. Their CAP has component projects in health education and home nursing, preschool training, remedial reading and an "upward bound" precollege course. Its neighborhood youth corps has provided employment and training for more than 100 teenagers.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Much remains to be done. To boost employment "the Cheyennes are seeking to attract industry, to develop lumber production and to exploit their extensive subbituminous coal deposits. It has established a \$670,000 industrial development fund to help realize these goals.

The Cheyennes are fighting to gain respect and understanding from their fellow citizens. The March 14 article will help to counteract national publicity caricaturing the Cheyennes as a hopeless "race of sorrows," totally dependent on the charity of others.

Thanks to their own initiative, the Cheyennes have in the last 5 years made remarkable progress. They serve as a model for what other Indian tribes can achieve through a coordinated attack on poverty, utilizing an available Federal, State, and private resources. We are certain that the Devils Lake Sioux and the Turtle Mountain Chippewas of North Dakota also can and will recover their strength, and independence.

WILLIAM BYLER,
Executive Director, Association on
American Indian Affairs, Inc.
New York, March 15, 1966.

[From the Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune,
Mar. 15, 1966]

ARE THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIANS DESTITUTE? THERE ARE CONFLICTING VIEWPOINTS
(By Homer Bigart)

BILLINGS.—There are conflicting viewpoints on whether the "Morning Star People"—the

2,887 Northern Cheyenne Indians whose ancestors were brutally hounded by Federal cavalry after the Custer massacre—live in dire poverty.

The Reverend Emmett Hoffman, director of the St. Labre Roman Catholic Mission at Ashland, insists they do.

With injured pride, John Wooden Legs, chairman of the tribal council, denies it.

According to Wooden Legs, whose views are backed by Federal officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Father Hoffman has been exaggerating the tribe's poverty in his mass-circulated appeals for charity.

Prideful Cheyennes are in a quandary. Hoffman's powerfully emotional letters stimulate employment for 150 to 300 Indians who assemble the souvenir items that generally accompany the priest's requests for money.

There isn't much other work. The Northern Cheyennes, long isolated in hilly range country north of the Big Horn Mountains and east of the bigger, wealthier Crow Reservation, have made a slow adjustment to change.

In the Indian wars of the last century, few tribes were more abysmally treated than the Cheyennes. Embroiled in almost continuous fighting with the Americans from 1857 to 1879, the Cheyennes were often made to suffer for the more aggressive hostility of the Sioux and Comanches.

According to anthropologist E. Adamson Hoebel, some of these fights were "unprovoked assaults on friendly Cheyenne camps in which women and children were slaughtered along with the men who tried to defend them."

Northern Cheyennes joined the Sioux in the defeat and massacre of George Armstrong Custer's troops at Little Big Horn in 1876. But 2 years later, after the final destruction of its camps, the tribe was herded south by Federal cavalry and, as prisoners of war, forced to settle in what is now Oklahoma.

Decimated by disease and malnutrition, the tribe was soon driven to the point of desperation. In the summer of 1878, some 300 Northern Cheyenne men, women, and children under the leadership of Morning Star (survivors were to call themselves the Morning Star people) defied the Indian agent and the U.S. Army and began an incredible 1,500-mile trek back to Montana, fighting all the way. About 60 made it. In 1884 the Government gave up trying to ship them to Oklahoma and placed them on their present lands.

Today the tribe counts 2,887 enrolled members. Those observed in the small communities of Lame Deer, Busby, Ashland and Birney seemed to have enough food and clothing and appeared reasonably cheerful. Hoffman conceded that conditions had improved among the Morning Star people.

But there is still some dire poverty, Hoffman said. He said he knew cases where Indians "died of pneumonia, but it was really malnutrition."

He scoffed at Wooden Legs' contention that the average family income was slightly over \$3,000.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs 142 of the 423 resident families earned less than \$3,000 in 1964.

"We admit some of our people are poor," Wooden Legs said in a letter of protest to the Lincoln (Nebr.) Star. The newspaper, moved by Hoffman's appeals, had run an editorial saying the Northern Cheyennes had "scarcely a bite to eat."

The Wooden Legs letter insisted, however, that conditions had "greatly improved in the past 3 years," that the tribe had a cattle operation with assets "in the million dollar category," was "negotiating with industrialists" for the development of coal resources, and was building many new homes as a result of a \$3.9 million claim settlement from the Government.

Many new frame houses have been built. They are of standard design, costing about \$4,750. Hoffman said they were poorly con-

structed, expensive to heat and "in 5 years will be worse than shacks."

The reservation superintendent, John Artchoker, a Sioux, said the greatest need was industrial development.

"Idleness is the worse curse," he said. "We have made good progress, but somehow it must be accelerated. The world is not going to stop and wait for the Indians to catch up."

LETTER OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES ABOUT THE ST. LABRE INDIAN MISSION AND INDIANS IN MONTANA

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER,
Washington, D.C.

With regard to your letter discussing the appeal you have received from the St. Labre Indian Mission, I am well aware of the fine work being done by the school and mission. Considerable assistance is given to the Indian children living in the area adjacent to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

The attached report from the Bureau of Indian Affairs is perhaps the best means of reporting on the conditions that exist on this reservation. You can be assured I will continue to work closely with the officials to continue to provide these people with all possible assistance.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ST. LABRE MISSION SCHOOL, ASHLAND, MONT.

In response to numerous inquiries from persons who have received solicitations for funds from the St. Labre Catholic Mission in Ashland, Mont., adjoining the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, the attached fact sheet on the status of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe has been prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The St. Labre Mission has recently constructed a new modern parochial boarding and day school and administration buildings. This mission school is one of several schools available to children of the area. Indian children also attend public schools at Ashland or at Lame Deer, a town on the reservation. In addition, there is a public high school at Colstrip and a Federal day school at Busby with facilities for boarding children from remote parts of the reservation.

Souvenir articles which generally accompany fund appeals from the St. Labre Mission are assembled in a plant at Ashland which is a subsidiary of Guild Arts and Crafts of New York City. All employees except top supervisory help are northern Cheyenne men and women. Their starting wages are \$1.25 per hour, with \$0.05 semiannual increases provided under current arrangements.

Because of the geographic isolation of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, employment opportunities on or near the reservation are limited, and, consequently, poverty is widespread. However, as the enclosed fact sheet explains, a variety of social and economic development efforts are underway. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Office of Economic Opportunity are the chief Federal agencies providing assistance to the tribe.

The accompanying Bureau publications describe these programs in some detail.

NORTHERN CHEYENNE FACT SHEET

The Northern Cheyenne Indians call themselves the "Morning Star People," honoring a famous chief of the last century. They look to the future with optimism and desire to improve themselves as much and as rapidly as possible. Northern Cheyennes are U.S. citizens, as are all Indians, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereof. They are free to leave and return to their reservation at will.

POPULATION (SEPTEMBER 1965)

In order to understand better the progress that has been made by the Indians on the reservation, it is important to review some statistical data. About 20 percent of the Indian families reside on farms and ranches, with the remainder concentrated principally in the four communities of Busby, Lame Deer, Ashland, and Birney:

Enrolled Northern Cheyennes.....	2,887
On reservation.....	2,265
Off reservation.....	622

Elementary school facilities are available on the reservation in all four major communities. High school students attend the Federal Boarding and Day School at Busby, the St. Labre's Mission School at Ashland, and the public school at Colstrip, 22 miles north of Lame Deer. Many high school graduates are continuing their education in vocational or academic fields.

School attendance is remarkably high due to development of good attitudes toward academic achievement by the whole reservation populace. The upward trend is expected to continue with the Northern Cheyenne governing body arranging for tribal members to participate in the Office of Economic Opportunity and other programs.

Northern Cheyenne children in school (precollege).....	861
In Bureau schools.....	255
Boarding students.....	131
Day students.....	124
In public school.....	353
In St. Labre school.....	234
In special schools.....	19
Schoolage children not in school.....	18
Total.....	869
Northern Cheyenne students in post high school.....	27
Vocational training.....	17
College or university.....	10

¹Seven married and one mentally incompetent.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

BIA has worked with the Northern Cheyenne Indians in many ways to develop employment opportunities and to train the Indians for work. Under the direct employment program, families are helped with employment, transportation and subsistence enroute, and subsistence for 4 weeks at the job site. The family is also provided health services for 6 months, and in the event of family emergency, subsistence may again be provided. Under the adult vocational training program, the family is assisted in making a choice of type and place of training, transportation and subsistence enroute to training site, and subsistence for the period of training. Health services are also provided for the period of training, and upon completion of training, employment is developed for the family head. On the reservation, employment has been at an all-time high:

Number employable age.....	523
Employed on reservation:	
Permanent jobs ¹ (75.4 percent).....	398
Temporary jobs (3.4 percent).....	17
Unemployed ² (21.2 percent).....	113
Employment assistance program:	
Direct employment placement.....	14
Training for employment.....	17
Dispatched for firefigting.....	954

¹Includes an average payroll of 150 in Guild Arts & Crafts, Inc., which has payroll of \$326,176 per year.

²Among unemployed are disabled, physically and familywise.

FAMILY INCOME, NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE (CALENDAR YEAR 1964)

It is always difficult to obtain accurate information on individual and family incomes. However, surveys in connection with preparing plans for the use of judgment funds obtained by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have added to the data previously available on this subject. The following data are the best estimates from all available sources:

Total number of resident Northern Cheyenne families, 423.

Range of income	Number of families	Percentage
Over \$10,000.....	7	2
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	115	27
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	159	37
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	50	12
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	60	13
Unknown.....	32	9

AVAILABLE LAND AND LAND USE

Various programs are operated to improve the management, use, and conditions of the natural resources—timber and minerals. Road improvement and Indian use of Indian land have helped the Indians' progress in recent years. For instance, in the last year 14,402 acres of individually owned lands were leased out for \$18,511. Technical services aid the Indians in forestry, irrigation, and ranching methods.

	Individually allotted	Tribally owned ¹
Indian use.....	186,982	238,737
Non-Indian use.....	7,750	488
Total.....	194,732	239,225
Total, all land available.....	433,957	

¹ Grazing lands are in near 100 percent Indian use.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is organized and federally chartered. It is governed by a tribal council. Annually the tribe receives an income estimated at \$140,000.

From the annual income, the tribe pays operating expenses for items such as tribal government, community services, and economic development. These expenditures are not restricted to services direct to tribal members. A sizable portion of the annual budget is used to finance cooperative programs with non-Bureau agencies. For instance, \$7,000 is expended by the tribe to obtain and distribute to tribal members 298-849 pounds of surplus commodities valued at \$66,896. Other funds furnish the tribe's required contribution for federally sponsored programs (sometimes as little as 10 percent of the total cost of the program).

JUDGMENT FUND PROGRAM

In 1964 the Northern Cheyenne Tribe received from the Indian Claims Commission a net judgment award of \$3,912,426 for lands ceded to the United States nearly a century ago. From this, the tribe programed expenditures as follows:

Per capital payment.....	\$270,000
Family improvement.....	2,700,000
Education.....	250,000
Economic development.....	690,000

The tribe's family improvement or family plan program authorizes \$1,000 for each enrolled member to be used for long-term economic benefit for the family. This program from the dollar standpoint is 58 percent complete.

The education portion of the judgment fund program is set up as a trust fund to

draw interest, which interest is to be used for college and other higher education assistance to Northern Cheyenne tribal members.

The money set aside for economic development is to be used for such projects as construction of community or tribal buildings, public utility facilities for the benefit of tribal members, industrial development (construction of buildings for factories, investments in companies to put factories on the reservation), land purchase, business investments, loan programs, recreation and tourism, business development, etc. The tribe has already used \$101,000 of economic development funds to construct a building which is presently leased by Guild Arts and Crafts, Inc., an industry which provides employment and income for the Northern Cheyenne Indians.

The tribal council has primary responsibility for administering the judgment fund program and expenditures are required to be within the following criteria:

1. Housing.
2. Household furnishings.
3. Agricultural enterprises.
4. Investments in small business.
5. Education and training.
6. Savings.
7. Medical and dental services.
8. Other (as approved by administration committee and superintendent).

STATUS OF HOUSING (OCTOBER 1965)

Poor housing on the reservation has been serious and a contributing factor to retardation in education, health, welfare, employment, and most resources development programs. Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have taken the necessary action to improve their poor housing conditions through use of family plan funds and establishment of a tribal housing authority under the Public Housing Administration. Units are being constructed under the mutual-help program:

Total number of homes under family plan program.....	395
New homes under family plan program.....	250
New homes completed.....	34
New homes under construction.....	29
New homes approved for construction.....	32
New homes-applications anticipated.....	155
Repair and remodeling to existing homes under family plan program.....	145
Repairs completed.....	8
Repairs underway.....	4
Repairs approved.....	20
Repairs-applications anticipated.....	113
New homes under mutual-help housing.....	50
Under construction.....	10
Construction planned.....	40
Total new homes for tribal members.....	445

FEDERAL SERVICES

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Public Health Service provide members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe a wide range of services, including education, medical and hospital services, welfare, law and order, adult vocational training, credit, etc. The emphasis on services is not limited to Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, per se, but includes efforts to qualify Cheyennes for taking part in non-Bureau programs for which they are eligible. In fiscal year 1965, public assistance was provided for Northern Cheyenne tribal members as follows:

	Cumulative total of cases	Cumulative total of persons	Total amount paid
General assistance	1,776	2,763	\$48,613.83
Child welfare			11,799.98
Other welfare			6,550.59
County welfare (AFDC, OAA, AD, AB)			203,923.00
Social security			6,000.00
Total			270,887.40

¹ Average, 65 per month.

² Average, 230 per month.

³ This figure is for fiscal year 1964; the latest one available. Would probably show an increase of around \$10,000 for fiscal year 1965 due to increased costs.

BENEFITS FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

The Northern Cheyennes are participating in the various provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act. They have benefited or are continuing to benefit from community action programs. A staff of 40, including administrators, nurses, teachers, community health workers, and aids, most of whom are volunteers, are directing special community health, remedial reading, and child development programs. Supplementary education services for 38 high school students were provided at Eastern Montana College last summer. At the same time, 120 preschool children were taught for 8 weeks in 3 different child development centers under the Headstart programs. The Neighborhood Youth Corps has provided employment for more than 100 youths, 16 through 21, in summer in-school and out-of-school programs at Busby, Lame Deer, and Ashland at Federal, public, and mission schools. Others have been employed at the agency, the health center, and by the tribe on various projects throughout the reservation. Ten VISTA workers are serving in a variety of ways throughout the reservation. Nearly a half-million dollars have been assigned to the Northern Cheyenne program—and the benefits from the amounts expended are already much in evidence.

[From the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Feb. 21, 1966]

PROGRESS ON NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, thanks to their own initiative and understanding assistance from both Government and non-Government sources, some Indian tribes have made remarkable progress during the past few years. One such tribe is the Northern Cheyenne, in southeastern Montana. Evidence of the development underway on that reservation is contained in the February 14 letter from the chairman of that tribe, John Wooden Legs, to the editor of the Lincoln, Nebr., Star.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to insert Mr. Wooden Leg's letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"FEBRUARY 14, 1966.

"EDITOR, LINCOLN STAR,
"Lincoln, Nebr.

"DEAR SIR: I have received a copy of an editorial that appeared in the Star some time in January entitled 'How Good Are We?' This editorial concerns the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation of which I am president of the governing body.

"After reading this editorial, it seems to me that additional information should be provided to you with the humble request to ask that you more objectively view the problems of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

"For centuries, the Cheyenne has sought life of dignity. Even in our period of most

extreme poverty, we sought dignity. We still seek dignity.

"We admit that some of our people are poor. They are poor economically and socially. This has been caused by a lack of opportunity and isolation from the rest of society. Our situation has greatly improved in the past 3 years, however, and we feel that you are entitled to some objective information and humbly beg your indulgence in more favorably portraying our situation by printing additional facts in your paper.

"Your editorial points out hopelessness in several areas on the reservation. The first area is one of education. The school at St. Labre that you mentioned in your editorial, is only one of several schools in and around the reservation. St. Labre has an enrollment of 245 Northern Cheyenne students. There is an eight-grade public school at Lame Deer, the center of the reservation, and many students from the reservation also attend public high school at Colstrip, Mont., north of the reservation. These two public schools have a combined total enrollment of 263 Northern Cheyenne students. In addition, there is a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding and day school at Busby, Mont., with a total enrollment of 219 Northern Cheyenne students, 89 of whom are boarding students, 130 of whom are day students and a Bureau day school at Birney with an enrollment of 14 Northern Cheyenne students. There has been considerable public interest apparent on the reservation in the past few years in obtaining a public high school on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Montana law at this time, prevents the Northern Cheyenne Reservation from obtaining a high school. We are hoping that through a publicity campaign on this situation, that the community will take action to have this law changed and eventually obtain a public high school on the reservation.

"The second area of hopelessness you indicated in your article was in the area of stock-raising. You mentioned that, 'It takes 20 acres of their bleak reservation land to support one steer.' This area is considered some of the best cattle country in Montana. There is 100-percent range use by Northern Cheyenne Indians. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has a tribal steer operation which has assets in the million-dollar category. This tribal steer enterprise occupies 19 percent of the Northern Cheyenne grazing land. In addition to this, there are 68 Northern Cheyenne cattle operators operating on other parts of the reservation. These operations vary in size from part-time operators owning 10 head to 1 individual with 900 head. What this means is that grazing operations provide income to more than 70 Northern Cheyenne families, in addition to the grazing rentals paid to individual landowners and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

"You mentioned, thirdly, in your article that there is a small handicraft industry at Ashland, Mont. We assume you are making reference to the Gullid Arts and Crafts factory at Ashland. This plastic assembly plant employed an average of 150 persons in 1965 with gross earnings of \$407,039.06.

"You indicate an area of hopelessness in the fact that the Northern Cheyenne Reservation has no minerals. The Northern Cheyenne Reservation comprises 444,000 acres of land. This land is almost totally underlain by subbituminous coal. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is currently negotiating with industrialists who are interested in this coal, and are considering leases for the exploration of the coal deposits. These prospective buyers of our coal are considering industrial developments provided our coal deposits are extensive enough. There is a small mine in Lame Deer which is producing 5,000 tons a year of this coal for local consumption. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe receives a small, yet important sum of tribal income from

this source. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has let oil and gas leasing permits. These permits provide \$53,374 per year income to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

"You have stated in your editorial that winter is in full blast at Ashland, Mont. This is true. We are in the middle of winter. You mentioned, however, that for most of the Cheyennes there is little shelter. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe received a \$4 million claim settlement from the U.S. Government in 1963. We are building many new homes with part of this money. At present, we have completed 86 new homes, there are 35 under construction, 24 more have been approved for construction, and we anticipate that in addition to these, between 90 and 105 other new homes will be constructed. This will make a total of some 266 new homes purchased from judgment fund moneys. The Public Housing Administration is sponsoring a mutual help housing program on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Ten new homes are nearing completion at Busby, Mont., and 40 more are scheduled for construction soon in other communities on the reservation. Family plan money has also been used to repair or remodel 16 other homes. This makes a total of 332 new homes either constructed or scheduled for construction on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.¹ There are approximately 503 resident Northern Cheyenne families. In addition to this, we understand that the St. Labre Mission has plans for the construction of 40 houses at Ashland. There are still log shacks that people must live in but it is not correct to say that there is not enough shelter for my people.

"The judgment received by the Northern Cheyennes from the U.S. Government has also made possible a scholarship fund in the amount of \$250,000. Negotiations with two banks are now underway to establish a scholarship trust fund. Proceeds from the trust will be used to send capable Northern Cheyennes to institutions of higher learning.

"The industrial development fund made possible from the judgment fund, presently totals approximately \$670,000. From this fund, the tribe has built a \$100,000 factory building, the cost of which will be amortized over a 20-year period. During the period of amortization the tribe will receive 4 percent interest on the unpaid balance. This money was invested to get the jobs at the handicraft industry at Ashland. A total of \$19,000 was expended recently for a forest products feasibility study in an attempt to make use of the 80,000 acres of ponderosa pine on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Two major blocks of this timber were advertised for sale in 1965, but there were no bidders. We need a timber sale in order to create additional jobs on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. We plan to advertise this sale again soon with lower stumpage rates than the earlier advertisement.

"You may inform your readers that there is capital available from this industrial fund which is available to reliable and responsible prospective industries. Perhaps you can help us in our effort to attract industry to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. This would be much more beneficial and have a more far-reaching effect than charity. During the month of September, the Northern Cheyenne Reservation had the highest level of employment that it has ever achieved. We believe that it was the highest level of employment of any reservation in Montana. Even at this high level of employment, our unemployment was still 20 percent, which compares unfavorably, I realize, with the 4.5 percent national average of employment. However, the Northern Cheyennes are good

¹ These figures do not include 62 trailer houses which have also been purchased from family plan funds.

workers. They want jobs. Many of them need jobs. That is one of the reasons I am writing you this letter.

"Not only are we Northern Cheyennes trying to help ourselves, but we are also receiving assistance in our efforts from many sources. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is helping us in many ways with their programs of credit, economic development, public works, education, vocational training, employment, community development, and in the upgrading of social services.

"Furthermore, we are benefiting from many provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is sponsoring a community action program which has a staff of 40. This staff includes administrators, nurses, teachers, community health workers, and aids, most of whom are volunteers. They are directing special community health, remedial reading, and child development programs.

"The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council also sponsors a Neighborhood Youth Corps which has provided employment for more than 100 youths, age 16 through 21, some are in-school and out-of-school programs at Busby, Lame Deer, and Ashland at Federal, public, and mission schools. Other Neighborhood Youth Corps workers are employed at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northern Cheyenne Agency, the Public Health Service Center, and by the tribe on various projects throughout the reservation. Nine VISTA workers are serving in a variety of ways throughout the reservation. During the summer of 1965, 120 preschool children on the reservation were taught in child development centers under the Headstart program. The Headstart program has been continued on the reservation under the community action program. During the summer of 1966, we hope to have 35 college students from Montana universities working on the reservation in a work-study program. Nearly \$500,000 has been assigned to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation from the Economic Opportunity Act, and we feel that benefits from the amount spent so far are already much in evidence.

"As a result of these Government programs, the employment at the Guild Arts and Crafts factory at Ashland, and through employment made possible through the construction of new homes on the reservation, the gross reservation income for 1965 was about \$1.1 million. This means that there was a per capita income of approximately \$500, or an average family income slightly in excess of \$3,000 per year. With these salaries plus a tribal program for needy families of distribution of surplus commodities, I find it hard to believe your comment in your editorial that there is 'scarcely a bite to eat.'

"We are realistic, however, and know that our economy needs strengthening. We still have much that needs to be done in improving our reservation. It can only be permanently strengthened through the creation of additional year-round permanent employment. We want to attract industry. We know things can be better. We will do everything we can to help ourselves. Please print this letter in the hope that some industrialist interested in locating on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation may read it.

"Thank you very much for taking the time to read my long letter. I will be very happy to answer any questions you have about it.

"Sincerely yours,

"JOHN WOODEN LEGS,

"President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe."