

Sacramento, Calif.  
Dec. 28, 1933.

Congressman Clarence F. Lea,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Lea:

Referring to our conversation regarding the needs of the California Indians when you were in my office here several days ago, there is enclosed herewith, for your information, a copy of letter addressed to Senator Wheeler which sets out rather fully the situation of the Indians under this jurisdiction.

There should be some way found to finance a home improvement program for these long neglected Indians. We are making a little beginning on a few of the rancherias under the Civil Works program, but the funds available for the purchase of materials is so limited we can only repair a few of their present miserable shacks-- we do not have money enough to construct any new houses, or to purchase the needed simple furniture and bedding to make them decently sanitary and comfortable.

It might be well if you can talk this matter over with Commissioner Collier and with the Civil Works Administrator and see if it is possible to get a special Civil Works project authorized for improving the homes of these Indians. We need a more liberal allowance for the purchase of materials so we can build houses. Their present little cabins are so small that frequently we find a large family living crowded in one small room. There are many of these one-room, over-crowded shacks and it will require a considerable sum for the purchase of materials. If this Civil Works program should be continued after February 15, and we could be given additional funds for the purchase of materials we could immediately greatly improve the homes of these Indians. What we are actually doing is expending funds and labor in building roads, fences, etc., as a means of furnishing employment to the Indians so they can earn their support. This is fine as far as it goes. But the work we are doing is not of very great benefit. The same amount of labor, if expended in remodeling and building houses, would result in far more benefit. But we can't build and repair houses without lumber and other materials. This is our great handicap.

Copy

Congressman Lea

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If this situation were explained to the Civil Works Administrator, it might be possible a way could be found to materially increase the amount that has been authorized for the purchase of materials. Under the Civil Works program we have been authorized to employ 7 supervisors, 21 skilled laborers and 44 common laborers, and to expend not exceeding \$4,000 for materials. Now if we could only have a larger sum for the purchase of materials, say \$25,000, we could build quite a number of small two and three room houses which would greatly improve the living conditions on most of the Indian rancherias in this jurisdiction. We are going ahead and doing the best we can with the amount available but we can make only the most urgently needed repairs to a few of their present small cabins.

As to the needs on the two rancherias near Geyserville in your County, we have started some work on these and will do what we can with the limited funds at our disposal. For your further information there is enclosed herewith letter recently received from our Field Clerk, Mr. Krieger at Ukiah, in which he raises the question as to what should be done with the Lytton tract of land purchased some years ago for the Geyserville Indians. This tract has never been occupied by the Indians. There is no water on it and no improvements of any kind as you doubtless are aware. The Indians are too poor to build houses or make other improvements requiring the purchase of materials. If a strip of land on the south side of the highway could be purchased for a building site, and neat cottages constructed for the Indians, then they would have good drainage, shade, some timber for fuel and good well water for domestic use. The land across the road by the school house would then all be available for gardens, orchards and vineyards. It hardly seems possible that the white people in that vicinity would have any objections to the Indians living there if neat cottages were provided for them and the place made neat and attractive in appearance.

If you have any suggestions to make as to what should be done with this Lytton tract of land, I shall be very glad if you will make them to me and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) O. M. Lipps,  
Superintendent.