

Dec. 21, 1933.

DEC 26 1933
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The Honorable
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In further reference to Office letter dated December 4, 1933, in reference to the proposed Indian Colony for the homeless Indians near Ione in Amador County, this jurisdiction, there is transmitted herewith copy of letter and recommendations received today from Mr. Anson V. Prouty, member of the Board of County Supervisors for Amador County.

In this connection special attention is called to the postscript on Mr. Prouty's letter reading as follows:

"I can't guarantee that all the Indians approve this plan. In fact one of them just came in to tell me that he had been making inquiries among them and very few of them approved the plan.

"What they want is the cash but I think it would be a crime to give it to them. In a short time it would be gone and they would be back right where they are now."

This indicates the feeling of a large number of the California Indians. They are looking forward to a large cash per capita payment. This, of course, they will not receive. It has been my idea that if we could secure reimbursable funds to finance a home improvement program, purchase of needed lands, etc., without waiting for the determination of the suit now pending in the United States Court of Claims, thus hypothecating in advance a large portion of the expected award, we would then be able permanently to improve their social and economic conditions and to convince them of the greater good they will derive from using the funds in this manner rather than by using it to make per capita payments. There will not be much

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difficulty in getting most of the groups to enter into the spirit of a home improvement program if funds can be made available for such purpose before the Court of Claims makes its award and the money is set aside in the Treasury to their credit. But if it is necessary to wait until the award has been made, then there will be no end of complaints, petitions and demands, both on the part of the Indians and of many of their white friends, that the amount awarded be paid to them in cash.

This view of the situation should receive most careful consideration.

Very respectfully,

OHL:MR


O. H. Lipps,
Superintendent.

CC: Salt Lake City Extension Office.