

Statement of Assistant Secretary John A. Carver, Jr.,
before the Indian Affairs Subcommittee of the House Interior
and Insular Affairs Committee, re H. R. 3235--June 15, 1961

In the field of taxation, legislative repeal of administrative regulations is a common procedure. I think it is less common in other governmental programs. As you can see from the report which I have just read, the Department opposes that approach in the matter of vocational education for Indians.

The report makes clear, however, that we have no quarrel with the idea that vocational education for Indians should not be arbitrarily denied. As I stated in the report, our new regulations will make it clear that the Vocational Training program is available to Indians who live outside but near the reservations when the failure to provide the services would have a direct effect upon Bureau programs within the reservation boundaries. We do not believe it is good policy to deny assistance to an off-reservation Indian when the only practical alternative is for him to return to the reservation and increase the Government's responsibilities.

If, among the aims of the Federal Indian program we list attainment by Indians of the maximum degree of self-sufficiency which their abilities permit, an educational program, including a vocational education program, has the highest priority.

To this principle I wholeheartedly subscribe.

But a basic worry haunts me that the Federal Government may be doing only part of its job, or may be tying one hand behind its back, if it

These are challenges that we can meet right now. Let us use Guam as the laboratory in which we can develop the instruments of a democratic government constructed to promote the society you want to create, or to preserve, in Guam. In so doing you serve not only your own interests but by your example those of the other Pacific Islands. Your success will demonstrate to the world that free institutions serve the ultimate goals of free men.

I place upon you, therefore, a heavy burden in the struggle of the free world for the survival of those institutions which permit me to speak with you today--not as a superior authority, but as a partner in the process of advancing our mutual interests.

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