Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

I want to make a brief introductory statement before the Bureau witnesses present more detail on the programs of the Department on behalf of the Indian people covered by the requests contained in the Budget.

In emphasizing two aspects of our program, I'd like first to say that the attention given by Secretary Udall and his staff, including me, to the problems of the Indian people has not been superficial. You know of course of his action in setting up the Task Force on Indian Affairs. After its report was submitted, the Secretary convened the first meeting of Indian Service Superintendents in twenty-seven years to discuss it in depth, thereby emphasizing the importance of the reservation superintendent in this program.

The Secretary in November toured a part of the Indian country with an interim advisory committee of outstanding citizens interested in Indian problems. Both of us have testified before Committees of both houses on legislative proposals affecting the Indian people; we have met with tribal councils in many parts of the country -- I attended November conventions of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and a conclave of Eskimo leaders in Point Barrow.

The doors of the Secretary's office and mine, as well as the Commissioner's, are open to the Indian people.

Two basic needs stand out in the Task Force report and in our own studies -- education and economic development.

The first basic requirement for the advancement of any group of people is education. Over the past ten years with the aid and sympathetic understanding of this Committee and the Congress, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been able to make great advances in its education program. However, due to the rapid increase in the school age population, we are short of school facilities. The Bureau's budget estimate for fiscal year 1963 includes funds to accelerate the school addition and expansion program, though it will be several years before it is completed.

The Task Force also found the low standard of living on most of our Indian Reservations to be one of the most pressing problems facing our Indian people. This situation is caused mainly by the lack of employment opportunity on or near Indian Reservations and the inadequacy of the resources of the reservations to support the population.
makes construction of facilities to handle the unstemmable tide of people a must. In shorthand terms, we ask for money for recreational facilities; it would be equally accurate to say that facilities funds are necessary as protective measures to prevent irreparable damage to the resource.

As in the past, the Director and his staff will furnish greater detail on each of these, and other adjustments in going programs.

Thank you for the opportunity of appearing today.