

REMARKS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN CARVER AT BUFFET GIVEN BY MICCOSUKEE
INDIANS AT HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, DECEMBER 18, 1964

It is a pleasure to take part in this celebration of the Miccosukees' first major step into the business world. As an organized tribe, they have made such good progress since 1962 that I have no doubt that the dedication of the new restaurant tomorrow will be merely the first of similar occasions in future months and years.

But we are here tonight to do more than celebrate the birth of a new business enterprise. In a sense, the restaurant symbolizes the planning, interest, and action of many individuals and organizations who have joined hands with the Miccosukees to help them reach their goal of self-sufficiency. Many of you who are present tonight are among those contributors to Miccosukee progress. You have given your time, your efforts and your funds because of strong feelings of friendship for the Miccosukees, and I know you regard their successes and achievements as your reward. But this gathering is in your honor, because the Miccosukee people appreciate all you have done to assist and encourage them. As one who also has a deep interest in the Indians, I would like to add my thanks to theirs for your splendid efforts.

I wish it were possible to name all of you, but the list is too long. Just let me give you an idea of the wide variety of sources of help that have been solidly behind the Miccosukees in their endeavors: the State of Florida, and the State's Indian Commissioner, Bill Kidd; the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, which has provided funds to back the Miccosukee Project and a dedicated staff to work with the Indians; the Dade County Health Department; the National Park Service of the Interior Department,

which provided land for Miccosukee homes; the Tribe's attorney, Homer Kimbrill, who has labored long and well for the Miccosukee and who has not, to my knowledge, submitted a single bill to the Tribe for his good services; womens groups such as the Miami Federation of Womens Clubs, the Descendants of the Pioneers, and 13 different branches of the DAR in Miami, Miami Beach, and Fort Lauderdale. Then there are those individual men and women whose efforts stem from deepest devotion to the Indians: old friends, tried and true, such as Robert Mitchell of Orlando and Bertram Scott of Winter Park.

You and the Miccosukees have an unusual, and highly effective, working partnership, combining your services and talents with strong leadership and initiative among the Indians to produce the fine progress that they have made in recent years. It is, I believe, a unique partnership, because it involves so large a number of civic organizations, private citizens, and governmental agencies at every level in the goals and welfare of a single Indian group. The situation has captured the public's attention and imagination, and interest extends far beyond the borders of Florida. You have demonstrated the practical ways in which Indians can be helped by their fellow citizens to secure social and economic stability, and I want to thank you for the outstanding example you are setting for all Americans.