

REMARKS BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER JOHN CARVER AT THE DEDICATION OF THE
MICCOSUKEE TRIBAL RESTAURANT, DEC. 19, 1964

It is always nice to be in Florida, but I am particularly glad to be here on this happy occasion. The dedication of this beautiful restaurant is something we have all looked forward to ever since construction of the building began. If it does not do a thriving business, I can only say there is something wrong with the tourists who visit Florida.

Last night I expressed appreciation to the many friends of the Miccosukees for the assistance and encouragement they have given you in your efforts for social development and economic stability.

Today I want to take a few minutes to express my admiration for the diligence and determination you have put into those efforts. The manner in which you have utilized the tools and opportunities for advancement that have been made available to you shows clearly how much you want to reach the goals that you have set yourselves. Your use and support of programs devised by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help you achieve a sound social and economic base have been noteworthy and gratifying. You have considered your problems, measured your needs, and set out to overcome the one and meet the other. Your feet are firmly on the path of progress, and today we meet to dedicate a landmark on that path. I congratulate you on this fine achievement.

You have come far in a remarkably short time, and the way ahead looks good. I wish I could assure you that you would never have any setbacks or disappointments, but I can't. You have already had some, and

you know there are undoubtedly more ahead of you. It is not characteristic of the Miccosukee people to give up in the face of obstacles, or even to be greatly slowed down by them, so I know you are not going to let discouragements keep you from moving steadily forward.

I would like you to remember, when things do not go smoothly, that no one expects you to accomplish miracles, and no one will think that you have failed simply because you may run into occasional stumbling blocks that slow your progress temporarily. It is a good thing to stand on one's own feet, to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining, and all your friends have great respect for you because these are your ultimate goals. But if you falter sometimes, we will not think less of you. We have had that experience, ourselves.

As work goes forward on Miccosukee projects and programs, you can take great pride in your accomplishments thus far and from them assess the very real potentials for continued progress. You can point to your handsome restaurant and tell yourselves: "This not only represents what the Miccosukees have done; it shows what the Miccosukees can do!"