

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 1968

APRIL 21, 1967.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. HANSEN of Washington, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9029]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in
explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the
Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year 1968.
The bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department
of the Interior (except Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau
of Reclamation, Southeastern Power Administration, Southwestern
Power Administration, and Water Pollution Control Administration)
and for other related agencies including the U.S. Forest Service.

SUMMARY OF BILL

(INCLUDING APPROPRIATION OF RECEIPTS)

Appropriations, 1967 (to date).....	\$1,333,158,800
Budget estimates, 1968.....	1,443,793,000
Recommended in bill for 1968.....	1,365,310,150
1968 bill compared with:	
Appropriations, 1967.....	+32,151,350
Budget estimates, 1968.....	-78,482,850

The bill also provides an additional borrowing authorization of
\$16,200,000 for the Helium Fund.

The amount allowed by the Committee by activity in comparison with the 1967 appropriation and the 1968 budget estimate is indicated in the following table:

Activity	Committee bill, 1968	Bill compared with—	
		1967 appropriation	Estimate, 1968
Hospital health services	\$46,770,000	+\$4,346,000	-----
Contract medical care	13,906,000	-195,000	-----
Field health services	18,951,000	+3,647,000	-----
Special assistance to the Menominee Indian People	350,000	-450,000	-----
Administration	2,023,000	+193,000	-\$133,000
Transfer in the Estimates		+788,000	-----
Total, Indian health activities	82,000,000	+8,329,000	-133,000

The reduction of \$133,000 relates to the increase requested for administration. In the opinion of the Committee this minor amount can be absorbed.

If various States fail to enact necessary legislation for participation in the medicare program, the Committee will favorably consider reprogramming available funds to finance additional costs to this activity.

CONSTRUCTION OF INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

Appropriation, 1967	\$14,489,000
Estimate, 1968	22,211,000
Recommended, 1968	14,733,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 1967	+244,000
Estimate, 1968	-7,478,000

The decrease recommended by the Committee includes \$4,230,000 for the construction of a hospital at Tuba City, Ariz.; and \$2,312,000 for the construction of 121 quarters to accommodate personnel of the proposed hospital. Testimony developed during the hearings indicated that planning for the construction of the hospital will not be completed in fiscal year 1968.

The Committee recommends an increase of \$64,000 for the consolidation of shop space and construction of a new incinerator at the Public Health Service Indian hospital at Talihina, Okla.

While the Committee approves the budgeted construction program, with the exceptions noted above, it recommends an additional reduction of \$1,000,000 based on anticipated slippage in the construction program. As of December 31, 1966, there was an unobligated balance of \$17,733,573 in this appropriation account.