

*Indians*

STATEMENT OF CARL ALBERT, M. C., THIRD DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity of appearing before the Committee. I have asked for this opportunity in order that I might say a few words about the matter of funds for Indian education. I would like to preface my remarks with the opinion that it is the desire of the overwhelming majority of the people of my state and particularly those of Indian blood to free our federal government of its responsibilities with respect to our Indian population and to free our Indians from the controls of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as rapidly as possible. This is the goal to which we have all aspired for many years. It is my further opinion that the speed with which we are able to do this will depend largely upon the extent to which adequate provisions are made for Indian education and Indian health.

In the state of Oklahoma, which I am sure in many respects is typical of the western states, the major portion of the responsibility for educating Indian children has always been assumed by the state. Through the years, however, the federal government has, for very good reason, lent certain specific forms of assistance to Indian education. One of the things which the federal government has done in this connection has been that of conducting boarding schools for Indian children. These schools are open only to orphan children, to children from broken homes, and to children who live so far from public schools that they have no other opportunity to obtain an education. There are three such schools in my congressional district. These are known as Carter Seminary, Wheelock Academy, and Jones Academy. Altogether there are some twelve such schools in the state of Oklahoma and, of course, a number of such schools in other states. The abrupt curtailment of these