activities. For the balance of the transitional period it will be a learn-by-doing process for the Menomines with counseling and general trust supervision as the Bureau's interim role.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF 84TH CONGRESS LEGISLATION

Through the voluntary request more than 2,000 Indians in Oklahoma, members of the Peoria, Ottawa, and Wyandotte Tribes, were placed upon the road to final termination of special controls by the 84th Congress. For each group a complete membership roll was to be prepared early in 1957, and it was expected that group decontrol would be complete by August 1959 for each. No large administrative problems appear evident.

During October 1956 a delegation of the Confederated Tribe of the Coquille, Wash., reservation met with Bureau officials in Washington to prepare a 5-year decontrol program for 4,189 Indians. The 84th Congress had provided that the tribe should submit proposed decontrol legislation by July 24, 1951.

VOLUNTARY INDIAN ACTIONS TOWARD FEDERAL DECONTROL

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Glenn L. Emmons, announced that one of the most helpful and promising courses toward termination is by voluntary request of the Indian groups themselves. In Nevada, the tribes of the Quapaw jurisdiction in eastern Oklahoma, * * *

The basic principle enunciated so clearly and approved unanimously by the Senate and House of July 11, 1956, for the relief of Col. Benjamin Axelroad. As to the question of legislation Emmons remarked: "* * * In number of areas, tribes have taken the initiative in exploring the means of programming their way toward eventual self-determination. In the historic Washo-Wahpeton Tribe in the Aberdeen (S. Dak.) area, the Makah and Coquille Tribes in the State of Oregon, several urbanized, and in Nevada, the tribes in the Quapaw jurisdiction in eastern Oklahoma, * * * In order for projects to be meaningful to the tribal groups, they must be developed at the local level in consultation with the tribal groups affected, and there must be a continuous follow-through in the development and implementation of the program proposals."

On April 12, 1956, in a major memorandum to all of the Bureau area directors and superintendents, Commissioner Emmons again referred particularly to the value of voluntary Indian group action. He said in part: "A good program is one which results from and meets the needs of a particular group of Indians. In whole or in part the program should, if possible, be the work of the Indians themselves."

As to the question of legislation Emmons noted that "* * * In some cases, it may specifically develop that special legislation will be necessary to forward a group's basic program. In other cases the Indian group may feel that their group's cultural assimilation and integration into the community life about them has progressed to the point where they desire early Congressional consideration of termination. In either case the area director should advise the Commissioner with a view to arranging for special guidance and assistance."

The bill would provide for the payment to Col. Benjamin Axelroad, of Tullahoma, Tenn., the sum of $2,799.50 as compensation for legal services performed by him in securing the enactment of private relief legislation to compensate certain claimants for a death and for personal injuries sustained by others in a motor-vehicle accident involving an Army truck.

The private relief legislation involved was Private Law 498, 83d Congress, approved July 1, 1954, entitled, "For the Relief of Chester H. Tuck, Mary Elizabeth Fisher, John Harper, and Mrs. T. W. Bennett," which provided compensation to the named beneficiaries in the aggregate amount of $27,999.50. That act also provided that no part of the money appropriated therein should be paid to or received by any agent or attorney on account of services rendered in connection with such claim and specified a penalty of a fine of not more than $1,000 for violation of such prohibition.

When that act passed the House of Representatives, it provided that no part of the amount appropriated therein "for the payment of any one claim in excess of 10 percent of the amount appropriated to any attorney. This language was stricken in the Senate, however, and the measure was finally enacted carrying the complete bar against the payment of attorney's fee in any amount from the sums appropriated.

The relief proposed by this measure is most unusual. It would require the Government to compensate counsel for claimants in private relief legislation, whereas claimants themselves should bear the cost of attorneys' fees for such services. Indeed, the enrolled bill here under consideration contains an identical prohibition against the payment of attorneys' fees for services rendered in connection with this legislation. I am unable to find any justifiable basis for the payment by the Government of attorneys' fees on behalf of claimants in private relief legislation. Committee reports on this bill (H. Rept. 498 and S. Rept. 210, 85th Cong.) advance, as a basis for this legislation, the fact that original language would not have prohibited the payment of an attorney fee by the claimants.

If the language were stricken from the bill, counsel could not obtain compensation under the bill as finally enacted. If the original language of the former measure, prohibiting the payment of attorneys' fees from the amounts appropriated in excess of 10 percent thereof, had been enacted, Colonel Axelroad might have been entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees from claimants out of the amounts so appropriated—but in no event would he have been entitled to a fee from the Government. If the Congress wishes to undo what it did in enacting legislation prohibiting Colonel Axelroad from receiving any compensation from the amounts of the several awards, it may be done by appropriate legislation. I cannot, however, approve legislation which would cast upon the Government the burden of paying the fees of counsel for claimants in private relief legislation, and which would establish a most undesirable precedent.

For these reasons, I feel obliged to withhold my approval from this measure.