

tanks for gasoline, oil, and similar products. An orphanage maintained and operated by the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which provides housing and care for approximately 125 native children, is located in the town. A city school building was recently constructed at a cost of approximately \$50,000. The city also owns a hospital which is served by two physicians and a corps of trained nurses.

A brief financial statement covering the town's finances follows:

Revenues (average over period 4 years), approximately.....	\$37, 500
Expenditures (average over period 4 years), approximately.....	34, 300
Surplus.....	3, 200
Indebtedness:	
Bonds for school house, at 7 percent.....	47, 500
Bonds mature 1952, payable in installments, per year.....	2, 500
Floating debt.....	None
Assessed valuation real and personal property.....	1, 128, 690
Basis of assessment, 50 percent. Rate of tax, 2 percent.	

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73^d CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2^d Session } { No. 1525

BOUNDARIES OF NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION IN NEW MEXICO

MAY 9, 1934.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. GREENWAY, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following.

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 8982]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 8982) to define the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 7, line 4, after the word "Indians", substitute a comma for the period and insert the following:

except sections 3 to 10, both inclusive, in township 11 north, range 19 west; south half of township 11 north, range 20 west; south half of fractional township 11 north, range 21 west, New Mexico principal meridian, which lands are hereby added to the Zuni Indian Reservation: *Provided*, That this section in order to exclude the town of Ramah shall not apply to sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 16, township 10 north, range 16 west, New Mexico principal meridian.

Page 9, line 8, after the word "sum", insert the following:
shall be reimbursable from funds accruing to the Navajo tribal funds as and when such funds accrue and

The bill as thus amended has the approval of the Department as will be seen from the letter from the Secretary of the Interior explaining the reasons for its enactment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 5, 1934.

HON. EDGAR HOWARD,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Further reference is made to your letter of April 6, requesting an opinion on H.R. 8982, a bill to define the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Section 1 establishes certain definite lines as the exterior boundary of the Navajo Indian Reservation within the State of New Mexico. These lines would add certain areas to the present reservation on the east and south, and also define

four small outside areas for different Navajo Bands living therein. The lands involved are thickly populated with Navajo Indians and have practically been used by them exclusively for grazing purposes for years. The areas include public lands interspersed with tracts purchased for the Indians with their own tribal funds, also lands consolidated in the Government for their benefit pursuant to the act of March 3, 1921 (41 Stat. 1225-1239). Provision is made in this section that all prior valid rights and claims shall not be affected by the proposed legislation. Ten and one half townships of national forest land will be eliminated, for the benefit of the Indians, from the Cibola National Forest, pursuant to section 1. This elimination of forest land has had the approval of the local forestry representatives.

Section 2 would grant the State of New Mexico the right to relinquish to the Government for the Indians such tracts of school or other State-owned lands with available vacant public domain within the State.

Section 3 is for the purpose of clarifying the Indian title to lands already consolidated for Indian purposes, pursuant to the act of March 3, 1921, supra. This section also extends the provisions of said act to three other counties and also provides that no further allotments or Indian homesteads on the public domain shall be made to Navajo Indians within the counties involved. This is agreeable to this Department for the reason that we are, in effect, trading this right of the Indians in order to get solid areas which can be developed for them. The Indians will, however, be able to obtain homesteads as citizens on the public domain by paying the usual fees or commissions and receiving a fee patent for the land selected, which automatically would make the land taxable.

This proposed boundary extension represents the ultimate line to which the Indians can hope to expand their reservation. This fact is realized by the Indians themselves, as evidenced at their tribal council at Tuba City last November. They are aware that they must reduce the number of their sheep and goats to prevent overgrazing; that erosion and range control must be conducted continuously if they are to survive and make substantial progress.

The proposed boundary extension actually will not add any large blocked-out areas of public land to the present reservation. Approximately a total of 340,000 acres is largely within areas consolidated or purchased for the Indians, or also is within an area heavily allotted to individual Indians.

Section 4 provides for the acquisition, through purchase, of certain privately owned lands located within the proposed reservation boundary, together with the improvements thereon, and also provides in addition to purchasing the surface of the land only, that the improvements on leased State school land within the boundary may be purchased under certain conditions set out in said section. Section 4 also contains an authorization for the appropriation of \$482,136.22 to purchase these privately owned lands, which are located not only within the boundaries, as described in section 1 of this bill, but also within the area in southeastern Utah referred to by the act of March 1, 1933 (47 Stat. 1413). The amount mentioned indicates the money actually needed, based upon careful field examination and report by one of our field agents. Purchase of these privately owned lands, coupled with the boundary extension, will end a long drawn out range conflict.

During the past 2 years, representatives of the Indian Office held meetings with various groups of local interested persons, and insofar as the boundary lines set out in the bill are concerned, it may be said that except for factional and minority differences of opinion, what opposition there was at first has now largely disappeared.

This proposed legislation, which is related to H.R. 8927, Seventy-third Congress, second session, is indeed an emergency measure, as the future livelihood of these Indians depends on favorable action being taken. It not only is an emergency measure in regard to the Indians but also to the Federal Government for the reason that, if enacted, proper range management and control of soil erosion now in progress on the reservation, will be continued, and unless this work is continued in the Navajo country, which is tributary to the Colorado River, soil erosion within the area in question will increase tremendously within the next decade and result in heavy silt deposits within the Boulder Dam Reservoir, thus seriously damaging the future effectiveness of that project, together with the concurrent loss to the Government on its investment therein. Their are enclosed maps with appropriate coloring and legend showing the status and areas of the lands involved.

Since introduction of the bill it has been definitely determined that the bill as drawn covers in some old cornfields and a peach orchard of the Zuni Pueblo Indians; also that the proposed line in part runs through the town of Ramah. Hence in order to remedy these two matters it is recommended that the bill be amended as follows:

On page 7, line 4, after the word "Indians" insert the following: "except sections 3 to 10, both inclusive, township 11 north, range 19 west; south half of township 11 north, range 20 west; south half of fractional township 11 north, range 21 west, New Mexico principal meridian, which lands are hereby added to the Zuni Reservation: *Provided*, that this section in order to exclude the town of Ramah shall not apply to sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 16, township 10 north, range 16 west, New Mexico, principal meridian."

In view of the facts stated, I recommend that H.R. 8982 be amended as suggested and that it receive favorable consideration.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget in reporting on S. 2831, a bill identical to H.R. 8982, advised that the proposed bill would not be in conflict with the financial program of the President if modified to provide that the appropriation therein authorized "shall be reimbursable from funds accruing to the Navajo tribal funds as and when such funds accrue".

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

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