

October 13, 1944

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Extension Division

E. C. Fortier - Irrigation Division

O & M collections - Hopi Reservation

*Om*

With respect to the attached letter of August 31 from the Superintendent in reply to my letter of August 3, a copy of which is also attached, you are advised that the Department has never promulgated any operation and maintenance order for the collection of assessments on irrigated lands of the Hopi Reservation. According to latest reports there are only about 110 acres irrigated. There are no white operators in the area, the irrigated lands all being farmed by Indians.

There is not now, and never has been, any authority, therefore, for the collection of any money from these Indians for the payment of operation and maintenance expenses, and there is no authority to deposit the \$128.42 referred to by the Superintendent in the Treasury as operation and maintenance collections.

The Superintendent's letter is referred to you for consideration in connection with the proposed organization of "Phillips Farms" referred to by the Superintendent in connection with which you may be able to use the money; otherwise it may be returned to the individual Indians from whom it was collected.

RG 75, B1A, CEF  
9056-1936-341, Part F  
Hopi  
Box 20

*Handwritten initials and scribbles*