

To Head Educ. Lab—

Indian Desk Director Jim Wilson Resigns

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(AIPA) Dr. James J. Wilson, long-time director of the Indian Division of the Office of Economic Opportunity, left OEO on July 2 to head an educational laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Calling his move a 'transitional period,' Wilson will become chairman of a private educational foundation named Southwest Cooperative Educational Laboratory which he hopes to 'Indianize.'

Questioned here whether his departure from OEO indicated an interest in running for elective public office in his home state of South Dakota, which is likely to have a vacant seat next year, Wilson stated:

'For the time being I'm not too concerned with this matter—time will take care of itself.'

The Albuquerque laboratory which Wilson will head has a staff of 140 employees, a 20-member board of directors, and full existing programs in Oklahoma, west Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as well as isolated programs in several other states.

'I have negotiated with the Board of Directors,' said Wilson, 'and I have been authorized to extend our activities across the nation in regard to Indian and Mexican-Americans in all 50 states.'

Wilson said he expects to expand programs in public service outside the strictly educational and scientific laboratories where the community action approach can be applied.

'With all my experience in OEO,' said Wilson, 'I have a very good understanding of many needs—both of in-school and out-of-school people, primarily Indians and Mexican-Americans. I expect to work principally by seeking the identification of problems while the laboratory works on solutions.'

Wilson said his chief accomplishment while with OEO was the leadership program which both educated and placed Indian lawyers and administrators in positions on the federal level.