

Senator Tunney Airs Money for Calif. Indians

Senator John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) reported today that the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved an additional \$4.6 for services to California Indians.

That sum — an increase to the Administration's budget — was approved following Tunney's testimony urging an end to "federal discrimination against California Indians in the allocation of Bureau of Indian Affairs funds."

Tunney said he was particularly pleased that the Committee report stated, in reference to the boost in Indian education funds, that "special efforts should be made to make Johnson-O'Malley funds available in locations whether or not there are large (reservation) areas."

"This is good news for California and a significant development for California Indians," Tunney said. "It reverses a pattern in which Indians in my state — most of whom live off-reservation — have been short-changed on Federal services."

The appropriations boost includes \$2 million for education of Indian children, \$1.5 million for housing assistance to rural Indians and \$1,100,000 to expand services by the California Indian Rural Health Board.

The Appropriations Committee also added \$500,000 — at Tunney's request — to the BIA's \$1,750,000 item for Indian water rights surveys. Tunney said he hopes that half of that new sum will be used in California.

The appropriations for California Indians are expected to be approved by the full Senate this week.