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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

OCT 29 1925

Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson,  
Kissimmee, Florida.

My dear Mrs. Willson:

Referring to previous correspondence on the subject, you are advised that we have only recently received a report from Mr. Lucien A. Spencer, Special Commissioner in Charge, at Fort Meyers, relative to conditions among the Seminoles.

At a conference with Mr. Spencer in this city last January the Seminole work was reorganized. We had received a petition signed by several of the leaders of the tribe asking that available funds be largely expended in the care of sick and indigent Indians so that the able bodied ones might be free to leave the camps and find labor among the whites. The Indians stated that they could advance more rapidly by mingling with the whites in this way than if the tribe was grouped in a strictly Indian village; and also that every able-bodied Indian should earn his living the same as a white man. I am sure you will agree that this is strong evidence of a progressive spirit among the Seminoles, which should be encouraged in every way practicable.

In conformity therewith a camp for sick and indigent Indians was established on 320 acres of land within the city limits of

Hollywood. Ten cottages were erected and immediately filled with Indians. At least twelve more cottages were needed but owing to lack of funds could not be provided at that time. It was planned to establish headquarters there; but the entire camp was destroyed in the storm last month.

Mr. Spencer has been given \$6,000 to rebuild the camp and meet the immediate needs of the Indians in the way of food and clothing. Arrangements have also been started for a school near Fort Lauderdale for the Indian children. The Seminoles receive free medical, hospital, and dental services, and we issue rations to the old and indigent and to widows with small children.

Mr. Spencer states that the Seminoles are "making good" and will soon be in a position to take their place as helpful citizens of the community, and that the work of reconstruction which is being handled by Indian carpenters under the direction of a white foreman will require several months, but that in the meanwhile their regular relief and industrial activities will not be hampered.

We regret the delay in giving you this information, which is explained by the fact that we had to await Mr. Spencer's report. He had been ill and had just returned to headquarters the night before the storm and thereafter was, of course, entirely occupied

