

COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC-SCHOOL DISTRICT, WOLF
POINT, MONT.—VETO MESSAGE

M E S S A G E

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RETURNING

WITHOUT APPROVAL, THE BILL (S. 961) ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL BOARD AT WOLF POINT, MONTANA, FOR COMPLETING THE CONSTRUCTION, EXTENSION, EQUIPMENT, AND IMPROVEMENT OF A PUBLIC-SCHOOL BUILDING TO BE AVAILABLE TO INDIAN CHILDREN OF THE FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION, MONTANA."

APRIL 27, 1939.—Read; referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed

To the United States Senate:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, enrolled bill S. 961, to authorize an appropriation of \$50,000 for cooperation with the public-school board at Wolf Point, Mont., for completing the construction, extension, equipment, and improvement of a public-school building to be available to Indian children of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Mont.

The Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1935, approved on August 12, 1935 (49 Stat. 571), included \$50,000 for cooperation with the public-school board at Wolf Point in the construction or improvement of a public-school building to be available to Indian children of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Although this sum is to be recouped by the United States over a period of 30 years, it is my view that the extension of further financial assistance to the school district for the construction or improvement of school buildings would not be justified. It appears that, at the close of the fiscal year 1938, the district had on hand the sum of \$27,000. This would indicate that it is not in a serious condition financially.

I am informed that there are 940 white children and 280 Indian children in the district; that is, one-third of the children living in the

district are Indians. Somewhat less than one-fourth of the number enrolled in the Wolf Point public schools are Indians. The Department of the Interior is paying tuition for the 160 Indian children enrolled and, if a good attendance of Indian children is maintained, the district can earn something over \$16,700 through tuition payments.

For the foregoing reasons, I am compelled to withhold approval of the bill.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The WHITE HOUSE,
April 27, 1939.

S. 961.

SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; AT THE FIRST SESSION BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT For expenditure of funds for cooperation with the public-school board at Wolf Point, Montana, for completing the construction, extension, equipment, and improvement of a public-school building to be available to Indian children of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of cooperating with the public-school board of district numbered 45, town of Wolf Point, County of Roosevelt, Montana, for completing the construction, extension, equipment, and improvement of the public high-school building at Wolf Point, Montana: *Provided,* That the expenditure of any money so authorized shall be subject to the express conditions that the school maintained by the said district in the said building shall be available to all Indian children of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana, on the same terms, except as to payment of tuition, as other children of said school district: *Provided further,* That plans and specifications for construction, extension, or improvement of structures shall be furnished by local or State authorities without cost to the United States, and upon approval thereof by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs actual work shall proceed under the direction of such local or State officials. Payment for work in place shall be made monthly on vouchers properly certified by local officials of the Indian Service: *Provided further,* That any amount expended on any project hereunder shall be recouped by the United States within a period of thirty years, commencing with the date of occupancy of the project, through reducing the annual Federal tuition payments for the education of Indian pupils enrolled in public or high schools of the district involved, or by the acceptance of Indian pupils in such schools without cost to the United States; and in computing the amount of recoupment for each project interest at 3 per centum per annum shall be included on unrecouped balances.

WM. B. BANKHEAD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JNO. N. GARNER,
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

[Endorsement on back of bill:]

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

ED. A. HALSEY, *Secretary.*

