

1970 Press Releases

<u>No.</u>		<u>Date</u>
1,250	Executive Realignment Announced for Bureau of Indian Affairs	Jan. 9.
1,251	Remarks by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel before NCIO	Jan. 26
1,252	Remarks by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce before the Conference on Modern American Indians, Claremont Men's College	Feb. 27
1,253	Indian Claims Commission Granted more than \$45 Million during 1969	Apr. 6
1,254	Indians getting more action on their own reservations	Apr. 16
1,255	Hopi gets First Indian Small Businessman of Year Award	May 19
1,256	New Edition of Popular Indian Calendar of Events	May 24
1,257	Indian Financing Up \$58.5 Million in 1969	May 28
1,258	Indian are operating more programs for Indians	June 9
1,259	Summer Indian Studies Program set for Navajo and Santa Fe	June 15
1,260	Hickel to Give Interior Department valor Award	June 24
1,261	Hickel launches Inspection tour of crowded National Park system areas	June 30
1,262	Statement by Hickel on President Nixon's Special Message to Congress on Indians	July 8
1,263	Indian Affairs Commissioner Bruce praises President's Message on Indians	July 13
1,264	New Indian Bureau program to aid Indian parolees	July 16
1,265	Statement by Hickel on Passage by the Senate of the Alaska Native Land Claims Bill	July 16
1,266	Hickel appoints Sam Yankee to the National Advisory Board for Sport Fisheries and Wildlife	July 20
1,267	Contracts let for Indian Training Centers	August 4
1,268	Old Law makes new Policy for Indian Bureau	August 9
1,269	Roll prepared of Confederated Peoria Indians Award	September 18

<u>No.</u>		<u>Date</u>
1,270	Justice Department files Indian Fishing Rights Case	September 22
1,271	Secretary Hickel Sets Oct. 5-9 As Interior Job Corps Environmental Quality Week	September 30
1,272	Indians offer new and different Christmas gift that provides them with college scholarships Appointment of 15 Indians to Key BIA Posts	October 11 ann. Oct. 18
1,273	Traveling Art Studios bring Cultural studies to Indian Schools	November 15
1,274	Indian Records Never out of Date	November 22
1,275	Secretary Hickel unveils dramatic changes in BIA	November 25
1,276	Interior Department proposes revised regulations in Indian Probate	December 7
1,277	Order Extending Alaska Land "Freeze" signed by Acting Secretary Russell	December 8
1,279	New Town in Alaska for Minto Indians	December 22

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Wilson 343-9431

For Release Friday, January 9, 1970

EXECUTIVE REALIGNMENT ANNOUNCED FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today that he has approved an "executive realignment" of top positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"These changes will help make the Bureau more responsive to the needs of the Indian people and will provide the necessary flexibility in developing and carrying out programs to meet those requirements," Secretary Hickel said.

The realignment creates the positions of Associate Commissioner for Education and Programs and Associate Commissioner for Support Services. They replace the Deputy Commissioner and the six Assistant Commissioners. The two positions have, between them, line authority over all Bureau programs.

Assisting the two Associate Commissioners will be five staff directors. The Offices of Education Programs, Community Services and Economic Development will be under the Associate Commissioner for Education and Programs and the Offices of Management Services and Operating Services under the Associate Commissioner for Support Services. The staff directors will not have line authority.

Secretary Hickel said that he and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce have been consulting with tribal leaders in the selection of the personnel for these positions and that appointments will be announced as soon as possible.

The realignment expands the Bureau's Office of Congressional Relations to become the Office of Congressional and Tribal Relations. It will assist tribes in presenting their legislative needs and keep them informed on Congressional matters.

An Office of Intergovernmental Relations is created within the Bureau to stimulate maximum participation of Indian and Alaska Native people in interagency and intergovernmental programs and to be a focal point for Bureau cooperation with the National Council of Indian Opportunity in the Vice President's Office.

In a letter to tribal leaders, Commissioner Bruce said the realignment "will permit me to obtain a group of individuals in top management positions who will generate new directions and flexibility of policy in Indian affairs. The new team will include established Indian leaders, many of whom have been recommended by the various tribes and Alaskan Native groups.

"With this new team, I hope to make the Bureau totally responsive to your needs. We shall actively seek your thoughts and ideas on how to best organize the Bureau so as to make it an Indian Bureau not only in name but in fact."

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

For Release on Delivery (2:30 P.M. EDT January 26)

REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WALTER J. HICKEL

BEFORE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDIAN OPPORTUNITY,

ROOSEVELT ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C. January 26, 1970

It is a pleasure to participate with you today for I truly believe that this session is the forerunner of a truly unified, coordinated effort in providing the services that the American Indian not only wants -- but is entitled to have.

Early in my job as Secretary of the Interior, I promised to consult with our first citizens to discover not only what was wanted, but how we should go about filling those wants.

I believe that this is something Interior, N.C.I.O. and all Indian-related agencies must do.

At Albuquerque, at the National Congress of American Indians, I met with any Indian leaders and delegates.

The one consistent theme of all our talks was that the American Indian wants the B.I.A. to be more responsive and more effective.

To respond to that desire, I have signed an executive realignment which will greatly facilitate the flow of information from local areas to Washington.

This realignment will also give new strength and impetus to the important educational policies and practices so basic to social and economic development.

But more was said at Albuquerque -- not only do the people I have met with want a change in the B.I.A., they also want to participate in that change.

That is only right.

So far, we have named individuals in acting capacities only, and I have no commitments to fill any of the positions.

None have been filled, and now I need to know who the Indian community wants in these jobs in the B.I.A.

The result of Indian demands for change within the B.I.A. have been met with change. Now the American Indian must help me meet our other need, and supply me with names.

This will always be how we will work together, for we in Interior are seeking to make Indian involvement paramount as a matter of policy and practice -- not merely as a matter of rhetoric.

You will see this emphasis right down to the local level whether for education, control of local school boards greater relevance of curriculum for effective methods of teaching. . .

. . . Or for economic growth, which must be planned on a reservation-by-reservation basis to bring new jobs and ownership to the reservation

. . . Or for increasing control of many activities -- such as utilities and roads operation and maintenance -- which historically were carried out by the B.I.A.

This local input and control is basic to the Indian right -- the American birthright -- to determine one's own lifestyle.

This is not inconsistent with the special relationship the Indian people have -- and must continue to have -- with the Federal Government, and especially with the Department of the Interior.

In that regard, neither President Nixon nor I believe in a policy of termination.

But I am equally strong in the belief that each and every American Indian wants far more than just that relationship.

Increased local Indian control, and a stronger, more effective voice within the Bureau is the best way -- for this country to move ahead, with -- and for --its Indian people.

Together, the Indian members and the departments of government represented on this council can do much to aid the American Indian -- as citizens of this country -- to move ahead.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

For Release to PMs Friday, February 27, 1970

REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS LOUIS R. BRUCE
BEFORE THE CONFERENCE ON MODERN AMERICAN INDIANS,
CLAREMONT MEN'S COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIF., FEBRUARY 27, 1970

My friends and fellow students:

You were kind to offer me this platform today and invite me to present my views on issues and priorities affecting the lives and futures of Indian Americans. Other commitments prevented me from attending the opening of this conference, but I have followed the proceedings by moccasin telegraph. It is apparent from all accounts that the conferees are doing what they set out to do -- that is, baring the modern-day realities of Indian life, good and bad. And who is more suited to undertake such a study than this assemblage of thoroughly modern American Indians?

Despite the fact that I have passed somewhat beyond the critical age of 30, I hope you will accept me, too, as a modern American Indian.* I accept these times -- not past history -- as being the reality for all living Indians; and I, like you, know that what we do and say in our conduct of Indian affairs will establish the realities of the future.

You may think it whimsical of me to call myself one of your "fellow students." The dictionary offers more than one definition of the word. It says a student is "one who pursues learning in school." (That fits you.) But a student is also described as "one who is an attentive and systematic observer." (That fits me as well as you.)

I have been attentively and systematically observing the activities of Indian youth during the months since I became Commissioner of Indian Affairs. My new office has give me the opportunity to travel and visit in many parts of Indian America, and to become acquainted with the "now" generation of young Indian men and women.

One thing I have come to believe firmly: These young people should not be relegated to obscure functions, just because they are young. It isn't the number of gray hairs that counts, it's the gray matter under the hair we should value. Brainpower doesn't necessarily improve with age -- and youthful minds need practice in the art of idea-making.

We are making room for youthful Indian men and women in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Young Indian lawyers, teachers, sociologists, trained business managers and others with more generalized backgrounds are being fitted into positions where their ideas and ideals can contribute to new policy. They are engaging in activities that will give them experience in administration and opportunity for leadership within Government and beyond Government.

Note to press: Commissioner Bruce is a Sioux-Mohawk, aged 63.

I find their company and their style stimulating. I also find myself in agreement with nearly all the "new thought" views. For this reason, I was particularly eager to take part in this conference. It offers me a chance to become acquainted with the segment of Indian youth who are not part of the bureaucracy and who have been vocal anti-establishmentarians.

We might have some differences of opinion here, but diversity of views is good when it results in the creation of fresh perspectives. And we all can agree that a lot of stale stuff has cluttered Indian affairs for a long, long time.

For example, there's the threadbare slogan: "The only good BIA Indian is a dead one." Such irresponsible statements as this stir passions and obscure facts. They are the tools of the "professional Indians" and their fellow travelers -- people who have discovered that it is both fashionable and profitable to use Indian misery as the rocket ride to personal publicity.

Despite their hammering at the BIA, the fact remains that the BIA is the most enduring supporter Indians have. It is the means by which the special obligations of the Government toward Indian tribes are administered. This is not to deny that there is plenty of room for new perspectives in the administration. I hope this conference will produce some constructive recommendations for modernization of programs.

The BIA suffers from anemia -- it doesn't have enough young blood despite sizeable budgets in recent years, Government policies and programs have been less than prolific in their social and economic successes -- partly because they are outmoded in concept and partly because they originate from mores that do not relate fully to the Indian way. The various kinds of human salvage operations function at best as stop-gap measures which temporarily meet the Indian's physical needs. But they fail to anticipate future economic requirements and they fail to provide cultural and emotional substance for the distinctness of Indians.

The fault is not altogether with the white man -- at least not with the modern white man. With missionary zeal, he has tried to lead Indians toward the "Great Society." But we Indians haven't really tried to explain that some of these methods and goals are just not our thing. There's a short-circuit in the communication system between Indians and non-Indians, and it is time for you and me to try to fix it. It is time for us to start thinking and talking about what we believe to be the course which the BIA and Federal policies should follow for the future.

We Indians are a miniscule minority, but we have power far in excess of that which our numbers would seem to warrant. Our strength is in being Indian. Not just another minority, riding the momentary bandwagon of minorities, paraphrasing the slogans and aping the techniques of other groups. We are Indian. We know what it means, but it is time for us to articulate it for the rest of America.

The exercise of articulating it for others would also help us sort out our own thoughts. We owe it to ourselves to strip away all the emotion from "issues" in Indian affairs, and enunciate a set of priorities to which we can turn our closest attention.

The plain, unadorned fact, the front-line priority problem, is that most Indians don't have enough income to live in decency and self-respect.

In many ways Indians were worse off in the affluent 1960's than they had been in the depressed 1930's. In the 1960's many Indian communities looked like relics of the great depression, even though a lot of people kept telling Indians they were a part of the so-called "Great Society."

With few conspicuous exceptions, Indians are close to the bottom of the Nation's economic totem pole. Even where ample resources exist, those resources have not been developed to their fullest and are therefore not producing the jobs or the income Indian tribal members need for financial security.

Indian unemployment is ten times and more the national average, which at present is under four percent. Children are suffering -- perhaps irreparable damage to their mental and physical powers -- because of malnutrition, cold, and inadequate health care. Shacks and shanties are the shelter for entirely too many Indian reservation families -- the same kind of miserable housing that existed thirty years ago.

The single most insistent issue in Indian affairs today is: How can we eliminate the causes of Indian poverty?

Incredible though it may seem, the BIA has never in the past defined its priority goal as that of seeking to eliminate the causes of Indian poverty. The mission statements of such basic and all-important programs as education and resources management fall short of stating that the ultimate responsibility is to create a job-producing economy and employable people.

The BIA is currently undergoing a re-alignment that will result in giving priority attention to priority needs. It seems that BIA had been organized into teams playing under various program banners. I want you to know that I don't regard Indian affairs as a game, nor the BIA as a political football. It must be reshaped into a viable structure. I choose this word, viable, because it means capable of living. Instead of continuing to draw its life from the Indian people, the BIA must become capable of breathing new life into Indian communities -- making them viable.

Indians will never arrive at a happy level of association with the rest of American society until the last barrier to economic opportunity has been dropped.

There isn't going to be any real solution to Indian problems -- social or otherwise -- until there is a sound economic base under each and every family.

The perfectly obvious cause of Indian poverty today is unemployment. Indians in rural reservation communities are jobless because industrial and commercial development of such areas has lagged far behind the Nation as a whole.

There has been pitifully little priming of the pump -- capital for development -- on the reservation, from either Federal or private sources. However, in the past year, I am pleased to report, the rate of industrial growth in Indian areas has mushroomed. A new industry is opening up on the average of once every ten days -- and many of them among the big five hundred in assets and growth rates.

Lack of preparedness for the skills and professions of today's job market is another obvious cause of excessively high Indian unemployment. This is the fault of chronic deficiencies in elementary and secondary schools serving Indians -- whether they be BIA schools, public schools or most mission schools. According to some of our best Indian teachers and administrators the quality and modernity of education programs actually declined below pre-World War II levels; Indian culture-oriented curriculums and English taught as a second language were commonplace in many BIA schools a quarter-century ago, and they are just now, this year and last, again being provided for in the Federal budget for Indian schools.

Whether the Indian man or woman worker chooses to remain in the home community or to move to an urban and industrialized area, the need for skills in order to get a job remains the same. The capability of the BIA to fund and operate an employment assistance program is limited by an annual authorization of no more than \$25 million. But there are other sources of training funds that I do not believe have been tapped to their fullest by Indians. The National Council on Indian Opportunity, under the Chairmanship of Vice President Agnew, is the coordinating body for Federal efforts, and much attention has been given this past year to the crisis problems of the thousands upon thousands of Indians now drifting into cities in search of new jobs and new lives.

I have outlined a four-point set of goals that seem to me to be the ones deserving priority effort from this moment forward. I hope we will work together toward their fulfillment.

Our goal is that each Indian community be given an opportunity to expand into an economically viable and socially progressive environment -- a place that can proudly be called home, a place that emanates the spirit of modern Indian America.

Our goal is that no Indian shall be relegated to the ranks of unemployables because of lack of opportunity for training in occupations that are relevant to these times and relevant to Indian hopes. This means that the land and all its resources will be put to full use as a base for the Indian economy -- in the spirit of the old Indian ways, but in the forms that are meaningful for today and the future.

Our goal is that every Indian child shall have the best in education. Suited to his needs and talents and interests, and that all the signs of the second-rate in teaching methods, curriculums, materials and facilities will be replaced.

And our goal of goals is to provide the base within Government and within the private sector for Indians to be full participants in the planning and execution of all policies and programs affecting their destinies.

In conclusion, may I offer a reminder: In six years this Nation will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary of Independence. In the ensuing two centuries since the Declaration of Independence, the spiritual and economic independence of Indian Americans has declined. Let us pledge that the year 1976 will signal the re-emergence of Indians to the forefront of American life.

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PMS Monday, April 6, 1970

Henderson -- 343-9431

INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION GRANTED MORE THAN \$45 MILLION DURING 1969

Awards totaling more than \$45 million were granted American Indian groups through judgments of the Indian Claims Commission during 1969, the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported today.

Congress has appropriated funds for \$25.7 million of the total granted. The appropriated funds earn interest for the tribes involved while the funds are on deposit to their credit.

The Indian Claims Commission, an independent agency, was established by the Congress in 1946 to hear and determine the claims of tribes and other identifiable groups of American Indians living in the United States. These claims represent attempts by Indian tribes to obtain redress for any failure of the Government to complete payments for lands ceded under treaty, for the acquisition of land at an unconscionably low price or for other failure to comply with a treaty or legislative action regarding Indian lands that grew out of the westward expansion of the United States.

The present commissioners are John T. Vance, Richard W. Yarborough, Jerome K. Kuykendall, Margaret H. Pierce, and Brantley Blue, a Lumbee Indian appointed by President Nixon.

Most of the claims filed with the Commission are for "fair value" of Indian lands ceded to the United States or taken by the Government in the past. Increasingly, the funds received through judgments are now being invested by the tribes for projects to improve the social and economic conditions of their people.

Typical projects include scholarships for the education of Indian youth, social services for reservation dwellers, construction of community centers, funding of community development, industrial parks, and other projects designed to bring new sources of income and employment to the Indians.

Awards granted to the tribes in 1969 by the Indian Claims Commission included:

\$1,300,000.00	Cheyenne River Sioux
9,194,364.99	Delaware
1,850,000.00	Fort Berthold
1,240,000.00	Havasupai
1,377,207.27	Iowa
4,162,992.80	Klamath

273,250.00	Kickapoo
10,000.00	Miami of Oklahoma
1,250,000.00	Yankton Sioux
5,100,000.00	Yavapai-Apache

The following awards had not been certified to the U. S. Treasury, and were subject to appeal, as of Jan. 1, 1970:

\$3,826,660.20	Miami Nation
1,209,990.00	Wea
1,340,435.00	Iowa
168,555.00	Iowa
286,516.40	Iowa
663,193.77	Iowa
3,530,578.21	Sac and Fox
943,799.79	Sac and Fox
965,560.39	Sac and Fox
<u>6,609,926.14</u>	Nez Perce

Total \$45,303,029.96

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release to PMS Thursday, April 16, 1970

Feature Material
Henderson -- 343-9431

INDIANS GETTING MORE OF THE ACTION ON THEIR OWN RESERVATIONS

A few weeks ago, on the busy Colorado River Reservation near, Parker, Ariz., Sam Lockshin, President of Prest-Wheel, Inc., turned the keys to his firm's branch plant over to two Colorado River Indians: Vincent Scott, superintendent; and Myron Murdock, production planning manager.

It's the first time that non-Indian businessmen have transferred total management responsibilities to their Indian employees. People who watch such things believe it may be a trend in the making.

Each year more and more enterprises are finding profitable locations on American Indian reservations. Bureau of Indian Affairs surveys show that 184 plants employing 6,000 Indian people are raising the standard of living of tribes on or near the reservations. Forty-two new plants, or, on the average, about one every nine days, have been located on an Indian site during the past year.

Many Indian employees hold management jobs, such as Scott and Murdock; others are being groomed for top management positions. Five of the 184 plants are completely Indian-owned. These vary from the Crow Tribe's Poplar, Mont., operation that repairs military hardware to one owned by the Cherokee Nation in Stillwell, Okla., which manufactures electronic components.

Navajo Forest Products Industries (NFPI) is fulfilling all of the criteria for a successful industry on the reservation: making money, hiring and training Navajos and preserving the natural resources as trees are harvested on a sustained yield basis.

During the 1969 fiscal year, NFPI showed a net profit of more than \$1.5 million.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, bringing lights, gas, water and sewage facilities to areas that never had them before, showed a fiscal net profit of almost \$400,000.

Both enterprises operate with their own tribal board of directors.

Last year, the Bureau estimated that about 26 new Indian jobs per week were created for the Indian people through new industries on or near the reservations.

That manufacturers are satisfied with their locations is indicated by the Fairchild Semiconductor Division at Shiprock, N.M., which increased its largely Navajo work force from 880 to 1,202 in the first nine months of 1969. At Fairchild, only 25 of the employees are non-Indian, and 30 of its 33 supervisors are Indian.

In making the managerial announcement at Colorado River, Lockshin, whose Massachusetts-based company makes aluminum outdoor lawn furniture, said he will continue to maintain an Indian managerial staff and plans to visit the reservation only once a month.

He hopes to have 300 employees in Parker by 1971. Present employment is 115, of whom 93 are Indians. The plant was opened a year and a-half ago in a 65,000-square-foot building owned by the tribe and leased to the firm.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release May 19, 1970

Ayres -- 343-9431

HOPI GETS FIRST INDIAN SMALL BUSINESSMAN OF YEAR AWARD

Hale Secakuku, 63, Second Mesa, Ariz., a Hopi Indian, was given the first "Indian Small Businessman of the Year" award May 18 in the auditorium of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

The citation on the plaque given Mr. Secakuku read "For exemplifying the imagination, initiative, independence, and integrity by which the American small businessman makes a vital contribution to the Nation, the economy, and the free enterprise system."

The award was made by Hal Cox, an Associate Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce. Also on the auditorium platform and commenting on the honor were Senator Paul J. Fannin, Ariz., and Irving Schwartz, Assistant to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. The award was a part of the Small Business Administration's Small Business Week activities.

In making the award Cox pointed out that Secakuku's first business was a grocery store started atop the Second Mesa of the Hopi Reservation in 1934. When a new highway was completed at the foot of Second Mesa his second business complex, consisting of a grocery store, general merchandise and curio shop, cafe, and gas station, was constructed in 1958. This was the first supermarket on the reservation. Mrs. Secakuku operates the first store, Mr. Secakuku the newer.

"Mr. Secakuku has, for 35 years, been a source of inspiration and leadership of his people," Cox said. "He has been a member of the Hopi Tribal Council since 1951. His new center is a focal point for Second Mesa and enhances the economy and social life of the community." The business serves about 1,500 residents in the three villages of Second Mesa and surrounding areas and visitors to the reservation. It employs 11 workers, he said.

"The Secakuku business has been a source of credit for Hopi Indians and a meeting place for the Hopi people," Cox said. Secakuku's curio shop buys and sells handmade Indian craft work, performing a service both to the Indian producer and the consumer.

Runner-up for the "Indian Small Businessman of the Year" was Fleming D. Begaye, Sr., a Navajo, Chinle, Ariz. Third place went to Ray C. Goetting, Caddo, Laguna, N. Mex.

Honorable mentions for the award went to: Ray C. Goetting, Caddo, Laguna, N. Mex.; John Tucker, Seminole, Hollywood, Fla.; Jose Antonio Gutierrez, Santa Clara/Pojoaque, N. Mex.; Robert Goombi, Kiowa/Delaware, Norman, Okla.; Raymond D. Christianson, Eskimo, Bethel, Alaska; George Wippert, Jr., Blackfeet, Browning, Mont.; Oswald Russell, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Calif.; Shirley M. and Warren C. LaDue, Chippewa, Waubun, Min.; Elmer Olney, Yakima, White Swan, Wash.

Certificates to these outstanding Indian small businessmen are being sent to the Area Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for local presentation.

(Photographs available upon request).

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release Sunday, May 24, 1970

Henderson -- 343-9431

NEW EDITION OF POPULAR INDIAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, announced today a new edition of its popular, "American Indian Calendar" is available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents in Washington, D.C.

The calendar lists important Indian events primarily in the 25 states where there are Indians having a service relationship with the Federal Government. The booklet has information on pow-wows, rodeos, dances, religious observances, and arts and crafts exhibitions.

Typical entries include Alaskan native dances at Shakes Island, Wrangell, Alaska, May throughout the summer; Ute Mountain Bear Dance and all-Indian pow-wow at Towaoc, Colo., in June; All-Choctaw Indian Fair at Philadelphia, Miss., July 22-25; the Custer Battle Reenactment at Crow Agency, Mont., July 10-12; the great Navajo Fair at Shiprock, N.M., in late September and early October; and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Fair and Rodeo, including the famous Crown Dances, the weekend before Labor Day at Whiteriver, Ariz.

In announcing the booklet, the Bureau noted that many Indian observances depend upon seasonal activities and cannot be pinned down in advance to exact days. Tribal medicine men choose the day when portents seem best to them. It is suggested that tourists check in advance with tribes, local Bureau offices and chambers of commerce for specific dates.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce pointed out that many Indian reservations have excellent fishing, hunting, hiking and sightseeing areas.

"Indian country is often less crowded than national parks and similar facilities," he said, at the same time cautioning that Indian lands sometimes don't have modern facilities and vacationers who don't have full camping equipment should plan to stay in towns outside the reservations unless they arrange ahead for accommodations.

"Visitors are welcomed by most Indian people," he said. "Each reservation has its own rules and they should be observed. The use of liquor is forbidden on many reservations, and the taking of pictures should be checked with local authorities."

Pictures may not be taken of certain religious ceremonies, and it is advisable to ask permission before taking pictures of individuals.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' "American Indian Calendar" is priced at 25 cents and may be obtained by writing for Number I20.2:C12/2/970, the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PMS Thursday, May 28, 1970

Ayres -- 343-9431

INDIAN FINANCING UP
\$58.5 MILLION IN 1969

A total of \$383 million was invested during fiscal 1969 in Indian developmental projects ranging from home repair to transistor plants, Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner of Indian Affairs announced today. The amount invested was \$58.5 million above the 1968 figure.

The money came from three sources: tribal funds, customary lenders, and a Federal revolving credit fund, from which loans are made if no other source is available.

Investments varied from a tribal loan of a few hundred dollars to an Indian applicant who needed new shingles for his roof, and an agreement between an Indian and the Small Business Administration to open a new service station. Some of the largest loans were to those tribes that financed the construction of factory facilities on the reservation that would give employment to Indian residents.

The increase of investment funds available to Indian people last year has "real significance," Bruce said. "Economic development of Indian communities has been handicapped by lack of adequate and dependable sources of financing. This is a most welcome step forward, and one that must be increased manyfold before basic needs are met."

The amount of money coming from customary lenders was up 22 percent over 1968, according to Bruce, who said the increase represents greater confidence in benefits to be derived from a loan.

Customary lenders include state and national banks, Federal land banks, savings and loan associations, finance and loan companies, insurance companies, production credit associations, Federal credit agencies and individuals. In other words, customary lenders are the same lenders non-Indians use.

The largest increase in 1969 among customary lenders was in financing by Federal Credit agencies, particularly the Economic Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Tribal funds being used for financing economic development of tribes and their members almost doubled during the past five years, from \$52.7 million to \$105.1 million. Some tribes are able to use their own funds to finance tribal industrial, commercial and agricultural enterprises. Others, with more limited funds available, use their funds to supplement revolving funds borrowed from the United States.

Funds made available for loans through the Bureau administered revolving fund have never been adequate, Bruce said.

With appropriations of \$21.5 million, the revolving feature has permitted total loans of \$66.7 million to be made. Several bills are pending in the 91st Congress which would, if enacted and funded, help to relieve the situation.

Single copies of the "Annual Credit and Financing Report, 1969," are available from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20242.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release Tuesday, June 9, 1970

Feature Material
Henderson -- 343-9431

INDIANS ARE OPERATING
MORE PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS

Indians are operating an increasing number of the Federal Government's programs designed to help their people find better jobs and send their young to college.

The programs themselves are not new -- but the leadership, and the accent on self-determination, are.

Operated with funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agency of the Department of the Interior, they symbolize a new approach, which is steadily gaining ground.

"We intend to give Indian leadership every opportunity to operate Bureau programs," Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce said. "We have turned over authority for many types of Bureau operations to the Indian people."

Bruce cited three local programs as typical of the "determination of this Administration to give Indians control of Indian policy."

One is the employment and training center which was opened recently at Kansas City, Mo., by Indian Enterprises, Inc., of Horton, Kans. The corporation is made up of members of the Iowa, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and Sac and Fox Tribes of north-east Kansas.

Indian Enterprises will operate as an employment and training coordinator for the Bureau's Branch of Employment Assistance which will refer to it Indian job seekers interested in working in the Kansas City area.

A similar contract with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma gives that organization the funds to operate an employment assistance service for Indians in Oklahoma's Adair, Cherokee and Sequoyah Counties.

In New Mexico the All Pueblo Indian Council has taken over Bureau of Indian Affairs' high school counseling programs. The contracting group is known as the Pueblo Indian Education Talent Project (PIETP).

One of the first actions of PIETP was to begin counseling services with sophomores rather than seniors. It also included parents in its counseling services. Already there are indications that increasing numbers of Pueblo youngsters will continue on to college after high school graduation.

"These are programs at the local level where the basic work in rebuilding Indian communities must begin," Bruce said. "I would emphasize that these are not one-of-a-kind demonstration projects but are typical local programs to meet Indian community needs."

"We are seeing success here just as I know we will see success in our efforts to have effective Indian leadership operating at every level of government."

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIORnews release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PMs Monday, June 15, 1970 Henderson -- 343-9431

SUMMER INDIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
SET FOR NAVAJO AND SANTA FE

A field study program in American Indian culture, language, art, history and contemporary life will be offered this summer in the heart of the Southwest's "Indian country" by the non-profit American Forum for International Study in cooperation with the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The four-week program, July 5 through August 1, 1970, is designed for teachers, advanced college students and those whose professions require an understanding of American Indian groups.

The program opens at Navajo Community College in the center of the Navajo Reservation, at Many Farms, Ariz., for two weeks of formal class and demonstration sessions on Indian cultures of the Southwest, Indian education, economic development, tribal government and contemporary Indian affairs.

The program will then move to the Bureau's Institute of American Indian Arts at Santa Fe, N. M., for a series of lectures, demonstration sessions and discussions in the visual, written and performing arts.

At both Many Farms and Santa Fe, participants will meet with Indian people, take field trips to Indian communities, see Indian dances, historic, prehistoric and scenic sites, and visit schools, trading posts, and other areas of interest.

Complete details on the program are available from the American Forum for International Study, 1725 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release Wednesday, June 24, 1970

SECRETARY HICKEL TO GIVE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD
TO EIGHT EMPLOYEES

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel will bestow the Department's valor award on eight employees June 30 at ceremonies in Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall. The event also will honor 94 Interior employees for distinguished service.

The Department's gold valor award will go to the following:

Dennis A. Long (to be awarded posthumously), Marquette, Mich., a National Park Service employee, who lost his life August 6, 1969, after saving a young woman from drowning in the rough waters of Lake Superior at Isle Royale National Park, Michigan. The rescue efforts tired Long and he was swept away by strong currents. Long resided at 355 E. Hewitt Ave., Marquette.

Lane J. Bouman, 640 Livingston Ave., Missoula, Mont., a Bureau of Land Management natural resource specialist, who risked his life to rescue a 10-year-old boy from the swift-flowing, icy waters of the Blackfoot River, east of Missoula, July 4, 1968.

Roger B. Griffith, Route 2, West Alexander, Pa., who made a perilous nighttime ascent of Mount Huascarán, highest peak in the Peruvian Andes, August 20-21, 1969, in futile efforts to rescue John Hudson, a Brooklyn, N.Y., climber, killed in a 600-foot plunge down a glacier. Griffith, on vacation from his job as a biologist with the Federal Water Quality Administration offices in Wheeling, W. Va., spent a total of 23 hours on the mountain in the rescue attempt.

Leonard J. Schmitt, Jr., 45 S. Dover St., Lakewood, Colo., and Douglas O. McKeever, 3210 N. 29th St., Tacoma, Wash., Geological Survey employees, who braved the threat of exploding fuel from a helicopter in rescuing a fatally injured pilot, Gerald W. Bills, III. Bills had taken the two Survey men to the remote Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area in north-central Idaho July 23, 1968. The helicopter went out of control after Schmitt and McKeever alighted. It flipped over, pinning the pilot. Although the aircraft was afire, Schmitt and McKeever freed Bills and pulled him to safety. Moments later the entire craft was engulfed in flames. Bills died shortly after being rescued.

Eddie B. Robertson, 501 Ottawa St., Grayling, Mich., a Geological Survey employee, who rescued a 7-year-old boy from the flood-swollen Pigeon River at Afton, Mich., July 30, 1969. Robertson was making a stream measurement from a nearby bridge just as a canoe carrying two boys and their father crashed into a tree, throwing them into the torrential stream. Robertson plunged into the river and brought the younger boy safely to shore and helped the other boy out of the water at the river's edge.

Ray Nasetoynewa, a Hopi Indian employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tuba City, Ariz., who manned a bulldozer many hours in the snow-laden Gray Mountain region of Arizona to reach four Navajo children, trapped several days in a hogan. They were without food, and fuel supplies were low. Nasetoynewa started the hazardous trip the night of December 18, 1967, and reached the snowbound children the following day.

Louis W. Robinson, 1902 Powhatan Rd., West Hyattsville, Md., a private in the United States Park Police Force, who risked his life to aid Sgt. Robert L. Householder, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C. Householder was disabled by a shotgun blast from a man under siege in a Washington residence February 21, 1969. Private Robinson, assisted by Pvt. Lawrence Pasco of the Metropolitan Police, maneuvered a patrol wagon between Sergeant Householder and the residence. Using the vehicle and his own body as a shield, Robinson then helped Sergeant Householder to a place of safety. The gunman, who had killed two persons, finally took his own life.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release Tuesday, June 30, 1970

SECRETARY HICKEL LAUNCHES INSPECTION TOUR OF CROWDED NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AREAS

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel leaves Washington today for an "on the scene" environmental inspection tour of three National Park System areas in Wyoming and Montana and a meeting with tribal chiefs of the Crow Indian Reservation.

His trip will include official visits to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks Wednesday, July 1, through Saturday, July 4, followed by a meeting with the Crow Indian leaders--with whom he will smoke an "environmental peace pipe," at a ceremony in the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Secretary announced plans for a series of environmental inspection tours Saturday, June 27, in a speech dedicating the new Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge on the Maine coast.

"I intend to take a hard look at the progress that is being made," he said. "I will do this through a series of environmental inspections around the Nation...."

"I will investigate such environmental and pollution problems as over-crowdingThe 'pollution of the spirit' that can destroy even our great National Parks, if we allow them to become just 'parking lots in the woods.'

"Through these on-scene inspections, we can gain the knowledge we need to make the decisions we need," Secretary Hickel said.

His trip will put him in two of the most heavily visited parks in the Nation at a peak time for visitors--the July 4 weekend.

On Sunday the Secretary will inspect the Yellowtail Reservoir, a project of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and see the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, which surrounds it. The scenic canyon area is maintained by the National Park Service for the visiting public.

The Crow Reservation borders a large part of the area, and the Secretary will inspect tribally operated recreation developments on the reservoir shores.

The symbolic peace pipe ceremony will symbolize his commitment to the Indian concept of a national life in peace and harmony with nature. Secretary Hickel then will be adopted into the Crow Tribe.

The Crow Reservation has an Indian population of almost 4,000. In addition, to its recreational enterprises, the tribe has helped establish a carpet factory. There is traditional farm and ranch employment and there are Crow Indians working also at an alfalfa pellet mill and at arts and crafts production.

Secretary Hickel will return to Washington, D. C. via Denver Monday, July 6.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release Wednesday, July 8, 1970

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WALTER J. HICKEL ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S SPECIAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON INDIANS

President Nixon's historic special message to Congress on Indians is a brass-tacks, straightforward statement of what the Nation and its Indian people need in working together toward a better future for all.

It is time we listen to what the Indians have been telling us.

Like all Americans, they want social justice, education, health care and a chance to choose their own kind of life.

But their problems are special--and so is our responsibility to them.

"To strengthen the Indian's sense of autonomy without threatening his sense of community" is one of our primary goals. We must also arrange matters so that Indians can become independent of Federal control without being cut off from Federal concern and support.

We all agree that the way to get the best results in working with people is to give them the opportunity--and the responsibility--to run their programs themselves.

That is what we are seeking to do with the First Americans. They need our help, but we must never forget that we need their help just as much. This new and balanced relationship of which the President speaks truly marks a new beginning.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release Monday, July 13, 1970

Wilson -- 343-5377

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER BRUCE PRAISES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON INDIANS

President Nixon's special message to the Congress on Indian Affairs is a "positive and historic statement that should do much to give the Indian people lives of dignity and self-determination," Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce said today.

Commissioner Bruce said the President, in his message of July 8, ensured that steps will be taken to increase Indian control of Indian affairs while reaffirming and strengthening the historic legal and moral obligations of the federal government.

"I am especially pleased by the President's support for anti-termination legislation, for creation of an Assistant Secretary for Indian and Territorial Affairs in the Department of the Interior and for the proposal to establish an independent Indian Trust Council Authority to protect Indian lands held in federal trust," Bruce said, adding:

"As President Nixon noted, these proposals can do much to give us a 'new national policy' and to 'strengthen the Indian's sense of autonomy without threatening his sense of community.'

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in support of this policy is evolving new plans better to meet the needs of the Indian people.

"We are transforming the Bureau of Indian Affairs from a management to a service organization.

"We are reaffirming the trust status of Indian land.

"We are providing the tribes with the option of taking over any or all BIA program functions.

"Certainly, these are positive steps, long overdue, toward building a respectable life for the American Indian.

"President Nixon has pledged himself to this end.

"I am proud to join him in his efforts so that our ideas and plans of the future may become realities in the near future."

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PMs Thursday, July 16, 1970

Wilson -- 343-5377

NEW INDIAN BUREAU PROGRAM TO AID INDIAN PAROLEES

Commissioner Louis R. Bruce announced today that the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs has awarded a \$200,000 contract to the Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D. C., to operate an Indian post-correctional rehabilitation program for Indian prison parolees.

"With this pilot program we expect to chart ways to break the tragic cycle of imprisonment - unemployment - more infractions of the law," Bruce said. "Without rehabilitation aid, the Indian offender has little chance of gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful life in either Indian or non-Indian society."

The key to the program would be the use of local Indian counselors, preferably ex-convicts who have made successful social and vocational adjustments, who would help former prisoners obtain educational, vocational and rehabilitation services through the Bureau's employment assistance facilities and State and local agencies.

The project will be under the overall supervision of Professor Samuel Dash, head of the Center's Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure. Direct supervision will be provided by Professor Herbert S. Miller, Research Director. Adrian Fisher is Dean of the University's Law Center.

"We believe that with the help of Indian counselors who have 'been through the mill' and know firsthand the adjustment burden carried by Indian offenders, we can help these people find lives of dignity and self-respect, while at the same time making a contribution to their communities and their families," Bruce said.

The initial work will be done at 10 regional centers in metropolitan areas. Locations for the centers have not yet been selected.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release Thursday, July 16, 1970

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WALTER J. HICKEL

ON PASSAGE BY THE SENATE OF THE ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS BILL

JULY 15, 1970

For Alaskans---and for the millions of Americans throughout the 50 states who have been frustrated over the years in trying to do something positive, progressive and fair for America's first citizens, this should be considered a great victory.

The rapid action of the Senate in approving the Alaska Native Land Claims bill is, of course gratifying. The members of the Committee, the Interior Department at its highest executive levels, the state administration of Alaska and countless dedicated individuals throughout the country have worked not for months, but years, to put together a legislative package that would do the job and be a positive answer to the needs of these citizens.

I am extremely proud that this rapid action was based not on political or personal considerations, but on solid testimony which showed conclusively that these Americans have a genuine and just claim.

This dovetails exactly with President Nixon's recent message in which he expressed the Administration's determination to advance the cause of America's Indian, Eskimo and Aleut citizens.

Further, this is not merely a victory for the citizens of one state.

The Administration is proud that it is a victory for all Americans who are more interested in a 'fair shake' that the expediencies of politics or mere rhetoric.

I am confident that the house will consider the individual features of the bill and move it along toward passage with equal fairness and speed.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Tracy 343-5303

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release Monday, July 20, 1970

SECRETARY HICKEL APPOINTS SAM YANKEE
TO THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR
SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today the appointment of Sam Yankee to the Department's new 15-member Advisory Board on Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The newly established Board, composed of citizens from all over the country, will provide counsel and advice to the Secretary on policy matters relating to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

Yankee, a resident of McGregor, Minnesota, is a member of the Mille Lacs band of Chippewa Indians and an ardent conservationist, Secretary Hickel said. He has worked closely with Fish and Wildlife Service Personnel at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota.

Dr. Leslie L. Glasgow, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the Department of the Interior, said that Mr. Yankee's past experience in working with refuge personnel together with his interest in wildlife habitat will enable him to make a valuable contribution to the Department's efforts to enhance our nation's wildlife resources.

The first meeting of the new Advisory Board will be held in the Secretary's conference room in Washington, D.C. on July 23, 24. The Secretary at the opening of the meeting will present each member with his Certificate of Appointment.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release to PMs August 4, 1970

Leahy -- 343-5377

CONTRACTS LET FOR INDIAN TRAINING CENTERS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, today announced the renewal of three large training contracts providing employment opportunities for Indians. Value of the three contracts is estimated at nearly \$5 million.

The contracts provide for the continued operation of the BIA Roswell Employment Training Center, Roswell, N. M., the Madera Employment Training Center, Madera, Calif., and a pilot project in San Diego which provides residential training for "solo" parents.

The pilot program for the San Diego Center contract went to Industrial Training Systems, Maple Glen Professional Center, for designing, establishing and managing a residential training center for solo parents. The Center will serve an initial group of 77 unwed mothers, widows and divorcees and approximately 115 children. It helps provide the job skills necessary for the women to support themselves and their children. Value of this contract is \$501,875.

The largest dollar contract for fiscal 1971 renewals went to the Thiokol Chemical Corporation's Economic Development Operations for its Roswell, N.M., Employment Training Center. The center helps entire families to receive needed training and to adjust to urban living patterns. The contract is for \$2,350,000.

The third contract went to Philco-Ford Corporation's Educational and Technical Services Division for their Madera, Calif., employment training center, another family employment training center. This contract is for \$1,900,000.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release August 9, 1970

Feature Material
Robinson - 343-5377

OLD LAW MAKES NEW POLICY FOR INDIAN BUREAU

"ZUNIS TAKE OVER BIA" said the headline in the local newspaper.

The event was not an insurrection or a sit-in on the part of Zuni Indians from the historic New Mexican pueblo, one of Coronado's seven cities of Cibola.

It was a proud and peaceful demonstration of tribal initiative under a new Federal policy which encourages tribal governments to direct the activities of Bureau of Indian Affairs employees on their reservation.

The actual takeover was officially ratified at Zuni on May 23 when Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch and Zuni Governor Robert E. Lewis signed two sets of documents -- one set in English the other in Zuni -- giving Lewis the responsibility for directing Bureau activities at Zuni.

Legal authority for the takeover was discovered when Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce ordered an extensive review of Bureau policy to find ways to create more Indian involvement in Federal policies and more Indian control over Indian community affairs.

In the 1834 legislation creating what is now the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the following appears: "Where any of the tribes are in the opinion of the Secretary.....competent to direct the employment of their blacksmiths, mechanics, teachers, farmers or other persons engaged for them, the direction of such persons may be given to the proper authority of the tribe." The Indian Affairs Office was originally located in the War Department, and was transferred to the Department of the Interior when the latter was created in 1849.

To the Zuni Tribe, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel will give the responsibility for directing Bureau programs and employees on its 405,000 acre reservation which has a population of 5,000.

Commissioner Bruce said the Zuni agreement "will be just the first of many. Each will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the tribe involved. In some cases only specific functions will come under tribal direction as a tribe assesses its needs and its capabilities.

"We are determined to carry forward President Nixon's pledge to give Indian communities a far larger voice in determining their futures," Bruce said.

"We may not find any more old legislation to help us out, but we will be ready to meet Indian initiative with the flexibility and quick response necessary to get the job done. We will not force initiative on any tribe, but we will be ready when they are."

At Zuni, tribal Governor Robert E. Lewis will direct the activities of Bureau employees at Zuni, fulfilling the function now carried out by the Bureau Superintendent. Federal employees will be given the option of staying at Zuni and working for the tribe or working on another reservation. Those who stay will retain all Federal civil service protections and pay.

Those Federal employees working under tribal direction, carrying out the responsibilities of local governments, will at the same time be training a Zuni replacement. Eventually non-Indians will be employed by the tribe only at its discretion.

The turnover agreement includes all the functions the Bureau normally performs at Zuni but it does not change the Secretary of the Interior's trust responsibility for Zuni land. Further, Bureau consultative services, such as real estate and community development advice will be available from nearby Bureau offices.

The agreement provides that either party can cancel the arrangement on 180 days notice and the reservation would revert to its former management set-up.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Henderson -- 343-7445

For Release to PMs Friday, September 18, 1970 Bailey -- 343-7446

ROLL TO BE PREPARED OF CONFEDERATED PEORIA INDIANS TO SHARE IN INDIAN CLAIM AWARD

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will prepare a roll of Indians originally from the Central States who are entitled to share in the distribution of more than \$2 million in judgment funds, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Tribes to be included are the Confederated Tribes of Weas, Piankashaws, Peorias, and Kaskaskias, who merged under an 1854 treaty that combined their interests.

The land for which they are being compensated totals 1,417,758 acres in Kansas, Indiana and Illinois for which the Indian Claims Commission awarded the Confederation \$2,365,760.21. Until the funds are divided the money is on deposit and continues to draw interest.

Indians entitled to be enrolled and share in the distribution of judgment funds must be born on or prior to July 31, 1970, and living; their names or the name of a lineal ancestor must appear on one of the following: the final roll of the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma; the 1930 or 1937 census of the Peoria Tribe; Indian or Citizen Class lists; the schedule of persons or families made up of the various tribes which were parties to the Treaty of May 30, 1854.

Applications for enrollment may be obtained from the Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Building, Muskogee, Okla., 74401. Completed applications must be returned to Director and must be post-marked no later than April 30, 1971.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ayres -- 343-7445

For Release September 22, 1970

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES INDIAN FISHING RIGHTS CASE

A suit in behalf of treaty fishing rights of Indian tribes in the State of Washington has been filed by the Department of Justice at the request of the Department of the Interior. The suit is similar to one filed two years ago in Oregon.

In announcing the filing, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel said, "The decision in the Oregon case has done much to clarify Indian fishing rights on the Columbia River. We hope this suit will have the same effect on fishing rights in the Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula areas of the State of Washington."

Representatives of the Interior Department and of Washington Indian tribes have been meeting with the Washington State Department of Fisheries and with Washington State Governor Dan Evans and his staff in an effort to work out terms for State recognition of Indian treaty rights. But it became evident that differences of opinion over the extent of the Indians' rights remained, Secretary Hickel said.

"We therefore asked the Department of Justice last spring to prepare a case to submit to the Federal Court," he added. "Our two Departments have worked closely in developing the case, which was filed September 18."

The action is brought on behalf of seven tribes that represent all treaty tribes in Western Washington that were parties to five treaties negotiated by Oregon Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens in 1854-56. Those tribes are: Puyallup, Nisqually, Skokomish, Makah, Quileute, Hoh and Muckleshoot. The court's ruling should affect the fishing rights of all tribes that are parties to those treaties.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release September 30, 1970

SECRETARY HICKEL SETS OCT. 5-9 AS INTERIOR JOB CORPS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WEEK

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today designated the week of October 5-9, 1970, as Interior Job Corps Environmental Quality Week, in recognition of the significant role that the Department's Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers have to play in the Nation's efforts to involve youth in the quest of environmental quality.

"I believe that our observation of Interior Job Corps Environmental Quality Week will be a significant step forward in creating within the Job Corps enrollees a new awareness of environmental problems," Secretary Hickel said.

During the week, all Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers operated by the Department of the Interior will place all of their resources at the disposal of the local communities that support the Centers. Job Corpsmen will work side by side with community citizens from various civic, service and local government organizations in a massive drive to clean up and improve the quality of the environment in nearby communities.

The week-long program will be launched by Secretary Hickel at inauguration ceremonies, October 5, at Harpers Ferry, W.Va., attended by Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson and Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

In conjunction with the Interior Job Corps Environmental Quality Week, Secretary Hickel has asked the principal teachers from each of Interior's 10 Job Corps Centers to attend a special 3-day orientation session at the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center. This session will introduce them to the educational concepts and techniques of the National Environmental Study Area (NESA) Program. Materials for this program were originally developed by the National Park Service and are currently being utilized extensively throughout the country in elementary, junior high and senior high schools.

Secretary Hickel explained that the NESAs Program affords a unique opportunity for the disadvantaged youth from poverty backgrounds not only to become aware of environmental problems prevalent in their home communities, but to learn how to cope with and solve these problems through joint community and JCCC participation while assigned to the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Program.

The 10 Interior Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers presently have a total capacity of 1,826 corpsmen. Three of the centers are operated by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, four by the Bureau of Reclamation, two by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and one by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The permanent Job Corps Center staffs are augmented by Union Contract Instructors and volunteer assistance from a wide variety of sources.

Each of the Interior Job Corps Center Directors has organized a Community Relations Council consisting of leading citizens of the community nearest the JCCC location. These councils serve as a bridge between the local communities and the Job Corps Center.

Created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Job Corps is a national voluntary program which provides disadvantaged young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 with an education, vocational training and work experience and social skills necessary to prepare them for the responsibilities of citizenship and increase their employability. Department of the Interior participation in the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center program stresses vocational training and work experiences directed primarily toward conserving, developing and managing the public natural resources of the Nation.

Participating in the Interior Job Corps Environmental Quality Week are the following Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers administered by various Bureaus of the Department of the Interior:

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Mingo JCCC, Puxico, Missouri
Treasure Lake JCCC, Indianola, Oklahoma

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Fort Simcoe JCCC, Toppenish, Washington

National Park Service

Harpers Ferry JCCC, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
Great Onyx JCCC, Mammoth Cave, Kentucky
Oconaluftee JCCC, Cherokee, North Carolina

Bureau of Reclamation

Weber Basin JCCC, Ogden, Utah
Collbran JCCC, Collbran, Colorado
Columbia Basin JCCC, Moses Lake, Washington
Marsing JCCC, Marsing, Idaho

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release Saturday, October 11, 1970

Henderson -- 343-7445
Bailey -- 343-7446

INDIANS OFFER NEW AND DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT PROVIDES THEM WITH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Indians who work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C., are offering three multi-colored travel posters for sale as unusual Christmas gifts.

The posters, designed by American Indian art students, are based on the theme, "Discover America with the First Americans," an invitation to visit Indian reservations at vacation time.

The posters sell for \$1.75 each with all proceeds going directly into college scholarships for Indian youngsters.

Posters are part of the "mod" look in Indian art, and for someone looking for a decorative, different gift, these are the answer.

Subjects include a classic Kachina figure; a black and white rendition of an Indian on a horse against a brilliant yellow and orange background, and a psychedelic design.

Creators of the posters were Delbridge Honanie, a Hopi; Joe Powskey, Hualapai-Hopi, and Ben Martinez, Navajo.

The general public may order the posters from the American Indian Society of Washington, 519 5th Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. Add 25¢ to cover postage and handling.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FEATURE MATERIAL

For Release November 15, 1970

TRAVELING ART STUDIOS BRING CULTURAL STUDIES TO INDIAN SCHOOLS

Mobile art vans, bringing professional fine arts instruction to Indian children in country schools, are the latest innovation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' revamped curricula for reservation children.

Five traveling vans, in the tradition of the bookmobile that some educators have called the single greatest boom to teachers in the 20th Century, are being equipped to tour the American West where most American Indians make their homes. The vans are scheduled to visit every Federal elementary and secondary school for Indians that does not have its own arts teacher in residence. Most of the schools are small and rural, and the luxury of "enrichment" instruction is rare.

The vans -- basically camper home units -- are at present undergoing the last phases of renovation as art facilities. They are being fitted with special lighting, drawing boards, modeling wheels, silver-working equipment, textbooks -- and, for still greater inspiration collection of paintings, sculpture, drawings and jewelry representative of the best productions by Indian students at the famed Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. Indian music and dance instruction will be provided through tape recordings and films.

Trained art instructors will be a key part of the traveling arts program. The vans will contain living and cooking quarters for the itinerant teachers.

One unit is now on the road in Arizona. The other four will fan out December 1 on a six-month tour. Each is based at a regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs serving Indian communities in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and the Dakotas. One van will be assigned exclusively to the 24,000 square mile Navajo reservation, which has 58 Indian schools.

Funds for the project derive from a provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I) that calls for special aid to schools serving low-income families. Public school districts with sizeable Indian student enrollments are also eligible for visitations from the BIA's mobile art studios.

Each van will spend at least one week -- sometimes as long as three -- at each school visited. The schedules will be pre-arranged. Teacher workshops during the past summer have helped ready the school staff for the visits. The teachers are also supplied in advance with guidelines and materials for introductory lessons to prepare the students for formal instruction.

An ample supply of standard art supplies will be available on each van with enough to allow for a supply to be left behind at each school when the van departs. In addition, students will be taught methods for using the materials indigenous to their local environments in the creation of their art forms. Pigments ground from stone, water colors blended from berries, brushes shaped by hand from twigs, and natural fibers such as leaf and bark used for collages will be prepared by the students, in the Indian tradition.

The facilities of the mobile studios will be available to adults in the local communities after regular school hours.

The concept for the mobile art vans was developed by David C. Young, a specialist in cultural arts with the BIA.

It was created in response to criticism from some Indian parents that cultural aspects of the American Indian heritage are often neglected in the curriculum. The "holding power" of art education has been demonstrated successfully in the unique high school and postsecondary programs offered by the BIA at its Santa Fe institute of arts, a school exclusively for Indians and oriented largely to a fine arts curriculum. Many of its graduates have been recipients of scholarships to colleges of art and architecture and to museum schools in this country and abroad. A growing number are becoming established as professional artists, sculptors, designers and writers.

One of the Institute's graduates, Frances Makil, served as an instructor on an experimental run of a mobile art van last Spring. A student in art education at Arizona State University in Tempe, she was "loaned" by the college to the original mobile studio which visited her native Hopi reservation and other Federal schools in the vicinity. Enthusiastic response to that venture from students, parents and teachers led to this year's expansion of the program.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release November 22, 1970

Leahy -- 343-7435

INDIAN RECORDS NEVER OUT OF DATE

Where would you go to find 19th Century accounts of Red Lake and Pembina Chippewa Half-Breed scrip? And does this scrip have any worth today?

Why dredge up an 1854 Indian treaty relating to the Weas, Piankashaws, Peorias, and Kaskaskias -- Indian groups that are a tiny minority of Indians today?

How much did Florida cost in 1823? And who cares?

Such questions have been raised in 1970. Their answers may be worth millions of dollars, and depend on archaic records of U. S. Government agreements with Indian tribes. In most, if not all cases, the agreements imply recognition of the tribes as having a degree of sovereignty.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs is the original source of most Indian records. The BIA is required by law to maintain indefinitely those official papers it determines to be "of enduring value."

Major BIA records up to 1940 -- including many records from the War Department which once directed Indian affairs -- are maintained by the National Archives and Records Service in the National Archives building in the Nation's Capital. Today they comprise thousands of cubic feet of books, papers, decisions, treaties, and other documentary materials which can never be considered extraneous.

Since these are records directly affecting the lives of Indian people, they are a matter of intense interest to Indian Americans, Government officials, students, anthropologists, lawyers and historians. In fiscal year 1970, more than 135 researchers visited the National Archives specifically requesting Indian records. In addition, archivists answered more than 1,000 written inquiries for historical information on Indian affairs.

Among the most constant users of Indian records is the Bureau of Indian Affairs itself. Other researchers include Government and private attorneys representing either individual Indian claimants or the Justice Department in preparation for court appearances. In such instances, a matter of Chippewa Half-Breed scrip could be a key legal issue.

For example, under the provisions of treaties signed in 1863, mixed-blood Red Lake and Pembina Chippewa Indians were entitled to scrip, which could then be exchanged for 160-acre allotments of land in North Dakota and Minnesota which had been ceded to the tribes. Scrip was issued between 1867 and 1882.

Descendants of those mixed-blood Red Lake and Pembina Chippewas are dependent upon the archives for proof of their right to inherited ownership of such Indian homestead lands.

Treaty records have equal significance for tribal -- as opposed to individual -- Indian land rights lost by the tribes. A contemporary example relates an 1854 treaty to a \$2 million judgment against the U. S. in favor of the claimant Peoria Tribe of Indians. On July 31, 1970 an Act of Congress ruled that a new roll must be prepared of those Indians who are lineal descendants of the various tribes who were parties to the Treaty of May 30, 1854 which combined the interest of the Weas, Piankashaws, Peorias and Kaskaskias. Certain living descendants of these tribes will share more than \$2 million.

To find those eligibles, researchers must examine not only the treaty itself, but many other documents such as census data, annuity rolls, tribal rolls, and military muster rolls of relocated Indians. Most of these documents can be found in the National Archives building in Washington, D. C.

Other regular customers for archaic Indian records are the attorneys handling tribal claims before the Indian Claims Commission, a judicial body established in 1946 to adjudicate hundreds of tribal claims against the U. S. to obtain financial redress for lands taken from them in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

As of November 1, 1970 the Indian Claims Commission had completed work on 327 of 609 dockets, or sub-petitions of Indian claims, since it was created August 13, 1946. To date, Congress has appropriated more than \$330 million to Indians as a result of Commission awards. In fact last month, the Indian Claims Commission ruled that the U. S. owes the Seminole Indians more than \$12 million for a goodly part of Florida, which was their homelands in 1823. The case is not yet completed, because the time during which an appeal may be filed with the Court of Claims is still open.

Indian records are among the most active record groups of the many Government agency files in Archives' custody. Archives' motto, "The Past is Prologue," is nowhere more applicable than to the original Americans.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MacNabb 343-2051

For Release November 25, 1970

SECRETARY HICKEL UNVEILS DRAMATIC CHANGES IN BIA

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today announced sweeping personnel policy changes in the Bureau of Indian Affairs designed to give the Indian people more voice at the decision-making levels of government.

The new program calls for the creation of 63 new Field Administrator positions on reservations and granting these administrators full authority to assist local Indians in developing their economic and social opportunities.

The Field Administrators will have responsibilities surpassing those of the present 63 Agency Superintendents on the reservations, and the latter positions will be abolished, Secretary Hickel said.

In addition, Secretary Hickel said he has taken action to reassign 10 BIA Area Directors and to transfer authority held by them to the new field administrators.

"These changes are essential to achieve the objectives of President Nixon in placing the Indian people in closer contact with decision-makers and in broadening their opportunities to guide and improve their own affairs," the Secretary said.

"We are seeking to find people with the greatest skills to fill the field administrator posts," he added. "They are the men who will work directly with the Indians in developing their reservations through sound land-leasing, budgeting and staffing practices.

The area directors will serve in advisory capacities and retain most of their technical and general service functions," he explained.

Six Field Employment Assistant Directors also will be reassigned in the change.

Secretary Hickel said Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce had informed Earl Old Person, President of the National Congress of American Indians, Chairman of the Northwest Affiliated Tribes, and Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe of Indians, as well as other key Indian leaders throughout the country and gained their support before launching his new program. The new Indian members of the Commissioner's staff are also working closely with Indian leaders to implement these changes.

Commissioner Bruce said the new policy carries out an earlier pledge to turn BIA into a service rather than a management organization.

The move, according to Bruce, is designed to facilitate the transition of the old Bureau "Agency Superintendent" into a modern Field Administrator. "I am giving the Field Administrators more horsepower--they are the people who are working directly with the Indian people every day," Bruce said.

"We have thrown out the old job descriptions and built completely new ones designed to assist Indian people to take control over their own destinies, develop economic and social opportunities, as well as provide for better Federal protection of the trust status of Indian land."

Bruce stated that in addition to these administrative changes, the BIA is providing for negotiation at the highest level of contractual and training arrangements to assist tribes in taking over administration of BIA programs. This effort will be headed by Olympic gold medal winner Billy Mills, a Sioux Indian.

"We are after a complete overhaul," Bruce said. "One of my four executive task forces has just completed work on the new agency field evaluation plan. I have directed high level executive teams composed of Tribal Leaders, BIA, the National Council on Indian Opportunity (NCIO) in the Vice President's Office, and other Federal representatives to go to the field and evaluate Indian programs.

"With these evaluations we will be able to determine accurately where our field people are really helping Indian people to make substantial gains and where they are falling short."

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Day 557-1500

For Release December 7, 1970

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES REVISED REGULATIONS IN INDIAN PROBATE

A proposal that would modernize regulations relating to the probate of estates of deceased Indians is being published in the Federal Register, the Board of Indian Appeals in Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals announced today. The updated procedures would make it feasible to probate Indian estates more efficiently and eliminate delays, the Board said. In addition, the new framework is designed to afford a greater degree of impartiality and independence in handling Indian probate matters through the Board.

The proposed revision codifies for the first time many rules, practices and procedures previously contained only in memoranda and instructions, and is designed to bring all procedures into line as far as practicable with the general philosophy of current court rules and practices. Included are provisions for the approval of settlement of disputes by compromise, determination of nationality and non-Indian status, the taking of depositions and for discovery procedures, determination of escheat of estates, as well as procedures applicable to appeals proceedings before the Board of Indian Appeals.

Written comments, suggestions or objections should be submitted within 30 days after publication of the proposed regulations in the Federal Register. Such comments should be addressed to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Attention: Special Assistant to the Director (Regulations), 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

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29838-70

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release December 8, 1970

ORDER EXTENDING ALASKA LAND "FREEZE"
SIGNED BY ACTING SECRETARY RUSSELL

Acting Secretary of the Interior Fred J. Russell today signed an order extending the legal "freeze" on public domain lands in Alaska until midnight on June 30, 1971 -- or sooner, if Native land claims legislation takes effect in the interim.

Secretary Russell said the extension of the two-year-old order beyond its scheduled expiration date of December 31, 1970, is intended to give Congress additional time to complete action on legislation settling the land claims of Alaska's native Aleuts, Eskimos and Indians.

Secretary Russell stressed that the language of the extension order signed today is identical to that of the original order issued in January 1969. In addition to the six-month extension, the only substantive change is that applications for patents (land titles) may be processed to conclusion for homesteads, where valid settlement was made prior to December 14, 1968; for native land allotments where occupation was commenced before the same date; and for trade or manufacturing sites, homesites or headquarters sites if the claim was initiated before that date.

The order affects more than 90 percent of the land area of the largest State in the Union. It continues in effect the withdrawal of all unreserved lands. The order also continues the "freeze" on the Federal lands which are subject to selection by the State of Alaska pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958 and continues the "freeze" on applications for leases under the Federal Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

Beginning on the 91st day after expiration of the order, all applications for leases, licenses, permits or land title transfers that were pending when the "freeze" took full effect January 17, 1969, will be given the same status and consideration as if there had been no intervening period. During those intervening 90 days after this "freeze" order expires, the State of Alaska will have a preference right to select public lands under the Statehood Act.

The full text of the new order is being sent for immediate publication in the Federal Register.

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29931-70

DECEMBER 15, 1970

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today signed H. R. 471 which declares that certain lands in Carson National Forest, New Mexico, are held in trust for the Pueblo de Taos. This tract, comprised of approximately 48,000 acres of land and the Blue Lake, has been used by the Taos Pueblo Indians for religious and tribal purposes since the fourteenth century.

In 1906, the United States Government appropriated these lands for the creation of a national forest. The Indian Claims Commission has determined that the government took these lands without compensation. The President, in his July 8, 1970 Message to Congress on Indian Affairs said:

The restoration of the Blue Lake lands to the Taos Pueblo Indians is an issue of unique and critical importance to Indians throughout the country. I therefore take this opportunity wholeheartedly to endorse legislation which would restore 48,000 acres of sacred land to the Taos Pueblo people, with the statutory promise that they would be able to use these lands for traditional purposes and that except for such uses the lands would remain forever wild.

H. R. 471 would declare that the U. S. holds title, in trust for the Pueblo de Taos, to the described area and that the lands will become part of the Pueblo de Taos Reservation and will be administered by the Secretary of the Interior under the laws and regulations applicable to other Indian trust land. The bill provides that the Indians shall use the land for traditional purposes only, such as religious ceremonies, hunting and fishing, a source of water, forage for livestock, wood, timber and other natural resources for their personal use, subject to the necessary conservation practices prescribed by the Secretary. Except for these described practices, the land will remain forever wild and will be administered as a wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Other provisions of H. R. 471 include the permission for nonmembers of the tribe to enter the lands for purposes compatible with wilderness preservation upon consent of the tribe. This bill does not alter the rights of present holders of federal leases or permits covering the land but would authorize the Pueblo, with tribal funds, to obtain the relinquishment of such leases or permits. Finally, this bill directs the Indian Claims Commission to determine to what extent the value of land conveyed in this legislation should be set off against any claims the Taos may have against the United States.

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release to PMS December 23, 1970

Ayres 202-343-7445

NEW TOWN IN ALASKA FOR MINTO INDIANS

Forty miles northwest of Fairbanks, in the interior of Alaska, the town of New Minto is under construction, to be occupied by 160 Minto Indians. New Minto is a replacement for old Minto Village, 25 miles away, which has suffered severe damage from spring thaws.

The new community is being built at a cost of \$673,000 in a cooperative effort of the Alaska State Housing Authority, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce announced today. This represents \$225,000 for 38 new houses, \$378,000 for water and sewer systems, and \$70,000 for drilling the village well.

The original village of Minto often suffered from spring floods. Villagers began to plan for the new site on higher ground after floods resulting from a 1967 thaw. Construction began this year.

Although villagers expect to move to the new location this year, not all of the houses will be finished in time for winter. A road had to be laid during the building season before construction of the village could start.

The Army's 559th Engineers of the 171st Infantry Brigade are at New Minto to speed construction. They engineered the road and are assembling prefabricated sidings for the homes. Villagers are helping in construction, which includes sewage and plumbing systems.

Twenty of the new houses are being financed by the Alaska State Housing Authority and 18 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The U.S. Public Health Service is paying the cost of the water and sewage systems and drilling a well.

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