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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release: January 27, 1989

Carl Shaw, (202) 343-2315

SWIMMER RESIGNS; RAGSDALE NAMED ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Department of the Interior today announced the resignation of Ross Swimmer, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Last November he tendered his resignation to then President Reagan and in a recent letter to Secretary Don Hodel made it official as of January 29.

"I believe we have moved the agenda forward for a real change in Indian country," he wrote Hodel. "Certainly, there is a new awareness of what the problems are and the solutions to those problems. This is a convenient time for me to leave and rejoin my family in Tulsa, (Oklahoma)," he said.

Hodel recently awarded Swimmer the Department's highest citation and gold medal for his "invaluable counsel and leadership in support of this Nation's government-to-government relationship with Native Americans." In presenting the Outstanding Service Award, Hodel said: "His unswerving faith in the inherent abilities and talents of Native Americans has resulted in policies that provide Indians with the opportunity to truly control their own destinies." Hodel called special attention to Swimmer's initiatives to improve education and economic development on Indian lands, and his efforts to increase tribal control over federal funding provided to their governments. The citation also notes that Swimmer initiated a much-improved program for administering Indian trust funds that "will ensure the maximum return and flexibility to the trustees and provide the highest caliber of investment advice."

Swimmer, 45, a former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, has been assistant secretary since December 5, 1985.

Earl Gjelde, acting secretary of the Interior, has named William P. Ragsdale, currently deputy to the assistant secretary (Operations), to serve as acting assistant secretary until a new assistant secretary has been nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

-BIA-



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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For Release March 22, 1989

BUSH CABINET MEMBERS TO TAKE UNPRECEDENTED TOUR OF INDIAN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, DC -- Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr. announced today that Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos will join him on a two-day, three-state tour of Indian schools this week. The unprecedented visit by two Cabinet members to schools administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in California, Arizona and New Mexico "reflects the commitment to improved education for Native Americans that President Bush, Secretary Cavazos, and I share," said Lujan.

During the trip, Secretary Lujan and Secretary Cavazos will assess the opportunities and needs that face BIA schools. Through personal meetings with BIA officials, school administrators, teachers, parents, and children, the Cabinet members hope to identify qualities in successful programs that may be duplicated throughout the BIA educational system.

"Education is the most important priority for the future of Native Americans," said Secretary Lujan. "On the reservations, like in all communities, proper education is the best remedy for the problems we find in society."

"Strong schools will empower Native Americans to improve their lives and the lives of their children and grandchildren."

Officials at both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Education predict that the trip will mark the beginning of a new working relationship between Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Education in the field of Indian education.

The trip will begin on Monday, March 27th and continue through Tuesday, the 28th. Lujan and Cavazos will visit the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California; the Salt River Day School in Scottsdale, Arizona; the Jemez Day School in Jemez Pueblos, New Mexico; the Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Secretary Lujan will continue on Tuesday evening with a visit to The Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe.

Prior to his appointment to the Cabinet, Secretary Lujan was a twenty year member of Congress from New Mexico. Secretary Cavazos served as President of Texas Tech University before being tapped to lead the Education Department in 1988.

-DOI-



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: April 13, 1989

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TEXAS ATTORNEY MARTIN L. ALLDAY
NAMED INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SOLICITOR

Washington, DC--Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today that President Bush intends to nominate Martin L. Allday of Midland, Texas as the Department's Solicitor. Allday will assume his post at Interior upon confirmation by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"Martin Allday is a veteran attorney, a strong executive, and a distinguished leader of his profession and his community," said Secretary Lujan. "I am delighted that he has accepted the challenge of serving the President and the American people as the Interior Department's Solicitor."

A prominent Texas attorney, Martin Allday has been associated with the Midland, Austin, and Dallas law firm of Lynch, Chappell, Allday and Alsup since 1959, serving as Managing Partner from 1971 to 1983. He is certified by the Board of the State Bar of Texas in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law and is a past Chairman of the Oil, Gas, and Mineral Section of that body. Mr. Allday is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as Treasurer of the National Parks Foundation.

Mr. Allday is an active member of many professional, corporate, civic, and charitable organizations including: The Midland County (past President), Texas, and American Bar Associations as well as the Texas Bar Foundation (Fellow); the Midland Chamber of Commerce (past President) and the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum (Trustee); First City National Bank of Midland (Advisory Director) and North American Royalties, Inc. (Director) Midland Memorial Foundation (Board of Governors) and the High Sky Children's Ranch (Board of Governors).

Allday earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the Law School of the University of Texas (Austin) in 1951 and is a decorated veteran of World War II where he earned the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Martin Allday and his wife, Patricia, are residents of Midland, Texas and have three children; Kathy Timberlake, Betsy Dashiell, and Martin L. Allday, III and four grandchildren.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: April 13, 1989

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EDDIE BROWN TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS AT DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced that President Bush intends to nominate Eddie Frank Brown to be Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Brown will assume his post at Interior following hearings before the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs and confirmation by the full Senate. He will be responsible for Interior programs serving more than 1.4 million Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States

"Eddie Brown has a broad background in intergovernmental relations with Native Americans," Lujan said. "This, combined with his extensive social service education and prior experience at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, makes Eddie a welcome addition to the Department of the Interior."

Brown recently left his position as Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security after two years in that post. Previously he spent one year as an Associate Professor and Director of Community Affairs at Arizona State University. In 1985 he was a Division Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and prior to that he was Assistant Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Brown is a Tohono O'Odham/Yaqui Indian and a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. He received his Bachelor of Social Science degree from Brigham Young University in 1970, and his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Social Work from the University of Utah in 1972 and 1975 respectively.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) primary responsibility is to encourage and support tribal efforts to govern themselves, and provide needed services and programs on reservations. The BIA is also responsible for managing more than 52 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for the Indians. The BIA also funds nearly 200 elementary and secondary schools, many of them operated by tribes under contract with the Bureau.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: April 13, 1989

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INDIANA BUSINESS EXECUTIVE FRANK A. BRACKEN
NAMED UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Washington, DC--Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today that President Bush intends to nominate Frank A. Bracken as Under Secretary of the Interior Department. Currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ball-InCon Glass Packaging Corporation in Muncie, Indiana, Bracken will assume his post at Interior upon confirmation by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"Frank Bracken is a top-notch business executive and an attorney with experience in government as well as the private sector," said Secretary Lujan. "I am delighted that he has agreed to join my team at Interior."

Prior to chairing the board of the Ball-InCon Corporation, Frank Bracken was Group Vice President of Glass Containers for the Ball Corporation. He has served the company in other capacities as well, such as General and Associate General Counsel.

From 1969 to 1972, Bracken was Legislative Counsel at the U.S. Department of the Interior. He joined Interior following nine years of private law practice.

Mr. Bracken received his J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law. He has been active on the boards of academic, corporate, and charitable organizations and was politically active in Indiana.

-DOI



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

STATEMENT BY W. PATRICK RAGSDALE, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ON THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DR. GERALD GIPP, PRESIDENT OF HASKELL INDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE, MAY 24, 1989.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has reached an agreement with Dr. Gerald Gipp, President of Haskell Indian Junior College which resolves the BIA inquiry into allegations against Dr. Gipp.

As deciding official in this matter, I have spent many hours over the past six weeks reviewing all the evidence and Dr. Gipp's written response concerning the charges that were raised against him. Many rumors and insinuations were noted in an earlier investigation and have continued to surround this matter. Only four charges, however, were cited against Dr. Gipp in the January 19, 1989, proposed notice of adverse action. These four charges and the issues raised by those charges have been thoroughly reviewed by me.

Of the four charges presented to me, the issues surrounding the special summer session in 1987 and the employment of Dr. Gipp's daughter caused me the greatest concern because of the potential for the appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest by the chief official of the school. In reaching my decision to finally settle this matter, I considered many factors, including Dr. Gipp's response to the charges against him. In his response, Dr. Gipp acknowledged that he could have done some things differently to avoid any possible appearance of favoritism. I agree. Based on my review of the record, however, there was not sufficient evidence for me to conclude that Dr. Gipp took any actions, or did not take any action, with bad faith or improper motivation.

In his response to the proposed notice, Dr. Gipp requested a reassignment to another position, after his reinstatement to Haskell Indian Junior College. It is Dr. Gipp's judgment that approval of this request will allow a new spirit of cooperation to develop at Haskell. I concur with this judgment.

Accordingly, Dr. Gipp is reinstated as President of Haskell Indian Junior College, effective May 29, 1989. Dr. Gipp will be reassigned, sometime within the next 30 days, to duties in the Washington office.

I concur with Dr. Gipp's concern that the focus at Haskell must be educating students. The BIA is committed to working with the administration, faculty, students and supporters of Haskell to achieve its primary mission. Now that this chapter is concluded, everyone can get on about that business.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release June 1, 1989

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NEW U.S. FIRE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY SECRETARIES OF INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today directed federal officials to suppress all natural fires in national parks and wilderness areas until individual fire management plans for the areas are determined to be in compliance with new federal recommendations

The directive was one of fifteen the two cabinet members adopted from the recommendations of the federal interagency Fire Management Policy Review Team. The team was established last year to analyze U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture fire management policies in national parks and wilderness areas.

The recommendations affect fire management policies of USDI's National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and USDA's Forest Service

Lujan and Yeutter said many of the fifteen recommendations will require long-range planning and coordination for implementation, but that others will become effective immediately.

In addition to the recommendation to suppress for the interim all natural fires in national parks and wilderness areas, other directives to be adopted immediately include the following:

(more)

-- All wildland fires will be declared either prescribed fires or wildfires. All wildfires will be fought with appropriate suppression action.

(A prescription as it applies to a prescribed fire is a written statement of the limits under which a fire may burn in a specific geographic area. The limits include such criteria as weather conditions and fuel moisture. A prescribed fire is managed by qualified personnel in order to achieve specific resource management objectives. Prescribed fires may be started by management ignition or by natural ignition such as lightning. A wildfire is declared when a fire occurs in an area for which there is no prescription, or when a prescribed fire exceeds the prescribed conditions or geographic limits of the prescribed area.)

-- The responsible line officer will certify in writing daily that prescribed natural fires are within prescriptions, and that adequate resources are available to ensure that each prescribed fire will remain within prescribed boundaries and conditions throughout the next 24 hours, given reasonably foreseeable weather conditions and fire behavior. If these conditions cannot be met, the fire shall be declared a wildfire and suppressed.

Other review team recommendations include measures for improving interagency coordination, providing adequate staffing, training, research, equipment and funding, strengthening fire management plans, bringing those plans into compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and measures for increasing public involvement in policy decisions.

In reviewing federal firefighting policies, the team gathered input from state and local officials, private citizens, academic experts, concessionaires and outfitters, environmental groups and business interests. Eleven public meetings were held across the country to solicit comments on the report. The public comments and the resulting findings were incorporated and submitted in a final report to the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

Recommendations from the final report are attached

-DOI-

FINAL REPORT OF THE FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW TEAM

May 5, 1989

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Team recommends that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior implement the following policy and direction:

1. Existing USDI and USDA fire management policies governing wilderness and parks must be strengthened and reaffirmed to limit their application to legitimate prescribed fire programs. Clarification is needed to prevent inappropriate use of fundamentally sound policies.
2. The agencies reaffirm their policies that fires are either prescribed fires or wildfires. The agencies reject as impractical and unprofessional the practice that fires can be allowed to burn free of prescriptions or appropriate suppression action.
3. USDA and USDI agencies will periodically review fire management plans for parks and wilderness for compliance with current policy, direction, and the additional requirements recommended by this report. No prescribed natural fires are to be allowed until fire management plans meet these standards.
4. Current fire management plans must be strengthened by:
 - a. Developing joint agency fire management plans, agreements, or addendums to existing plans for those areas where fires could cross administrative boundaries. Periodic joint review of these plans should occur. These will include agreement on processes and criteria to be used to make decisions on prescribed vs. wildfire and suppression strategies and tactics.
 - b. Including a comprehensive set of criteria which will be used in deciding whether or not to allow natural ignitions to burn as prescribed fires. In addition to those criteria currently required and commonly used, the following factors will be considered:
 - (1) Energy release component.
 - (2) 1000-hour fuel or duff moisture content.
 - (3) Appropriate consideration of the national and regional fire situation, including the numbers of fires and amount of available resources to suppress them.
 - (4) Limits on numbers of fires burning in the planning unit at one time.
 - (5) Limits on projected length of active perimeter and acreage burned.
 - (6) Indicators of cumulative drought effects on fire behavior.
 - (7) Potential impacts upon visitors, users, and local communities, both on and off site.

- c. Clearly describing the decision process and factors to be addressed before a fire is declared a prescribed natural fire.
 - d. Including criteria to be used in declaring a prescribed fire a wildfire. There must be interagency agreement on these factors in areas where fire may move across administrative boundaries and shared suppression resources may be required.
 - e. Clearly identifying areas that need protection from fire, such as developments within or adjacent to wilderness and park boundaries. Fire management plans should also include actions that are to be taken, such as hazard fuel reduction or installing fuel breaks, to protect such developments or areas.
 - f. Clearly stating the management objectives being addressed by the prescribed natural fire program, including identification of specific values gained as a result of allowing natural fires to burn unsuppressed within prescribed conditions and areas.
 - g. Clearly describing the process to be used to ensure adequate public involvement and coordination with local governments in both plan development and implementation.
5. Agencies will cooperatively develop regional and national contingency plans and procedures and provide the appropriate program monitoring and direction, including curtailment of prescribed fire activities when necessary because of competition for national and regional fire suppression resources.
6. The responsible line officer or designee shall certify in writing daily that a fire is within prescription and adequate resources are available to ensure that each prescribed natural fire will remain within prescription through the ensuing 24-hour period, given reasonably foreseeable weather conditions and fire behavior. If the fire cannot be kept within prescription with available forces and funds, it shall be declared a wildfire and appropriate suppression action initiated.
7. Agencies must re-evaluate the opportunities to use management ignited prescribed fire to achieve management objectives and to complement prescribed natural fire programs. Additionally, hazard fuels must be reduced to protect selected areas, particularly developments within and adjacent to boundaries, from prescribed natural fire and high wildfire risk. Fuels will be treated along park and wilderness boundaries or internally where there are high values at risk.
8. Fire program management will be improved by establishing properly staffed regional and unit level organizations.
- a. Agencies will ensure the availability of qualified staff and knowledgeable line officers for developing, implementing, and managing prescribed fire programs.
 - b. National Park Service regional offices will establish a full-time regional fire coordinator to develop and oversee park programs in accordance with FIREPRO III, where appropriate.
 - c. Agencies will implement the concept of highly trained, well-equipped and mobile tactical teams to provide on-the-ground monitoring and management of prescribed natural fires in national parks and wilderness.
 - d. Agencies will ensure the strengthened policy is understood and implemented by all appropriate personnel.
 - e. Agency managers will assure that personnel develop a thorough understanding of the management objectives for the lands they are managing.

The National Park Service is to complete an analysis of normal fire year operations. FIREPRO III, in order to define essential minimum wildland fire program needs and to take action to meet those needs.

9. Additional interagency emphasis will be given to addressing opportunities for improving fire management programs.

- a. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) charter should be expanded specifically to include prescribed fire program coordination.
- b. The NWCG should take the lead in developing common terminology for prescribed burning programs and describing wildfire suppression alternatives.
- c. Agencies will develop joint criteria for selecting appropriate suppression tactics in wilderness and parks.
- d. Agencies will improve public and agency understanding and acceptance of using appropriate suppression tactics that meet fire management objectives and minimize the adverse impact on wilderness values and park resources.

10. Agencies will ensure NEPA compliance for fire management plans. Agencies will increase opportunities for public involvement and coordination with state and local government when revising or developing fire management plans.

1 Interpretation and public information before and during fires will be improved.

- a. Agencies will ensure that timely, accurate, and consistent information is provided for the public on the purpose, presence, and status of prescribed natural fires, as well as impacts on the community due to closed roads, trails, smoke, back country restrictions, and other effects.
- b. Interpretive and fire status messages are for different purposes, and agencies should strive to keep them separate and distinct. There should also be a distinction between the information needs for prescribed fires and wildfires.
- c. Agencies should ensure that the public is informed of the risks involved in fire management programs.
- d. Agencies will use common terminology for prescribed natural fire programs.

12. USDI and USDA will review the methods of funding prescribed fire and fire protection programs with the objective of improving interagency program effectiveness. Planning and presuppression activities should be financed by program funds rather than through emergency fund transfers and supplementals.

13. There is a need for additional research related to fire management programs.

- a. USDI and USDA will develop coordinated research programs utilizing the unique capabilities of both organizations.
- b. The feasibility of prescribed burning forests using stand replacement fire will be investigated and tested by implementing an appropriate interagency field research program.
- c. Research will be increased to improve the ability to predict severe fire behavior, conduct long-term weather forecasting, and identify past abnormal events.
- d. Efforts will be undertaken to develop and implement an expert system that integrates a wide array of fuel, topographic, weather, climatological, fire behavior, post-fire effects, and other information and readily displays such information in an interactive mode for the user at a computer terminal. This expert system would help to assure that important variables are not overlooked as decisions are made regarding long duration fires.

e. Efforts will also be undertaken to develop comprehensive data bases for park and wilderness resources and provide for state of the art analyses and display as well as an efficient, continuous monitoring system to insure timely update of information.

f. Development of additional emission factors for wildland fuels and better methods for projecting air quality impacts of prescribed and wildfires are needed, since smoke and air pollution are major considerations in deciding when to terminate prescribed natural fires and in scheduling management ignited prescribed fires.

14. If any Federal bureau engages in prescribed natural fire programs in Alaska, that bureau is responsible for adherence to the standards established as a result of these recommendations. The well-established terminology describing levels of wildfire suppression in Alaska should not be changed for the sake of conformity with the broader categories used elsewhere.

15. The agencies will cooperate fully in determining whether allegations of misuse of policy are true and take measures to ensure that any such practices not occur in the future.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: July 5, 1989

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INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF WATER POLICY COUNCIL

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today he has established a Water Policy Council designed to coordinate departmental policy decisions and management activities in the area of water resources.

The Council's formation reflects the importance of water policy in this country and the resolve by Lujan to develop and implement a strategy to improve management of our Nation's water resources. Coordination and reconciliation of the Department's various bureau viewpoints on water matters will be taken up by the Council, as well as formulation of departmental positions. Issues to be considered by the Council include wetlands, Indian water rights, ground water, dam safety, water quality, efficiency of water use, and other water related areas.

"Water has been a focal point throughout the history of this country," said Lujan. "However, as a nation, we have seldom come together to develop a strategy for its management. This places an additional urgency on the work of the Council as it strives to establish clear principles and policies for water resources."

The Council, which will hold its next meeting on July 11, 1989, will be chaired by Under Secretary of the Interior, Frank Bracken, and will consist of the Assistant Secretaries for Policy, Budget, and Administration, Indian Affairs, Water and Science, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Land and Minerals Management, and the Department's Solicitor.

-DOI-



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release July 11, 1989

Carl Shaw (202) 343-2315

BROWN OUTLINES ACTION PLAN ON INDIAN AFFAIRS TO SECRETARY LUJAN

Eddie F. Brown, newly-installed Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, today outlined an action plan for the next 90 days to focus on improving education programs, addressing tribal development on the reservations, and improving Bureau of Indian Affairs management at the central office, area and agency levels.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., after meeting with Brown to discuss Indian affairs programs, strongly endorsed Brown's priorities.

"The approaches outlined by Eddie Brown are in full accord with the philosophy of President Bush and with my own concept of what we must do to fulfill our obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives," Lujan said. "His job as the Administration's top official for Indian affairs is one of the toughest in government, but he is well-equipped to handle it."

Brown said that in keeping with Secretary Lujan's and this Administration's priorities in putting education at the top of the agenda, he will move quickly to seek out the best qualified educator he can find to fill the job as director of the Bureau's education programs.

"During our search I will be meeting with Intertribal groups and elected tribal officials around the country to get their ideas on the ways that we can improve our relations and meet their needs in helping them to attain self-sufficiency," Brown said.

The new assistant secretary said that he would especially look to the tribes for their assistance in laying out what they see as their needs to improve the economies on reservations. "To achieve tribal development," Brown said, "I'll use the skills that were so successful in developing intergovernmental relationships in my previous jobs in Arizona."

Brown said he would also have an Orientation and Planning Team looking at the organization of his office, the BIA central office, the current and future Bureau budgets, and our methods of communicating with elected tribal officials.

Brown said that he will expect to report back to the Secretary within 90 days with a progress report on the issues they discussed. "I feel confident we will have moved forward in all of these areas," he said.

(more)

Brown, a native of Arizona, was confirmed by the Senate on June 21 and sworn into office June 26. This will be his first full week in Washington as Assistant Secretary after moving his family from Arizona to the Nation's Capital.

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



July 21, 1989

STATEMENT BY EDDIE F. BROWN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CONCERNING THE DEMONSTRATION AND SHOOTINGS ON THE NAVAJO RESERVATION

I regret that there has been a loss of life on the Navajo reservation. This loss of life has come about as the Navajo police defended themselves against an attack by demonstrators at the Navajo Tribal Government Headquarters.

Let me make it clear that the Navajo tribal police are in charge on the reservation and things are calm at this time. At the request of the Navajo Director of Public Safety, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has sent a small contingent of police officers to Window Rock. The BIA police are on standby and are not currently involved in any law enforcement activity on the reservation.

I want it clearly understood that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is simply in a support role at this time. The Navajo tribal government and their police are in charge. BIA police will assist them at their request. During the recent change in control of the tribal government, the BIA has remained in the background and let the system set up by the Navajo people decide its leaders. The system has worked. We will continue to remain in the background on the current situation until we are asked by those in charge of the Navajo government to assist them in whatever way we can.

My condolences go out to the Navajo families of the men who died last night. And I want the Navajo people on the reservation to know that their police are in charge and they can be assured that order will be maintained on the reservation. We stand ready to assist the government when asked.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Steve Brooks (202) 343-3171

FOR RELEASE August 4, 1989

WORKING GROUP ON INDIAN WATER SETTLEMENTS FORMED AT INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today the formation of a Working Group on Indian Water Settlements, which will report to Interior's Water Policy Council.

The Group's primary tasks will be to establish a set of principles to guide Indian water settlements; assist in the work of negotiating teams dealing with such settlements; and, keep the Council apprised of upcoming actions and report to the Council on the progress of ongoing negotiations, particularly when key decision points are approached.

"The settlement of Indian water claims is an important activity for the Department in meeting its trust responsibility for Indian tribes," said Lujan. "It is also critical in helping to manage and conserve our Nation's water resources."

The Working Group will be chaired by the Counselor to the Secretary, Tim Glidden, with other members to be designated by the Department's Water Policy Council. The Council, headed by Under Secretary of the Interior Frank Bracken, consists of the Assistant Secretaries for Policy, Budget, and Administration; Indian Affairs; Water and Science; Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Land and Minerals Management; and the Department's Solicitor.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
TO SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

September 15, 1989

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan will visit Scottsdale, Arizona, September 15, 1989, to sign the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. The ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m., at the Tribal Headquarters, 10005 East Osborne, in Scottsdale.

The agreement provides for the settlement of longstanding water right claims with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Under the pact, 122,400 acre feet of water will be delivered annually to the Indian community for the irrigation of 27,200 acres of agricultural land.

The Act, settling over two years of negotiations, continues to show Secretary Lujan's commitment to the resolution of Indian rights issues. "I am pleased, that after so many years, with so many claimants involved that this matter was resolved for the benefit of all Arizonans," stated Lujan.

SUMMARY PRESS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1989

- 11:00 a.m. Secretary arrives at Tribal Headquarters.
- 11:05 a.m. Conducts signing ceremony and gives brief REMARKS
- 11:15 a.m. Begins press conference with invited guests.
- 11:45 a.m. Press conference concludes
- 12:00 p.m. Attends luncheon at Tribal Headquarters commemorating event.
- 1:00 p.m. Secretary departs



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release September 21, 1989

Carl Shaw, (202) 343-2315

BROWN NAMES MILLS PRINCIPAL DEPUTY IN INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Department of Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Eddie F. Brown, today announced the appointment of Walter R. Mills as Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Operations. Mills, a 17-year employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, S.D., has been acting in the position since last month. His new appointment is effective September 24.

"Walt Mills brings a wealth of experience in Indian Affairs to his new position and possesses exceptional organization and management capabilities. He has worked in the field at various managerial levels and in all the program areas he will be involved in as my principal deputy," Brown said. "I will look to Walt to run the day-to-day operations of the BIA and be my close advisor on all Bureau programs."

Mills, 54, joined the BIA in 1971 as a training instructor at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) in Albuquerque. He later served in administrative positions at SIPI, BIA's Hopi Agency in Keams Canyon, Ariz. and the Phoenix area office before being named agency superintendent at the Colorado River Agency in Parker, Ariz. in 1979. He served in that position until 1983 when he was named assistant area director of Indian Services in the Phoenix area office. From 1985 to 1988 Mills served as assistant area director for Indian programs which combined the Indian services and trust programs for the Phoenix area. He was named area director of the Anadarko, Okla. office in February, 1988. He was serving in that position when he was named acting deputy to the assistant secretary last month.

Prior to joining the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mills attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kans. and worked as a pressman, cameraman and stripper and in supervisor positions with Southwestern Bank and Supply and Bank Note Printing and Litho Company. From 1968 to 1970, he was a salesman for Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. He was serving as head cameraman and stripper with the Allied Printing and Publishing Co. when he joined the BIA in 1971.

-BIA-



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release: September 26, 1989

INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN AFFIRMS DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO QUALITY INDIAN EDUCATION

Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, today announced that Indian schooling will be the top educational priority of the Department. Lujan, who earlier this year toured Indian schools with the Secretary of Education, said that we must place renewed emphasis on ensuring that our Native American students receive a quality education.

Lujan indicated that one of the primary goals of the Interior Department must be to reform the delivery of key social, financial, and natural resources to Native Americans. "We will work closely with elected officials of Indian tribal governments, state and local education agencies and parents to improve the educational programs provided on Indian reservations by BIA and contractor operated schools," stated Lujan.

Lujan plans to tell his colleagues participating in the President's education summit that students who attend bureau-funded schools will continue to have choice in which school they attend, including parochial or public schools. "The Department recognizes the diverse needs and conditions that exist on Indian lands, and we will work with tribal governments to ensure that Indian reservation residents receive the same educational opportunities that all American students have," stated Lujan.

American Indian students in public schools oftentimes score higher in basic skills tests than do Indian students in BIA schools. To help correct this, Lujan has directed the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Dr. Eddie Brown, to develop a plan to raise the educational achievement levels of Indian students in BIA-funded schools to the national norms by the year 2000.

"We must raise the expectation levels of teachers and principals who work with Indian children, encouraging strong parental involvement beginning in the preschool years. We must also hold ourselves accountable, for educational achievement, to the parents and to the tribes," concluded Lujan.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release November 9, 1989

Carl Shaw, (202) 343-2315

BROWN NAMES HAYES AS DEPUTY FOR TRUST AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Eddie F. Brown, today announced the appointment of Patrick A. Hayes as Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Trust and Economic Development. The 44-year-old enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe has been acting in the position for the past several months. The appointment is effective immediately.

"Pat Hayes has the kind of experience in Indian Affairs and in legal matters that makes him well qualified to advise and assist me in securing and protecting Indian rights and resources to the highest degree of fiduciary standards," Brown said. "He also has the experience that will help me to determine the role that the Bureau should be playing in the economic development efforts of Indian tribes now and into the year 2000."

For the past three years Hayes has served as realty officer in BIA's Phoenix area office. From June, 1983, to October, 1986, he was superintendent of the Colorado River Agency in Parker, Arizona, and before that served for four years as chief of the division of tribal government services in BIA's Washington, D.C., headquarters offices. Other Bureau assignments included two years as judicial services officer for the BIA in Washington, and 18 months as enrollment coordinator in the Juneau, Alaska, area office. He has also served in varying legal positions in the private sector.

Hayes holds a B.A. in Government/History/Economics from the University of South Dakota and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967 to 1970.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release November 15, 1989

Carl Shaw, (202) 343-2315

BROWN ASKS TRIBES AND EMPLOYEES TO PLAY MAJOR ROLES IN NEW PROGRAM TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Eddie F. Brown is enlisting Indian tribal leaders and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employees as part of an intensive program to combat the sexual abuse of Indian children.

Brown has assigned his deputy for operations, Walt Mills, as overall coordinator of BIA's child protection programs to ensure that prompt and effective action is taken on all existing elements of the program of preventing, identifying potential abusers, reporting procedures when abuse is suspected, enforcement, and followup psychological care to victims of reported incidents.

"We want the message to go out: child sexual abuse will not be tolerated," Brown said. "We have identified five areas to strengthen our child protection activities, and 12 specific actions in those areas are underway. Walt Mills will be coordinating all these activities and reporting to me on the steps I have asked him to take."

In his letter to tribal leaders, Brown said Indian and non-Indian communities alike must develop strong safeguards for the protection of children. He said the effects of child sexual abuse on the victim can be long-lasting and tragic and that BIA's education initiatives will be greatly diminished if children first must deal with the enormous physical and mental trauma such abuse causes.

Brown outlined these steps already taken by the BIA to strengthen child protection activities as (1) establishment of a rigorous screening process for new employees working with children; (2) updating of personnel manual regulations for obligatory reporting of suspected abuse, including administrative sanctions for failure to report incidents; (3) formation of a BIA/Indian Health Service national oversight committee to enhance inter-agency cooperation and review child protection team effectiveness; (4) organization of additional child protection teams at area and agency levels to ensure prompt actions when abuse is suspected; and (5) training of BIA

(more)

personnel in child abuse recognition, reporting and remedial action processes. In addition to specifying additional actions to be taken by the BIA, Brown requested tribal government suggestions for strengthening the program. "Successful coordination of our efforts requires working closely with the tribal governments," Brown said.

In his letter to BIA's 14,300 employees, Brown said he expected all employees to take advantage of training that is offered to enhance their ability to discern potential incidents of child sexual abuse. "In addition," he wrote, "I expect every employee to report such potential incidents to the appropriate enforcement and social services agencies immediately."

Brown has asked Mills to provide him by December 15 a schedule with specific timeframes for completion of the actions. He also asked him to coordinate overlapping issues with the Indian Health Service.

-BIA-



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release 11:30 a.m. November 17, 1989

INTERIOR UNDER SECRETARY BRACKEN SAYS DEPARTMENT IS WORKING WITH CONGRESS AND TRIBES TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO AMERICAN INDIANS

Under Secretary Frank A. Bracken said today the Department of the Interior already has begun correcting problems identified in a just-released Senate report on Indian Affairs, and will continue cooperative efforts with the Congress and the Tribes to improve programs

"The Bush Administration is strongly committed to providing all services and benefits due American Indians by treaty, law and tradition, Bracken said after receiving a copy of the report from the Senate Special Committee on Investigations. "As the committee report shows, quite clearly the Federal Government in the past has not been as efficient, as careful or as caring as it should have been in a number of instances."

Bracken noted that in an appearance before the committee early this year, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan pledged he would make changes as needed

"We have not waited for the committee report to institute improvements," Bracken said. "The Bureau of Indian Affairs the Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Land Management have taken actions to improve their programs serving tribes and individual Indians Our agencies will continue conferring with tribes and with the Congress on the best ways of addressing the problems, including legislative solutions." (more)

Noting that the Department of the Interior has cooperated fully with the committee throughout its investigation, the Under Secretary said "We view it as helpful and beneficial that the committee has focused attention on long-standing problems in various programs. We hope this will enhance our potential for making progress on some complex problems that have defied resolution for decades."

Bracken, who serves as the Department's coordinator to work with the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, said that Secretary Lujan, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Eddie Brown, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management David O'Neal, Bureau of Land Management Director Cy Jamison and Minerals Management Service Director Barry Williamson are committed to doing everything within their power to meet the federal obligations to American Indians

"Consistent with the long-standing policy of Indian Self Determination, we will consult with the tribes on all of the issues," Bracken said. "To be successful, we will need the help and cooperation of the Congress and the tribes."

In meeting with the media shortly after release of the report, Bracken stressed: "We are not here to explain why things have not worked in the past, but what can be done to assure that programs work better in the future."

-DOI-

Editor's Advisory: Attached is a list of some of the major improvements made by the Department of the Interior in the past six months in response to the Senate hearings on Indian Affairs programs