

United States Department of the Interior

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20210

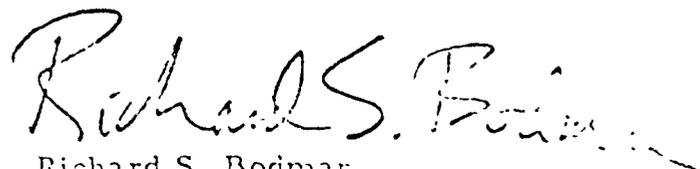
January 18, 1973

The Administration is initiating several immediate measures to assist the Secretary of the Interior in performing his Indian Trust responsibility and in providing service to federally-recognized tribes. We believe these decisions to be clearly beneficial to the Indian people at this time, and they will be implemented now or in next year's program and budget.

I am acquainting you with these measures now so that you will have more time to consider them as you develop long-range organization and policy recommendations for the Secretary. The measures being taken are as follows:

1. Realign, now, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Office functions in all its locations (principally Washington, Albuquerque and Denver) to accomplish the following purposes:
 - (a) Transfer daily operational activities from the Central Office to area and agency offices.
 - (b) Reduce non-essential support staff in the Central Office.
 - (c) Focus attention on the need for carrying out our trust responsibilities and for providing policy guidance for delivery of other services to Indians.
2. Have the Commissioner of Indian Affairs report now directly to the Secretary and propose legislation to upgrade the position of Commissioner to that of Assistant Secretary.
3. Include in next year's program and budget request BIA block grants to federally-recognized Indian tribes. Authorizing legislation is being completed and will be proposed shortly.

The attached material outlines these measures respectively in more detail.



Richard S. Bodman
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
(Management and Budget)

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REALIGNMENT OF BIA CENTRAL OFFICE ORGANIZATION

PRESENT ORGANIZATION

Our objectives for the immediate future include a realignment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Offices to provide increased services to the Indian community through three basic steps. These objectives are responsive to the suggestions frequently offered that Central Office personnel are too remote from the Indian people and not able to respond quickly enough to changing conditions.

First, we intend to transfer daily operational activities presently performed in the Central Office to area and agency offices. This will place increased reliance on area and agency offices with headquarters removed from all direct operations.

Second, as a result of this transfer, we plan to reduce the number of authorized positions in the Central Office to a commensurate level. We estimate that the revised workload of the Central Offices can be carried out by an authorized permanent employment level of 715 people. This is approximately 600 positions fewer than was authorized in the budget for FY 73. In addition, we intend to transfer approximately 50 positions out of the present 1,315 positions in the Central Office to the field. Our actual employment is now substantially less than our authorized ceiling. Therefore, actual reductions in employment will be only approximately 285 people.

The positions provided to the field offices will enhance our capability in the area of tribal operations, real property management, and comprehensive planning. The funding for the positions abolished in the headquarters will remain available to the Bureau and will be used for direct services to the Indian people.

Third, we plan to separate responsibility for carrying out our Indian Trust obligations from responsibility for carrying out delivery of services to the Indian community. To do so, we will establish separate offices to carry out each of these duties.

Exhibits A and B following present the present and the proposed organization structure respectively.

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SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

PROPOSED
HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATION
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMISSIONER, *
INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
INDIAN AFFAIRS

MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

- Personnel
- Safety
- Program Evaluation
- Procurement
- Property Management
- Budget Formulation
- Statistics
- Accounting & Audit
- Data Processing
- Mail and Files

OFFICE OF NATURAL
RESOURCE RIGHTS

- Indian Water Rights
- Joint Use - Navajo & Hopi

OFFICE OF
LEGISLATION

- Congressional Relations
- Communications Public Information

OFFICE OF TRUST
RESPONSIBILITIES

- Real Estate Services
- Land Operations
- Forestry
- Irrigation
- Tribal Trust Funds
- Tribal Accounting Services

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

- Manpower Programs
- Indian Business Enterprises
- Indian Technical Assistance
- Transportation
- Plant Design and Construction
- Tribal Government Development

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

- Internal Services
- Post Secondary and Adult
- Program Development and Review
- Educational Assistance
- School Facilities

OFFICE OF TRIBAL
SERVICES

- Welfare and Housing
- Law and Order
- Plant Management
- Tribal Operations

AREA OFFICES

GRADING TO P

The President's
first line adm.
of Natural R.
an interim
Secretary
yet to act

Legislation to be proposed to upgrade Commissioner to Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.

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