



## PROGRESS REPORT No. 1

**NOV. 14 — DENVER** — Seventeenth annual Convention of National Congress of American Indians. Addenda to first packet of AICC literature sent to Indians, NCAI Resolution No. 11:

"Whereas, no comprehensive study of the Indian situation has been conducted since the Meriam survey of 1928, and actions, decisions, and policy declarations have been arrived at during the past decade without regard to the facts of Indian needs, conditions, and aspirations, thereby producing the unrealistic and destructive "termination policy"; and

"Whereas, the University of Chicago has undertaken to bring together the study of Indian conditions based on already existing information on Indians and will sponsor and organize a conference out of which will result a restatement of Indian policy, based on a factual and studied premise; and

"Whereas, the University of Chicago has requested the NCAI to share with it the initiative in preparing, from the point of view of the Indian people, this study and subsequent statement of policy;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Congress of American Indians give all possible cooperation to the University of Chicago in conducting the study for development of policy and the Executive Director of NCAI is hereby instructed to take all necessary steps to assist in the furtherance of this basic and essential program."

**NOV. 18 — MINNEAPOLIS** — Annual Meeting of The American Anthropological Association. At the business meeting Sol Tax announces plans for development of a charter for Indians written by Indians and calls upon anthropologists to act as resource people in assisting Indians in their local areas to organize for purposes of discussing the charter, and to supply scientific data as requested by the Indians.

**DEC. 4 — RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA** — Conference on INDIANS' RIGHT TO DECIDE held at University of California at Riverside and sponsored by California Inter-Tribal Council, Friends Committee on Legislation, Southern California Office, and co-operating organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Pacific Southwest Region; Council of Church Women of Southern California; Indian Affairs, California Federation of Women's Clubs; Riverside Monthly Meeting of Friends Program includes discussion of "Issues as Seen by the Inter-Tribal Council" (Errin Forrest, President, and Henry de Corse, Vice-President); "Concerns and Questions about Termination" (Leonard M. Hill, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs); and "How to Get The Laws You Want" (Panel Chairman, Mr. David McClellan, Ass't Prof. Political Science, Univ. of California, Riverside; Assemblyman George E. Brown, Jr.; Stuart Innerst; Clarence Wesley, Chairman, Arizona Inter-Tribal Council.) Discussion group leaders include: Malcolm Farmer, Prof. of Anthropology, Whittier College; Kimmis Hendrick, Chief of the Western News Bureau, Christian Science Monitor; Josephine Jackson, Tribal Chairman, Pala; Alex Siva, Tribal Chairman, Los Coyotes; Dr. Marc Smith, Faculty Dean, University of Redlands; Robert A. Stafford, Attorney; Richard Thomas, former AFSC field worker.



- ☐ We have received your packet with the NCAI draft of a proposed "Charter."
- ☐ We shall begin to discuss this at once.
- ☐ We would like some help from University or other resource people.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ more copies of this packet for our use.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Correct Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe or Community \_\_\_\_\_

or organization \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**NANCY O. LURIE  
3300 East Delhi Road  
Ann Arbor, Michigan**



**DEC. 10 — GREAT FALLS, MONTANA** — Report on meeting issued by the Sociology Department, College of Great Falls.

#### MAKING MONTANA'S INDIAN RESEARCH REPORT

Did you ever hear your Indian friends tell you that nobody ever gets the facts about the Indian situation? Hear about the 1961 chance to get the facts to Congress and to the American people at large. Who will do it? The National Congress of American Indians and Chicago University under a co-chairmanship of Indians and college professors, led by Dr. Sol Tax of Chicago University. Montana Indians and Agencies and schools of higher learning were invited to join in this important project at the recent meeting of the Intertribal Policy Board, held on December 10 at the College of Great Falls. Mr. Walter Wetzel, Blackfeet Tribe, was the Chairman.

#### FLORENCE SCHMIDT REPORTS

More than 70 people, including Intertribal Policy Board members from six reservations and the Landless Indians, heard Miss Florence Schmidt of Northern Montana College and Sister Providencia of the College of Great Falls tell about the NCAI-University project which was developed in Denver during the NCAI national convention. Both these professors took part in the planning and joined the Research Committee made up of professors from 18 colleges and universities throughout the country. A letter from Dr. Sol Tax was distributed. It said, "In the next few months the University will help to mobilize scholars and resource people in all relevant fields to help Indian groups develop a full statement of Indian conditions and recommendations for the future."

The group was asked to consider how Montana might gather its reservation facts:

1. **LAND AND PEOPLE** . . . how much trust land is left in 1960? Where are the Indian people (living on the reservation? living outside?) Who are the reservation residents . . . enrolled? Not enrolled? How many white people?
2. **DEVELOPMENT** . . . WHO is doing WHAT about developing the reservation? What is the situation in 1961 for the following: education, relocation, training.
3. **JURISDICTION** . . . WHO is RESPONSIBLE for WHAT . . . law and order, medical, relief, employment, housing. What are the struggles over eligibility?
4. **ATTITUDES** . . . what do the Indians think about their tribes . . . their future the programs . . . their non-Indian neighbors? What do the neighbors think about them? . . . those far from reservations, those near? (This point was suggested by the Montana professors when they met later in the day.)

Then the Policy Board met separately to discuss the new research proposal and to name a speaker to give the Indians' views. Mr. Austin Buckles, Fort Peck Chairman, was chosen.

The difficulties of a good research job were discussed by professors from four Montana colleges and universities, by the Indian Bureau Area Office staff people and the Superintendents from four reservations, by State people and local organization officials which interest themselves in Indian questions. Dr. Harold Tascher of Montana State University spoke in favor of cooperation with the new project and suggested appointing a steering committee to start to work. Dr. Carling Malouf, also of MSU, told that the Anthropological societies had already been informed and Sister Providencia told that the New Mexico tribes (i.e. NCAI Committee working in Albuquerque) since November had a meeting to make out an "Indian Charter" in order to start the work. Mr. J. D. Crawford of the Area Office stated that the Bureau could help with many kinds of figures.

At a panel report in the evening, Mr. Austin Buckles said that the Indians were in favor of the new research project. He said that their cooperation was a matter of survival. Mr. Crawford spoke for all the Federal people present and indicated that there were about 14 sources of research material that could be made available by the Indian Bureau. Mr. Louis Forsell, from the State Attorney General's office, promised to enlist the support of all the State agencies in Helena. Dr. Carling Malouf, for the professors, gave a digest of the afternoon's discussion on the practical problems of getting so much information in a hurry . . . by June, at least according to Chicago University. Mr. Walter Wetzel, Panel Chair-

man, praised the project that he had heard about in Denver, and voted for there. He expressed the appreciation of the Tribes for the turn-out and enthusiasm of the meeting at the College of Great Falls. Mr. Austin Buckles announced that the following people had been appointed by the Tribal Chairmen to a Steering Committee, temporarily until their appointments were confirmed or annulled by the respective tribes:

Chairman of the Steering Committee . . . Walter Wetzel, Chairman of Policy Board  
For the Cheyenne Tribe . . . John Woodenlegs, Chairman of the Tribe  
For the Crow Tribe . . . Robert Yellowtail, Councilman  
For the Blackfeet Tribe . . . LeRoy Pepion, Councilman  
For the Fort Peck Tribe . . . Mrs. Pearl Redstone, Councilwoman

The Steering Committee will have its first meeting on December 29, at the College of Great Falls, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Projects on LAND AND PEOPLE, DEVELOPMENT, JURISDICTION, and ATTITUDES have already been assigned. Other tribes are invited to send delegates, as are volunteers invited from other Universities and Agencies of the State.

**DEC. 15 — WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Meeting at Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, Sol Tax, presiding, to discuss ways of publicizing AICC among potential resource people who could render service and supply special information to Indians. Over thirty people in attendance from various government agencies, religious groups, and other organizations concerned with Indian affairs, including the American Bar Association; National Congress of American Indians; ARROW; American Anthropological Association; Bureau of Indian Affairs; U.S. Public Health Service; U.S. Congress; Canadian Research Centre for Anthropology; Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions; American Friends Service Committee; Foreign Areas Studies Division; Field Foundation; Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; Library of Congress; American University; Bureau of American Ethnology; Indian Rights Association.

**DEC. 26-31 — NEW YORK** — Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Anthropology Section. Announcement and distribution of information sheet made by Dr. Eleanor Leacock and Dr. Ernestine Friedl with request that anthropologists help publicize AICC and supply information for AICC discussions as requested by Indian friends.

**JAN. 6, 1961 — ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN** — Since December 28, 1960 over 800 packets of AICC literature sent to Indians throughout the country.

If you have a short item of news to include in the next Progress Report, there is space on the enclosed postcard. If your news item is long, please write it in a letter to:

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