BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Wilson - 343-9431

For Release OCTOBER 26, 1966

TWO APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED IN INDIAN BUREAU'S LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICE

Forrest J. Gerard, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, has been appointed Legislative Liaison Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, BIA Commissioner, announced today.

Gerard had been chief of the Tribal Affairs Division of the Public Health Service's Indian Health Division. In his new position he will be an advisor to the Commissioner and Bureau officials on legislative matters and will analyze pending legislation which would affect Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A graduate of Montana State University, Gerard is an Air Force veteran and served with the Montana and Wyoming Tuberculosis and Health Associations before joining the Public Health Service in 1957.

Gerard received the Indian Achievement Award of 1966 from the Indian Council Fire, a Chicago based Indian interest organization, for his work in improving Indian health.

Last year he won a Fellowship in Congressional Operations sponsored by the American Political Science Association and the Civil Service Commission. Gerard, 41, lives with his wife and five children in Bowie, Md.

Assisting Gerard will be Larry M. Wheeler, recently appointed to the post of Deputy Legislative Liaison Officer. Wheeler had been the Executive Clerk of the United States Senate.

A Marine Corps veteran, Wheeler is a native of Georgia and a graduate of the University of Georgia. He came to Washington in 1957 as an administrative clerk for Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia.

Wheeler, 33, lives with his wife and daughter in Alexandria, Va.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Hart - 343-9431

For Release to PM's, OCTOBER 27, 1966

#### FEDERAL SUPERVISION ENDS FOR NEBRASKA PONCAS

Federal supervision over the Ponca Indian Tribe of Nebraska has ended, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today. Notification of the action is being published in the Federal Register.

A tribal decision by the Nebraska Poncas in 1956 set the stage for the termination action. Petitions to Congress for appropriate legislation to end Federal supervision led to the 1962 termination law (P.L. 87-629) calling for establishment of a tribal roll and division of tribal assets, if division met with the approval of the majority of adult tribal members.

The reservation lands of the Nebraska Poncas comprised 847 acres in the northeastern part of the State. Most of the 442 tribal members are off-reservation Indians, residing in Omaha and other urban communities. The tribal vote, following the provisions of the 1962 Congressional act, was overwhelmingly in favor of distribution of assets. The holdings were subsequently liquidated.

Termination of Federal supervision over the Nebraska Poncas brings a halt to special services hitherto provided them by the Federal Government because of their status as Indians. State services and laws, including tax laws, are now applicable to Ponca Indians as well as to other citizens under Nebraska's jurisdiction.

A related group of Poncas--those residing in Oklahoma--are not affected by termination under Public Law 87-629. The Ponca Tribe of Native Americans of Nebraska organized in 1936 when a constitution and charter were adopted. The Oklahoma Poncas organized separately in 1950. Individuals formerly entitled to be enrolled in both tribes were permitted to retain membership in only one tribe when the Nebraska Ponca Tribal roll was prepared preliminary to termination.

Meanwhile, the Oklahoma Poncas are petitioners in a case pending before the Indian Claims Commission in which they are seeking fair payment for Ponca lands in Nebraska and South Dakota given to the Sioux under a treaty in 1859 between the United States and the Sioux, to which the Poncas were not party. Both the Oklahoma and the Nebraska Poncas may be recipients of an award, after a determination has been made by the Claims Commission of the amount of compensation due, if any.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release to PM's November 2, 1966

Wilson--343-9431

TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWAS TO ASSEMBLE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

Chippewa Indians on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota soon will begin a new industrial operation, the assembly of electronic components for radio and television sets, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today.

Under the terms of a new \$87,500 contract with the Cinch Manufacturing Company of Chicago, electronic parts will be shipped to the reservation, assembled by Indian workers and returned to Chicago for installation in the sets.

The new assembly operation is expected to begin in early November and employ up to 19 full-time and 3 part-time Indian workers within 60 days.

Cinch Manufacturing Company will supply equipment and train Indian workers in its use, according to George Hart, company president.

Operations will be conducted in the Chippewayan Authentics plant, where facilities and management operations already have been established. The plant presently manufactures Indian artifacts of authenic Chippewa design, and the contract will assist in broadening the operation into other fields.

Mr. Hart said approximately 250,000 units a month would be produced and there is a strong possibility that additional contracts for similar operations will be negotiated in the future.

Bureau representatives have been working closely with Mr. Hart for some time regarding an Indian reservation assembly facility. He was among industry leaders who met with Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall in Washington May 24, to explore ways of creating more job opportunities for Indians.

For Release to PM's, November 14, 1966

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY ROBERT L. BENNETT, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., NOVEMBER 14, 1966

This is an important time in the history of Indian affairs, and this organization, the National Congress of American Indians, is in a good position to affect the future course of events.

Because this organization is comprised of Indian membership -- both tribal and individual -- it can and needs to become a source of great strength in the shaping of policies, programs and laws.

The Indian people of this continent have traditionally followed their own instincts and clung to their own convictions through trial and strife. It is for organizations such as this, made up of Indians, to foster the Indian spirit of independent thought. There is no need to fall into the pattern of racial agitation in order to attract attention. You already have the attention of this country. There is need, however, for some clear statements of principle, and for some constructive suggestions relating to Federal-Indian relations in the months and years immediately ahead.

First, there is the fact that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is no longer the one agency in Indian affairs. Congress has passed numerous laws in recent years providing a wide range of programs and services for all citizens, including Indians. These programs are geared to relieving adverse social and economic conditions among the poverty groups in our Nation. Indian people are now in a position where it becomes increasingly necessary to broaden their contacts and relations with other Federal agencies in order to take advantage of the new Federal aids.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and other active organizations in the Indian field have found themselves in a position where traditional roles have become obsolete and new ones must be created to enable them to serve Indian people most effectively.

The Bureau, in the past, has been both protagonist and antagonis in the eyes of Indian tribal groups. Now, with all the other sources of aid available, it should decrease its day-to-day involvement in tribal affairs. It should give way to a new role by tribal governments themselves -- a role in which the tribal governments will be the negotiators with Federal aid programs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, then, could become more of an advisory and coordinating agency for Federal assistance, rather than an administrating agency.

Recognition must be given to the fact that new authorities are needed in order to broaden opportunities for Indian people to improve their social and economic status.

Nothing is more important, in my estimation, than to accomplish a change in the policies and laws that are inhibiting the fullest development of Indian economic opportunity. This can be accomplished without jeopardy to existing protections now enjoyed by Indian people. I consider it my first obligation to the Indian people that such new legislation be formulated.

The major problems and needs thus far discussed in meetings with tribal representatives tend to fall into these general categories: low educational levels of reservation Indians, and need for expanded opportunities for children and adults to acquire education and training that will enable them to take their rightful place in the total national picture; sub-standard housing, and the need for more assistance in community planning and development; substandard living conditions, stemming from poverty, that need attention from health and sanitation workers; chronic unemployment and the need for greater business development on the reservations; and problems of heirship that create a stranglehold on land development.

The role of the National Congress of American Indians could become larger than it has been. It should become an organization respected throughout the Indian community and throughout the non-Indian community as the unified voice of the Indian people. Its great strength is yet to be reached and yet to be felt. It does not need to mimic anyone in order to attract attention. It needs, above all, to reflect the dignity, wisdom, and endurance that traditionally characterize the Indian people.

This is the time -- later may be too late -- to take a close look at NCAI's present role in Indian affairs and to make whatever changes in policy and procedure are necessary to ensure that its activities will accrue to the maximum benefit of the Indian people. As the voice of the Indian people, together, its force can be mighty. Let it be, then, an organization unified in its purposes, and let its purposes be toward constructive participation in Federal-Indian affairs.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ulsamer - 343-9431

For Release NOVEMBER 15, 1966

NEW BUILDING FOR INDIAN SCHOOL AT CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

The Bureau of Indian Affairs today announced the award of a \$2,237,520 contract to construct new facilities at its Concho, Okla., elementary school. The school, originally established as the Cheyenne-Arapaho Boarding School in the late 1800's to serve two area tribes, now enrolls Indian students from a number of other tribes. Last year 162 students in grades 1-8 were enrolled.

The contract calls for replacement of several antiquated existing structures which have been abandoned for structural or safety reasons. The academia building will include: 11-classrooms, a multipurpose room, an instructional materials center, classrooms for home economics, general science, and practical arts, plus administrative offices. Also included in the contract are a kitchendining hall, two 128-pupil dormitories, quarters for school employees, paving and site grading, water and sewerage extensions and related site work. The basement of the dining hall will be reinforced to serve as a tornado shelter.

Successful bidder was the Atlas Organization, Inc., and Barton Theater Co., a joint venture, of Oklahoma City, Okla. Seven higher bids were received, ranging upward to \$2,338,000.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release to PM's November 18, 1966

Ulsamer -- 343-9431

ASSISTANT AREA DIRECTOR NAMED FOR NAVAJO EDUCATION

Dr. William J. Benham, a Creek Indian, has been named to head up the Bureau of Indian Affairs education programs on the Navajo Reservation.

In this capacity, he will serve as one of three Assistant Area Directors for the Bureau's operations in the Navajo area.

Dr. Benham, a native of Holdenville, Okla., is a veteran of the Navajo education program. He joined the Bureau in 1950 and has served as both teacher and principal in various BIA schools for Navajo children. From 1963 until his recent reassignment he was Director of Schools for the Gallup Area Office.

A graduate of East Central State College in Oklahoma, Dr. Benham holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Increased activity in almost every phase of Bureau operations on the Navajo Reservation brought about the establishment last December of a separate Navajo Area office at Window Rock, Ariz. Following are some recent developments in education on the reservation:

--The Bureau of Indian Affairs awarded two contracts totalling more than \$6.6 million to expand Sanostee School, which will serve 720 Navajo children, and to construction a new school to accommodate more than 500 in the eastern section of the reservation. At Kaibeto a new \$5 million Bureau boarding school was dedicated.

--New methods are being found to meet the unique educational needs of Indian students. Teaching English as a second language to Navajo-speaking youngsters is now a reservation-wide program.

--The Navajo tribal council underscored the importance of education in tribal development with passage of a resolution reaffirming compulsory education for youths between the ages of 6 and 16. The council called upon parents, educators, and tribal courts to aid them in a campaign which has brought about a record enrollment of 19,827 children in reservation schools alone.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS For Release November 29, 1966 Wilson 343-9431

TRANSFER OF INDIAN AGENCY SUPERINTENDENTS ANNOUNCED

Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, announced today that John H. Artichoker, Jr., Superintendent of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Agency, Lame Deer, Mont., has been named Superintendent of the Papago Agency, Sells, Ariz.

John R. "Bob" White, Superintendent of the Rocky Boy's Agency,
Box Elder, Mont., will replace Artichoker at Lame Deer. Both transfers
became effective November 27, 1966.

A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Artichoker, 36, was born at Pierre, S. Dak. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. He joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1962 as a Tribal Affairs Officer at Billings, Mont., after ten years as Director of Indian Education for the State of South Dakota.

Mr. Artichoker was chosen one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of 1964 by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce.

White, 54, was born in Spencer, Ind. and grew up on a homestead near Deaver, Wyo. He attended the University of Wyoming and worked as a newspaper reporter and editor in Minnesota, Colorado, and New Mexico before joining the Bureau as Assistant Superintendent of the Consolidated Ute Agency, Ignacio, Colo. in 1961.

At Sells, Artichoker succeeds Homer B. Jenkins, who recently was transferred to Palm Springs, Calif.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release NOVEMBER 30, 1966

Wilson -- 343-9431

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall will meet December 1 with 11 top management representatives of major industrial firms to

INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO MEET WITH UDALL ON INDIAN DEVELOPMENT

discuss the potential for plant expansion and development on or near Indian reservations.

The luncheon meeting is the second such conference in Secretary Udall's drive to speed economic development and employment possibilities for Indians. In May the Secretary met with representatives of major electronic firms.

At the meeting background material will be presented on the location of plant sites, the availability and skills of Indian workers, training programs available to teach special skills and financing available for plant development.

The firms to be represented at the luncheon are: Motorola, Inc., Phoenix, Ariz.; Amphenol Corp., Chicago; Hoffman Electronics Corp., El Monte, Calif.; Litton Industries, Beverly Hills, Calif.; General Dynamics Corp., New York City; Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.; Sperry Rand Corp., New York City; Johns-Manville Corp., New York City; Graflex, Inc., Rochester, N.Y.; General Instrument Corp., Newark, N.J.; Fairchild Semiconductor Division, Mountain View, Calif.

All 11 firms have indicated through preliminary inquiries an interest in exploring the possibility of expansion into an Indian area. Many reservations already have new industries in operation and employers have been enthusiastic about the skills and performance of Indian workers.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS For Release December 7, 1966

Hart -- 343-9431

JOB TRAINING AND RELATED SERVICES FOR MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAWS

Under a \$177,849 contract awarded December 2 to RCA Service Co. of Camden, N.J., the Bureau of Indian Affairs will commence at once a program of occupational training, basic literacy education, counseling and job placement for the Choctaw Indians of Mississippi.

Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, said today in announcing major features of the contract:

"The objective is to break the cycle of poverty that has made family heads helpless to help themselves and has deprived Choctaw children of educational and social opportunities that would enable them to grow beyond their present circumstances. The program will provide to a pilot group of 30 Choctaw families the services of specialists in occupational training, job counseling, family counseling, basic literacy education, job placement and follow-up. We hope that as these families become equipped to work in surrounding communities, other families will take part in the training program."

Bennett continued: "The Choctaw experiment has been in the category of wishful thinking for a long time. It is deeply gratifying to me to be able to put it into operation."

There are about 350 members of the Choctaw tribe living in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Miss. Thirty-four out of every 100 adults in the labor market are chronically unemployed and many others depend entirely upon seasonal work. Illiteracy has contributed largely to the joblessness and has kept the economic and social status of the Choctaw community lagging 30 years behind the Nation as a whole.

RCA Service Co., a technical services subsidiary of RCA, under an earlier BIA contract successfully trained Alaskan Indians and Eskimos for work on the Defense Early Warning System.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS For Release December 15, 1966

Ulsamer -- 343-9431

FEDERAL SUPERVISION TERMINATED AT GREENVILLE RANCHERIA, CALIFORNIA

Federal supervision over the Indians of Greenville Rancheria in Plumas County, Calif., has been terminated with their consent, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today. Notice is being published in the Federal Register.

Greenville is the 31st rancheria in California to be removed from Federal trust supervision in accordance with the 1958 Rancheria Act (72 Stat. 619, as amended). More than 100 Indian rancherias -- small tracts of land under Federal trust -- are affected by the law.

Greenville Rancheria consists of approximately 275 acres, located three miles east of Greenville, in northeastern California. The termination action precludes further services from the United States Government to the 20 resident Indians because of their status as Indians. The Indians, mostly Maidus, are now subject to the same laws, including tax laws, which apply to other citizens.

The 1958 Rancheria Act provides that a plan for disposition of assets be completed before termination. The Greenville plan provides for completion of road construction by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and conveyance of the road to Plumas County; a survey of the land, recorded in Plumas County; distribution of funds held in trust to the members of the Greenville Rancheria group; and conveyance to the members of unrestricted title to the land.

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