OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

343-9431

For Release June 16, 1967.

ALASKA LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT BILL SUBMITTED
TO CONGRESS BY INTERIOR

A bill to provide a means of settling claims of Alaska Natives to lands in that state is being submitted to Congress today, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced.

The problem of Native Land Claims in Alaska has been unsettled ever since an Act of May 17, 1884 provided that the Natives "shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use and occupation or now claimed by them, but the terms and conditions under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress."

The Secretary described the bill as proposing "an equitable solution" to "one of the most important and difficult problems facing the State of Alaska." Claims of ownership to about 75 percent of Alaska's 365,500,000 acres have been asserted by various groups of Alaska Natives in notices filed with the Secretary of the Interior.

Alaska Natives comprise three principal groups--Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos--who are descendants of the aboriginal occupants of Alaska. Together they compose about 20 percent of the State's total population. They live in all parts of the State, but principally in several hundred native villages scattered along the coast and inland waterways.

The Alaska Native Claims Bill, as submitted to Congress by the Department, would authorize the Secretary to grant up to 50,000 acres of federal public domain in the environs of each native village for the use and benefit of the members of the village. Reserves of land heretofore set aside for native villages would remain in effect.

Title to lands set aside to the Natives would be held in trust for 25 years. The trustee would be either the Secretary of the Interior, the State of Alaska, or a private trustee selected by the village and approved by the Secretary. State laws, except real estate tax laws, would apply on the lands set aside for the villages.

The bill further authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant to village occupants 25-year hunting, fishing, and trapping permits on other federal lands beyond the village environs. Such permits could be exclusive or non-exclusive, and could be extended an additional 25 years. Hunting and fishing by natives would be subject to state and federal game laws.

In respect to Native Claims of aboriginal occupancy of areas beyond the village environs, the bill would authorize the Attorney General of Alaska to bring suit against the United States for the value of such occupancy as of 1867, the year that the United States purchased Alaska from Russia. Jurisdiction to hear the suit would be granted the United States Court of Claims, and any moneys recovered in the suit would belong equally to the Alaska Natives. Groups of Natives who have claims pending before the Indian Claims Comission or the Court of Claims would have the option to pursue their pending claims, but if they elected to do so they could not share in any recovery made in the Attorney General's suit.

The Department of the Interior said it is not able to estimate the amount of any judgment that might be recovered for the benefit of the Alaska Natives in the Court of Claims. When the United States purchased all of Alaska from Russia in 1867, it paid \$7,200,000.

The bill authorizes the appointment of a five-man commission to assist the Secretary in selecting the lands to be granted villages, preparing the village census rolls, and performing other administrative functions. Of the five members, one would be appointed from nominees submitted by native groups, and one from nominees submitted by the Governor of Alaska.

The bill provides that selections of land by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act, as well as other public land transactions, would proceed upon the enactment of the bill even though in conflict with Native Claims. Federal lands in a village environs, however, could not be selected by the State, or otherwise disposed of, until the Secretary of the Interior had determined that they would not be set aside for the benefit of the Natives of that village.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release June 9, 1967

PERIOD FOR SHALE LEASING AND LAND EXCHANGE COMMENTS EXTENDED FOR ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has approved a 60-day extension of time for the receipt of comments on the Department's proposed new regulations for a limited program of oil shale leasing and development, and for the exchange of certain other Federally-owned shale lands for private lands.

The proposed regulations originally were published in the Federal Register May 9, with comments invited for 30 days thereafter. Comments will form the basis for possible changes in the proposed rules.

Numerous requests have been made for additional time to prepare and submit comments, Secretary Udall said, and the extension is being granted to encourage the widest possible range of opinion by the general public, members of Congress, industry, the scientific and educational community, and the three States most directly concerned—Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

The official notice of the extension is scheduled for publication in the Federal Register, and the 60-day additional period will begin officially with the date of that publication.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release to PMs July 26, 1967

Wilson -- 343-9431

UDALL HAILS ZUNI TAX AS FORCE FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall today congratulated the Zuni Indian

Tribe of New Mexico for their initiative in passing one of the first Indian Sales

Taxes collected primarily from Indians.

In placing a one percent tax upon themselves, Udall said, in a letter to Zuni Tribal Governor Robert E. Lewis, the Zuni Tribe has realized "that its local government cannot be a potent force for improvement unless it is able to carry its fair share of needed educational, industrial, social, health and community development program costs."

The Zuni's willingness to tax themselves will encourage those working with them in Federal and State Government programs "to new and greater effort to meet your goals," Udall said. "Your actions should stand as a guidepost for many other tribes who share your aspirations for Indian development."

Udall noted that the new tax was one of 24 goals cited in a recently released tribal plan for 24 improvement projects over the next 24 months. The plan, he said, is further evidence of "a Zuni desire to build a Pueblo into a place of beauty, opportunity, dignity, and security for all who would continue the heritage of an ancient and honored culture."

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release August 1, 1967

Macfarlan -- 343-9431

RECLAMATION BUILDING TO HOUSE NAVAJO ELECTRONIC FACTORY

A new industry to employ Navajo Indians is being established in the former administration building of the Bureau of Reclamation in Page, Ariz., Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall reported today.

Reclamation transferred the building to the Bureau of Indian Affairs as it is no longer needed for Reclamation's activities. The building was the center of activity at Page during construction of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River.

Under a \$27,568 on-the-job training contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, EPI-Vostron of Anaheim, Calif., will use about half of the 12,500 square foot building as an electronic assembly plant and later may use more of the structure. The company is providing its own financing and machinery.

Initially, 28 Navajos will be trained and employed by EPI-Vostron. Employment is expected to expand to as many as 60 Navajos during the first year of operations. Two young Navajo men are employed by EPI-Vostron and undergoing training so that they can function as lead men at the company's facility in Page when it becomes operational. The company was attracted to a Navajo Reservation location by publicity on the decision of General Dynamics Corp. to establish a missile components manufacturing facility at Fort Defiance.

Through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, arrangements were made for a meeting with tribal officials. Raymond Nakai, Navajo Tribal Chairman, sent a personal representative to Anaheim to negotiate with company officials.

Navajo Indians are engaged in similar employment in the Fairchild Semiconductor plant at Shiprock, N. M.

Reclamation transferred the building for projected industrial use under its policy of encouraging the early conversion of government towns, established in connection with construction projects, into self-sufficient communities.

Establishment of such industries in Page, and the benefits resulting from the payrolls, are expected to help form a sound basis for transition of the community from government town to municipal status. In a further effort to stimulate such conversion, the Bureau of Reclamation recently contracted with Arizona State University for a study of problems involved in incorporation. The report and A.S.U. recommendations are expected by December, 1967.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release to PM's August 3, 1967

Henderson -- 343-9431

INDIAN OWNED AND OPERATED MOTELS PROPOSED IN UPCOMING TALKS WITH MOTEL CHAIN

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett said today he is scheduled to discuss soon with H. H. Mobley, executive vice president of Quality Courts Motels, Inc., of Daytona Beach, Fla., details of a program which could place swank tourist motel facilities on Indian reservations.

The talks will be an outgrowth of intensive investigations by the industrial development department of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in keeping with the recent appeal to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and Bennett for imaginative, new approaches to the use of Indian land and resources.

A meeting is planned for August 9, in Washington, D.C.

Although the idea is still in the discussion stage, as proposed by Quality Courts Motels, a nationwide franchise operation, Indian tribes would be helped to plan, finance, construct and staff a series of motels across Indian country, each with its own distinctive architecture, reflecting the various tribal heritages.

"The fact that the motels would be Indian owned and operated, and on or near reservation land, will make them a 'plus' tourist attraction," Mobley said. "In addition, they can act as an outlet for tribal arts and crafts, and where possible, for use of other features of the reservation area, such as fishing, boating, swimming and hunting."

But it would be the tribes, themselves, which would negotiate with Quality. Bennett pointed out that the heart of current Bureau policy is to give the Indians a chance to move ahead on their own.

The financing of each project would vary with the tribe. Costs of motel construction, nationally, vary from \$6,500 to \$7,500 per unit, exclusive of land and furnishings, and as Quality's minimum requirements call for at least 40 rooms, some tribes would have to look about for private loan sources or Federal agency loans. Some tribes may draw on their own treasury. A bill now before Congress would give the tribes access to an increased revolving loan fund and other means of raising capital.

Mobley said locations will be analyzed for economic feasibility prior to final site determination. Quality Motels would then work with the **tr**ibes on design, financing, construction and staff training.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release to PMs August 14, 1967

Wilson -- 343-9431

#### LLOYD NEW TO HEAD INDIAN ART INSTITUTE

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today the appointment of Lloyd H. New as Superintendent of the Institute of American Indian Arts, a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe, N. M. New has been the Institute's Arts Director.

His promotion is effective August 13.

A member of the Cherokee Tribe and a native of Fairland, Okla., New operated his own fabric and commercial design organization in Scottsdale, Ariz., prior to 1962 under the name Lloyd Kiva. His designs and fashion items have been featured in national publications and exhibited in many museums. In addition he served on museum boards, did field research in a variety of Indian Art forms, and was President of the Kiva Craft Center in Scottsdale. He joined the Institute staff in 1962.

Bureau's Intermountain Indian School at Brigham City, Utah, and from time to time as a consultant on matters dealing with arts and crafts.

New was graduated from the Chicago Art Institute. He served as a Navy Lieutenant during World War II. He is married and the father of two children.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release August 17, 1967

Henderson -- 343-9431

SECRETARY UDALL APPROVES CHANGES IN INDIAN VOTE CODE TO AID TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has approved changes in Federal regulations governing conduct of certain tribal elections authorized under the Indian Reorganization Act. The changes, which are being published in the Federal Register, are designed primarily to facilitate tribal government.

Comments received by the Bureau of Indian Affairs since proposed changes were announced in February have been considered in preparation of the new regulations.

The Bureau informed Secretary Udall that shifting Indian populations have had the effect of often invalidating elections because only a small percentage of a tribe voted.

Under the revisions, which are in keeping with national, state, and local custom, tribal members would be required to register in order to vote in elections authorized by Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act. At least 30 percent of those on the registration list would have to cast ballots for an election to be valid.

Under present procedures, registration is not a factor. Rules require that at least 30 percent of "all" eligible voters have to vote for an election to be valid. This often results in no decision, because many eligible voters lack interest and do not bother to vote.

Provision is continued for registered, eligible tribal members to vote by absentee ballot. When prepared, the life of any list of registered voters will extend for three years, with the responsibility upon the registrant to make changes in his status as necessary.

Another change establishes a definite, consistent standard for deciding whether sufficient eligible voters actually sign an election petition when such a procedure is recognized for effecting elections.

In conjunction with elections, the tribal election board will be required to notify by mail all adult Indians of the tribe of the need to register if they intend to vote.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release August 21, 1967

Wilson -- 343-9431

CHARLES N. ZELLERS APPOINTED NEW INDIAN EDUCATION CHIEF

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today that Charles N. Zellers, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has been named Assistant Commissioner for Education in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Udall said that he and Indian Commissioner Robert L. Bennett believe that Zellers "is the kind of administrator the Bureau needs to fulfill President Johnson's mandate that we provide every Indian child and youth the finest quality education program possible." The Secretary pointed out that "more than one-half of the budget and more than one-half of the total number of employees in the BIA are involved in educational programs."

Zellers, 49, was born in Columbiana, Ohio and received a BA degree from Youngstown University. He also has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a certificate from the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

After serving as Assistant Professor in the School of Business Administration at Youngstown University, Zellers was named Deputy Superintendent for the District of Columbia School system in 1951. In that position he worked on fiscal, administrative and legislative activities. In November, 1957, he was appointed Comptroller for the University of Pittsburgh.

Zellers joined the staff of the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1960 as Executive Officer, Division of State and Local Schools. He was promoted to Deputy Associate Commissioner in 1966.

He has worked with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs, the Educational Television Facilities Act program, the implementation of the National Defense Education Act, the National Teacher Corps and a wide variety of administrative programs involving legislative policy, church-state relations, interagency activities and state and local school policy coordination.

He received a quality salary increase in 1964, and an HEW Superior Service award in 1965.

A veteran of Navy service during World War II, Zellers lives in Alexandria, VA with his wife and 4 children.

Zellers will assume his new duties September 3.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

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#### FIRST CLASS

News Editor HERALD Yakima, Wash.

IND 5

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release August 30, 1967

Henderson -- 343-9431

ARIZONA INDIANS FIRST IN COUNTRY TO FORM ECONOMIC PLANNING GROUP UNDER EDA

Arizona Indians have formed the first organization in the country designed to involve all of the Indian reservations in a State in a program for mutual planning and economic development help, Secretary Udall said today.

Called the Indian Development District of Arizona, the group initially is made up of nine of the 17 reservations in Arizona, combined into a statewide corporation that will enable Indian tribes to qualify for Economic Development Administration districting funds.

Rupert Parker, Hualapai leader from the Grand Canyon country, who has been elected first president of the organization, says that other tribal groups are expected to join soon.

The program is the result of the combined efforts of local Bureau of Indian Affairs officials under Phoenix Area Director W. Wade Head, and EDA personnel, working with Arizona's Governor Jack Williams.

The state-chartered corporation, IDDA, is expected to result in the development of strategically located planning areas. There will be from three to five of these initially, with more to follow.

Each area will hire professional staff funded by EDA under title IV of the EDA Act, to cover up to 75 percent of costs. The annual IDDA budget is estimated at about \$200,000. The remaining 25 percent of costs are covered by in-kind contributions from the planning area, and includes outlays for office space, desks, typewriters, supplies and related items.

Each associated tribe has one representative on the IDDA board of directors. In addition to President Parker, they include:

Robert Mackett, Papago, and Howard Schurz, Salt River, vice presidents; Alexander Lewis, Gila River, secretary-treasurer; Jay Gould, Colorado River; Reeves Steele, San Carlos Apache; Fred Banashley, White Mountain Apache; Clinton Pattea, Fort McDowell; and Llewellyn Barrackman, Fort Mohave.

Once established, the planning area administration committee will hire a professional staff. The committee will be made up of area board members plus an additional member from each area reservation. This group in turn will then select up to an equal number of non-Indians from neighboring communities bordering the reservations.

The result, according to BIA Area Director Head, will be to foster Indian and non-Indian interaction, working for a common objective. This is significant when it is realized that in Arizona, where only Indian reservations are designated as eligible to receive assistance from EDA programs, 17 percent of the land is privately owned while nearly 30 percent is Indian owned.

Initial coordination of the plan is being provided by a Navajo Indian, Art Hubbard, on Governor Williams' staff. This is a temporary arrangement until IDDA becomes operational.

When the professional staffs are set up, each will lay out economic development needs in its area and then research and implement indicated planning. The staffs will also assist in the preparation of applications for technical assistance and funding from various Government and private sources. In the end, though, the tribes themselves will be the applicants for such help.

Arizona's three state universities are expected to take part in the IDDA program, and planning committees may call on business and engineering consultants for further advice.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS For Release to PMs August 29, 1967

Macfarlan -- 343-9431

INDIAN TIMBER SALES INCOME SETS ALL TIME HIGH

Receipts from sales of Indian timber totaled a record high of \$15.9 million in Fiscal Year 1967, which ended last June 30, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today.

This was an increase of nearly \$1.6 million over Fiscal Year 1966, which was itself a record year, with an increase of \$2 million over Fiscal Year 1965.

The Bureau also reported that in the last five years, the volume of Indian timber cut increased by 258 million board feet and stumpage receipts increased by \$7.6 million, as shown by Fiscal Year 1967 and 1962 totals.

In Fiscal Year 1967, increased timber sale activity in the Billings, Mont. area returned more than double the income of the previous year.

Unfortunately, this was not the case in California, where market conditions resulted in volume cut being less than half the Fiscal Year 1966 harvest.

Fiscal Year 1967 also reflected income from the first large Indian timber sale in Alaska, on the Annette Islands Reserve in the Juneau area, and sales from public domain allotments in the Haines area.

The volume harvested in Fiscal Year 1967 was slightly less than the previous year: 803 million board feet compared to 848 for Fiscal Year 1966.

However, good market conditions in most areas provided for the increased income.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release to PM's August 30, 1967

Macfarlan -- 343-9431

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD HAS NEW CHAIRMAN AND NEW MEMBER

Vincent Price, the actor and art connoisseur, has accepted reappointment to another 4-year term on the Indian Arts and Crafts Board and has been elected chairman by the other members, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

The Secretary also announced the appointment to the Board of Royal Brown Hassrick, widely known anthropologist and former curator of American and American Indian art in the Denver Art Museum, to succeed Dr. Frederick J. Dockstader, director of the Museum of American Indians, New York.

Dr. Dockstader has been chairman of the Board since 1962 and a member for many years.

Secretary Udall wrote Dr. Dockstader a letter of appreciation for his years of service in the effort to maintain high standards of workmanship for Indian arts and crafts and at the same time assist in developing policies and procedures to expand the market for such products.

Price, who lives in Los Angeles, has been a member (commissioner) of the Board since 1962, having first been appointed to fill an unexpired term.

He has established the Vincent Price Awards in Creative Writing, which are given annually at the Institute of American Indian Arts, operated by the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs at Santa Fe, N. M.

Activities of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board will not be new to Hassrick. He served as assistant general manager for the Board in Denver in 1952-54 and as curator of the Interior Department's Southern Plains Indian Museum at Anadarko, Okla., in 1948-52.

Hassrick was born in Ocean City, N. J., July 10, 1917. He was graduated with a B.A. degree from Dartmouth College and did postgraduate work at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of a number of books on Indian affairs.

He served as Executive Director of the Association on American Indian Affairs in 1942-44, was with the Office of War Information in 1944-45, and in the Army in 1945.

He joined the staff of the Denver Art Museum in 1955, following his service with the Interior Department. He makes his home at Lone Star Ranch, Elizabeth, Colo.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release to PMs September 16, 1967

Wilson -- 343-9431

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED TO PROMOTE ALASKAN REINDEER PRODUCTION

An agreement designed to speed the creation of a self-sustaining Alaskan reindeer industry has been signed by the Interior Department's Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Land Management and the State of Alaska, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

The agreement, Udall said, sets forth areas of responsibility in "a united effort to improve the economic base for the Native peoples of Alaska by making the reindeer industry a continuing and increasing source of jobs and income."

Under the agreement's terms, all parties will work to encourage the Northwest Alaska Reindeer Herders Association to develop the reindeer industry.

The BIA will be responsible for the promotion and development of the ranching aspects of the program, until Native leadership develops skills to assume this responsibility.

The BLM will be responsible for the management of the habitat and for investigating the potential of new areas for grazing, consistent with the principles of multiple use.

The State of Alaska will assume the responsibility for advice, guidance and promotion of the slaughtering, processing and marketing phases of the industry.

The agreement calls for the establishment of an Alaska Reindeer Industry Advisory Committee of four members, one from each of the signatories plus the Herders Association. The Committee will provide general direction, supervision and leadership in the reindeer improvement program.

At present there are about 42,000 reindeer in 16 private and two government Alaskan herds. Not native to North America, reindeer were introduced to Alaska around the turn of the century. Under almost ideal conditions the herd increased to more than 630,000 by 1932. However, because of a depression-caused falling market, over-grazing, inadequate herding, predator increase, losses due to straying off with closely related caribou herds, several severe winters in the late 1930's and the diversion of interest caused by World War II, the total number was reduced to a low of 26,000 in 1950.

All parties to the agreement see potential for an increased reindeer development in expanding demands for red meat protein in this country and the Far East. The Alaskan range land now available for use can support an estimated 500,000 reindeer.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release September 19, 1967

Herndon - 343-3609

WORST OF 1967 FIRE SEASON IN NORTHWEST BELIEVED OVER

Officials of Interior Department forest management agencies said today they believe the worst of the 1967 forest fire season is now over. Cooling weather, along with rain and snow have reduced the danger throughout most of the West, and extinguished fires that blackened parts of five states.

The late summer fire crisis began August 1. Before it ended early in September, 3,500 fires had burned over 200,000 acres of Federal, state and private lands in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California. The most extensive damage occurred in the national forests of Montana and northern Idaho.

The Boise Interagency Fire Center, operated by Interior's Bureau of Land Management, flew 4,100 firefighters and 226 tons of equipment to critical fire areas. Men rounded up by the Center included Indian fire fighting teams from every western state and 11 teams of Eskimos and Indians from Alaska.

Job Corpsmen from Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs centers, Sioux Indians, College boys, farmers, and others were also flown to join hard pressed Forest Service and National Park Service personnel already fighting the fires.

In commenting on the fires Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said: "This year's fire crisis has dramatically pointed up the advantages of inter-agency cooperation in controlling forest and range fires. The Boise Interagency Fire Center coordinated the efforts of personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service. This pooling of manpower has enabled us to meet the needs of critical areas.

"A comparison of this fire season with last year's shows how important this arrangement is: In 1966 the Bureau of Land Management had a bad fire year, and the Forest Service sent men and material to help. Fires on BIM land were relatively light this season so BLM could send help to control fires in national forests and national parks.

"For any single agency to maintain a fire readiness equal to the demands of a bad season would mean the agency would be over-manned in non-critical years. Cooperation through the Boise Center allows the agency with the greatest need to draw men and material from other agencies so that crises can be met with a minimum of cost to the Government."

Officials were unanimous in praise of the fire fighting crews. Singled out for special commendation were 11 firefighting teams of Alaska Eskimos and Indians. These men, trained for fire fighting in their home State by BLM personnel, were flown in to help man fire lines on the Glacier Wall area of Glacier National Park, Montana, and on the China-Deer-Eagle fire complex in the panhandle of northern Idaho.

Keith Neilson, Superintendent of Glacier National Park, said the Eskimo and Indian teams performed a tremendous job in both fire fighting and mop-up operations. "Their enthusiasm, drive and initiative made them the acknowledged pace setters almost from the time of their arrival," Neilson said in a letter to BLM Director Boyd L. Rasmussen.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
For Release September 21, 1967

office September 18.

Wilson -- 343-9431

Will Rogers, Jr., son of the humorist and grandson of Cherokee leader Clem Vann Rogers, has been given a temporary appointment as Special Assistant to Indian Commissioner Robert L. Bennett, it was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. Rogers took the oath of

WILL ROGERS, JR. NAMED ASSISTANT TO FEDERAL INDIAN COMMISSIONER

Udall noted that Rogers has been serving as a consultant to the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and "both Commissioner Bennett and I have been tremendously impressed with his knowledge of and concern for Indian problems and his ability to work with all kinds of Indian groups and inspire them to new efforts and insights."

Bennett said that Rogers would spend considerable time working with students and teachers in Bureau schools, and would represent the Commissioner at meetings of tribal organizations, exhibits, festivals and other events.

Rogers, 55, is a graduate of Stanford University and has been a Congress-man, newspaper publisher, Army officer during World War II, motion picture actor, television commentator, writer and California State Parks Commissioner. He has homes in Los Angeles, and Tubac, Ariz. His wife, the former Collier Connell, helped found Arrow, Inc. an Indian interest organization. The couple has an adopted son, Clem, a full-blood Navajo, and a second son, Carlos.

#### - INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

#### OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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#### FIRST CLASS

News Editor HERALD Yakima, Wash. 98901

IND 5

\* release

For Release October 19, 1967

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ROBERT L. BENNETT AT THE GOVERNORS INTERSTATE INDIAN COUNCIL, RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18, 1967

Our American society as a whole has assumed new dimensions within the past few years. The place of minority groups has been redefined -- or, rather, the inherent rights of citizens, whatever racial minority groups they may represent, have been reinforced. But civil rights remain only theoretical as long as economic exclusion continues. This is frequently the situation in localities where American Indians constitute a significant and socially conspicuous minority.

Life among Indians today is often far more cruel than was the simple and primitive struggle of their ancestors for survival against the forces of nature. They are a people surrounded by a value system they must grope to comprehend because it is a value system that differs basically from their own tradition.

Indians are generally oriented to the here-and-now, while the dominant culture is motivated by planning for the future. Beyond the cultural outlook is also the difference in economic outlook between Indian people accustomed to a consumption economy and a people dependent upon a production economy. Still another factor contributes to the aloofness of Indians, especially the older ones: they still remember the bitter history of the 19th Century and find it incompatible with their experience to regard America's expansion era as glorious.

Alienated because of their cultural background, Indians are further alienated by their economic circumstance, and the alienation is accentuated by the attitude of the dominant cultural group toward people who are both poor and "different."

As President Johnson has also said: "This Nation will never be great until all the people are part of it."

Most Indians are still outsiders to much of the social, economic and political life of this Nation.

But today's generation of Indians have found their voice, and demand to be heeded. They are expecting to be recognized as a minority group of citizens with all the rights of social and economic choice enjoyed by the majority. They are looking more in the direction of political and social action than ever before,