

Calif. Indians

Senator John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) today urged an end to "Federal discrimination against California Indians" in the allocation of Bureau of Indian Affairs funds.

"Although California has more than 91,000 Indians," Tunney said, "the Bureau is allowed to recognize only 6,100 as eligible for Federal assistance and services."

Tunney is seeking an additional \$14 million in educational, health and housing services for California's Indians.

He has requested the boost through administrative decision by the Secretary of Interior and through action by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In a statement in the Senate today, Tunney said that the vast majority of California Indians are excluded from services because they do not live on Federal trust reservations.

"The injustice," Tunney said, "is that thousands of California Indians are not living on reservations because the Federal government either moved them off or promised them land which was never delivered.

"At the minimum, California Indians who live off-reservation and in rural areas should immediately be declared eligible for services by the Bureau of Indian Affairs."