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## In California— Indian Youths Sue

A group of American Indian children filed suit in federal court that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel, and other government officials have violated their constitutional rights by denying to them benefits provided for Indians as a class by federal law.

These benefits include scholarship assistance, boarding school training in schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and vocational training.

Plaintiffs have been denied participation in these benefits because they do not live "on or near" a reservation or because their parents terminated the federal trust status of their land.

The complaint alleges that the excluded Indians are in every way as deserving as those who receive the benefits and that the present federal policy constitutes an unconstitutional discrimination against those who are excluded.

The Indians also say that by reserving the federal benefits to those Indians who live "on or

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#### near" a reservation, the government penalizes those Indians who exercise their fundamental right to travel freely from place to place.

Finally, the Indians say that the government has an obligation to provide the education necessary for a decent minimum standard of living to all Indians-a duty imposed by the government's special relationship with the Indians.

Donald A. Jelinek, attorney with California Indian Legal Services, who is handling this case, commented, "The government has again shown that it is no friend to the Indian. First it swindles the Indians out of their land and then it uses the Indians' landless condition as an excuse to deny other benefits to them.

# State Fair

The annual meeting of the Tanana Valley State Fair Association will be held Wednesday, October 15 at 8:00 p.m. in the Multi Purpose Room at Hunter School.

Reports of the past year's tion members are urged to attend.

Annual dues of \$1.00 are due and may be paid at the meeting. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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