

Morton Takes Personal Command-

In an Effort to Put Indian Operations Back to Work

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton took personal command of the effort to "put Indian operations back to work" following substantial damage done to the BIA headquarters building last month.

To accomplish this, Secretary Morton issued Secretarial orders vesting in Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget Richard S. Bodman the authority to assume immediate administrative control of the Department of the Interior's Indian operations. Assistant Secretary Bodman is provided further authority to call upon various officials to carry out this order.

Further, these orders will remove all present authority for Indian affairs held by Assistant Secretary Harrison Loesch, Commissioner Louis R. Bruce and Deputy Commissioner John Crow.

"I have taken this action," said Secretary Morton, "because I believe it is essential to the well-being of the American Indian that we return our In-

dian programs to operational effectiveness without delay."

"To take advantage of their experience, in connection with this move to restore Indian operations," continued Secretary Morton, "I will counsel with Assistant Secretary Loesch, Commissioner Bruce and Deputy Commissioner Crow as well as other senior Indian people both in Washington and the field."

Referring to his new authority, Assistant Secretary Bodman commented, "I consider it my responsibility to assure that all Indians eligible for Department benefits continue to receive these services in an orderly manner.

"And further," Bodman continued, "it is essential that we continue to provide these critical and life supporting services without interruption regardless of existing controversy and unresolved issues."