

Over 1,000 to Attend NCAI Annual Meeting

Over 1,000 representatives of Indian tribes and groups from throughout the United States are expected to arrive in Albuquerque, New Mexico October 6 for the 26th Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

NCAI, founded 25 years ago by members of 40 American Indian tribes, has grown to become the major spokesman for the Indian people on the national scene, representing over 350,000 American Indians and 105 member tribes.

Theme for this year's Convention, to be held at the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel, will be "Indians for Harmony, Readiness and Involvement."

During the five-day session, Indian delegates will elect officers, establish NCAI policy on vital issues facing the Indian people in the coming year, and

join with noted experts from around the country in important panel discussions.

Topics will include taxation, water rights, Indian education, reservation development, and Indian hunting and fishing rights.

Highlight of the first day's activities will be a reception and dinner honoring Louis R. Bruce, newly-appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Bruce is scheduled to address the Convention at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9. The speech will be his first major policy statement since taking office in August.

Also on hand to give his views on Indian Affairs will be Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, who will speak to the delegates at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, as well as take part in a parade earlier in the day.