

National Indian Education Conference in 2nd Meet

The Second National Indian Education Conference met in Minneapolis on August 26, 27, and 28, to assess programs in Indian Education and to explore directions on a national scope.

A major workshop was National Priorities. The objective was to delineate a composite of Indian issues that are crucial to Indian people and the entire nation.

The U.S. Senate Special Subcommittee on Indian Education said, "We have concluded that our national policies for educating American Indians are a failure of major proportions."

It was stressed further that Congress, the U.S. Office of Education, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs implement these findings and those priorities as stated in the President's July 8th message to Congress.

Historically, the Indian people have not been involved at Federal, State or local levels in legislation and administrative decisions affecting their lives. The Federal Government now supports a policy of Indian self-determination.

The following among major priorities were listed by the workshop:

1. Scholarships for Indian students must be increased significantly, on all levels; an equal emphasis should be placed on academic and vocational education. The appropriation for college scholarships should equal, if not surpass the current \$38 million appropriation for vocational training.

2. Indians must have a more articulate voice in the education of Indian people on the local, state, and federal levels. The

newly formed National Indian Education Association can be a powerful lobbying agent to develop strategy for Indian conceived plans and programs.

Further, the Office of Education and other federal agencies concerned with the education of Indian people should establish a permanent committee composed of members of this association to analyze and develop new policies and programs in Indian education.

It is imperative that Indian people be on school boards in direct proportion to the number of students enrolled in those schools.

3. The creation of a special developmental fund of \$4 million in Indian education for the purpose of creating new educational systems, new methods, in administration and specialized staff training of operated and by Indian groups, organizations, and tribal governments.

4. Educational institutions should be assessed and restructured to make education more meaningful to Indian people. This must be implemented by Native American communities. Indians must have a major role in this assessment and restructuring.

5. Indian studies, programs, and all research relating to Indians should be under the surveillance and control of Indian people.

6. The criteria for granting Federal monies should emphasize local Indian need and control, as it affects the education of Indian children.

All contracts for Federal monies concerning Indian education programs in urban and non-reservation areas, should be with urban Indian organizations, centers, and other local Indian or-

ganizations; and on reservations, with Indian groups, Indian organizations, and tribal governments.

7. The federal government should set aside adequate construction facility monies so that Indian communities may develop local school facilities.

We suggest a careful appraisal of these priorities and a personal commitment to their implementation.

Officers of the National Indian Education Association are:
President: Will Antell, Chipewa, Minnesota.

First Vice-President: Dillon Platero, Navajo, Arizona.

Second Vice-President: John Winchester, Potawatomi, Michigan.

Secretary, Sparlin Norwood, Cherokee, Oklahoma.

Treasurer: William Demmert, Jr., Tlingit, Alaska.