

Indian News Notes

By VINCE LOVETT

MILLS REPLACES SENECA IN COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE: Albuquerque Area Director Sidney L. Mills has been appointed Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, replacing Martin E. Seneca who had been functioning in that role since October of 1978. According to the announcement of Assistant Secretary Forrest Gerard, Mills will direct the day-to-day operations of the BIA until "the appointment of a Commissioner takes place." Seneca has indicated that he plans to resign from the Bureau September 30. Mills, an Oglala Sioux, takes over in the Commissioner's office on July 30.

RED LAKE RIOT LEADERS RECEIVE STIFF SENTENCES: Five men who led an armed takeover of the Red Lake Indian Reservation jail and initiated rioting leading to more than \$4 million in damage received sentences ranging from 26 to 10 years from U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Devitt. Harry Hanson, the leader of the group, received the 26 year sentence after being told, "you led a revolution of blatant lawlessness." Another man received a 16 year sentence and the other three ten years.

INTERIOR OFFICIAL PROPOSED BOARD TO RESOLVE INDIAN WATER PROBLEMS: Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Resources Guy Martin, has proposed the appointment of a board of experts to help solve problems associated with Indian water rights and the Central Arizona Project, according to an article in the ARIZONA REPUBLIC July 13. The board of experts would attempt to reach a consensus on what might be done to avoid long and expensive litigations between Indians and non-Indians over water rights, the paper's report said. Martin suggested that R. Keigh Higgenson, U.S. commissioner of reclamation, be named chairman of the board to act on behalf of Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus and Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt. Other members of the board, according to Martin's recommendations, would be: Arizona State Senator Stan Turley, co-chairman of the state's Groundwater Management Study Commission; William Strickland, attorney for the Papago and Ak-Chin tribes; Wesley Steiner, executive director of the Arizona Water Commission; Richard Wiulks, attorney for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Thomas Fredericks, Interior Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs and Michael Clinton, executive secretary of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

INDIAN OWNERS OF ENERGY RESOURCES NOT INVITED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT, MACDONALD SAYS: Peter MacDonald, Chairman of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), complained in a speech at Washington's, National Press Club that no Indian leaders were invited to Camp David to confer with President Carter on the nation's energy program. MacDonald noted that the CERT Indian tribes constituted the largest private owner of coal and uranium in the United States. "of the literally hundreds of Americans from who the President sought advice and support in recent weeks," MacDonald said, "not one was a representative of an energy-producing Indian tribe." He said that no recognition was given of the central role that Indian tribes "will have to play in this country's attainment of its energy goals." He said that the President spoke of working closely with Mexico and Canada, "but not with the Navajo, Crow, Northern Cheyenne..." MacDonald said that CERT had scheduled a meeting to discuss the tribes' response to the President's proposals and he hoped they could "bring to that meeting a commitment from the President to assist in our needs and solicit our participation in his proposed energy program. Today I offer my support, and that of the 24 other CERT energy-producing tribes to the President and his Administration, and will await his direction. But we will not wait forever."

SEATTLE PAPER WARNS AGAINST TAMPERING WITH TREATIES: The July 11 SEATTLE TIMES said in an editorial that the Supreme Court's affirmation of the Boldt decision has brought about "the re-emergence of senseless - even deplorable talk about abrogating the treaties." Noting that the only "moral way to alter the treaties would be through mutual consent," the paper pointed to signs that the issue would be politicized, particularly in next year's United States Senate race in which the State Attorney General Slade Gorton is expected to campaign for Senator Warren G. Magnuson's seat. The editorial indicates that Gordon might do better with the fishing issue in the ballot box than he did in the court room. It concludes, however, "attempts to tamper with the treaties themselves as an exercise in politics should be viewed with trepidation. A nation that does not honor treaties within its own shores cannot command credibility for its treaty agreements abroad."