

INDIAN NEWS NOTES

Bar Is Burnt to Ground Following Alcohol-related Deaths on Reservation:

An unlicensed bar operating on the St. Regis Indian Reservation in New York was burnt to the ground May 10 — possibly by angry tribal members, upset over the deaths of nine persons in three separate alcohol-related accidents on the reservation in one three-week period. Prior to the burning, at a special tribal council meeting May 10, the tribe decided to ask the New York State Police to close down the bar. No arrests have been made for the burning.

Indian Witnesses Favor Bill providing for Enterprise Zones on Reservation:

Indian witnesses testifying before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee May 15, generally supported the passage of H.R. 3597, the Indian Economic Development Act of 1985. Introduced by Congressman John McCaim of Arizona, the principal purpose of the bill would be the creation of enterprise zones on Indian reservations and trust land. Witnesses included Alan Parker, American Indian National Bank; Charles Trimble, Tribal Ventures, Inc; Sam DeLoria and Tureen of Tribal Assets Management, Inc; Ray Fields, National Tribal Chairmen's Association of enterprise Zones. The Committee indicated that field hearings will be scheduled this summer and the Department of the Interior would be asked to testify in the fall. DeLoria announced that the bill would be discussed at a business roundtable session at the convention to the National Congress of American Indians, in June.

American Indians Three Times More Likely to Die Young, Report Says:

A new congressional report released May 1 says American Indians health status "still lags behind" the rest of the population and are three times more likely to die young than are other Americans. The 377-page report prepared by Congress' Office of Technology Assessment at the request of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and the environment, said that 37 percent of deaths among Indian and Alaska Natives occur before age 45, compared to 12 percent of all U.S. deaths in the same age group. Listing causes of death among Indians, the report said than heart disease ranked number one, followed by accidents. Suicides — the ninth leading cause of Indian deaths — were three times greater among Indians aged 15 to 24 than in the rest of the population in that age group. The report, which covers the period from 1980 to 1982, said that the overall death rate for Indians was 1.4 times that of the general population. In a story about the report, the *Los Angeles Times* said "Federal officials are considering a plan to redefine who is an Indian and therefore eligible for the care in Indian Health Service hospitals. A person now qualifies for care if he is of Indian descent, but...the health service may propose a 'one-quarter Indian blood requirement.' Such a proposal would be controversial 'not only because of the racial overtones; but also because 'it would be seen as encroachment on the authority of tribal governments.' "