

# Concern on IHS Personnel Trim

A serious threat to the health and well-being of the American Indian is being posed by the current limitation of employment placed on the Indian Health Service (IHS), President Nixon has been told.

In a letter to the President, Dr. Carl Muschenheim, Chairman of the National Committee on Indian Health, of the Association on American Indian Affairs, states that the IHS, as a result of the statutory limitation in Pub-

lic Law 90-364, is permitted to fill only 65 per cent of its vacancies since July 1969.

This has already meant the loss of 29 nursing positions, six medical and dental assistants and twenty-nine supporting positions.

"It would be tragic, indeed," Dr. Muschenheim states, "if the incredibly high Indian disease rates which have begun to decline in recent years because of the IHS preventive program

should once again increase as a direct result of this personnel limitation. Nonetheless this is certain to be the case unless the limitation is lifted promptly."

Dr. Muschenheim asks that the President look into the matter and take steps to eliminate the cutbacks.

The Association on American Indian Affairs is a nationwide citizens' group with 45,000 members.