

# Native & Indian Elders to meet in September

The Third Annual National Indian Conference on Aging is scheduled to be held on September 8, 9 and 10 at Albuquerque, New Mexico. With the theme: "A New Decade May the Circle be Unbroken," the conference is sponsored by the

National Indian Council on Aging.

The National Council is hoping to develop a coordinated approach to bring about effective services to the elderly. Input will be obtained during the 1980 conference from Native A-

merican and Alaska Native elders who are knowledgeable about services from grassroots experience.

Resolutions, strategies and a position paper will be formulated to take to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

In addition, the following have been identified as specific objectives of the conference:

- providing a forum for Indian and Native elders to identify unmet needs and recommend responses.

- give out current and accurate information about services provided under the Older Americans Act and other Federal programs for the elders.

- discussion of stumbling blocks against the effective use of elders' resources.

- create plans of action to improve services to elders

- bring national attention to the neglected community of Indian and Native elders.

- to examine the grants available under Title VI, Grants to Indian Tribal organizations (AVCP, ICAS, TCC, Mauneluk, etc) for social and nutritional services.

More than 3,000 elders from through the U.S. are expected to attend the conference, which is made possible by grants from the Administration for Native Americans, BIA, IHS, ACTION, and Administration on Aging.

Workshops during the three days will address many of the above concerns.

Keynote speakers for the meeting include the Hon. Peter McDonald, Chairman of the Navajo Tribe; U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico (sponsor of Title VI legislation for Native elders' service grants) and Robert Benedict, Commissioner of the Administration on Aging.

On the lighter side, elders will have the opportunity

to attend a Pow Wow, Native costume fashion show, and a tour of the All Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The New Mexico State Fair is also taking place in Albuquerque at that time.

There is no registration charge of elders over 60. Special rates are available at a number of area hotels in Albuquerque at from \$23 to \$57 per day. Dormitories are also available at low cost at the Southwestern Indian Ploytechnic Institute and Albuquerque Indian School.

For additional information about attending the conference, elders or their sponsoring organizations are welcome to contact: Susan Stevens, Conference Coordinator, National Indian Council on Aging, P.O. Box 2088, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, or telephone 766-2276.

Alaska Native elders are encouraged to consider attending this meeting to discuss their concerns and to meet with Indian elders from across the United States.

Native tribal organizations wishing to sponsor representation from elders are also requested to contact the conference coordinator's office.

It is requested that hotel reservations for participants be made as soon as possible, preferably by August 18.

The 1980 conference is the third annual conference sponsored by the national elderly Indian organization.