

Important Development in Indian Affairs...

(Continued from Page 2)

Eastern Native Americans, and is presently employed by that organization as its finance director.

Adolph Dial, Lumbee, is chairman of the American Indian Studies Department of Pembroke State University, a member of the American Indian Advisory Council of HEW's Office of Civil Rights and a Member of the board of directors of the American Indian Historical Society. In 1972, he received a grant to research the history of the North Carolina Lumbees, which resulted in the recently published The Only Land I know: A History of the Lumbee Indians, co-authored by Dial.

There were literally hundreds of highly qualified applicants for these five positions. Generally the Commission sought to name Indian members in such a way that the combination of Congressional and Indian members would give each area reasonable representation. Further, we believe that the Indians who have been selected possess an extensive knowledge of Indian Affairs, and as such they should be broadly representative of the subject areas defined by the legislation.

While the Commission itself is to make the final decision on the nature of the Commission's report, the actual investigation and recommendations are to be made by the various task forces which will be appointed. It is my intention, as Chairman, and I am certain it is the intention of other members of the Commission, that the appointees to the task forces will consist of Indian people who are experts in their fields and reflect the credibility of Indian tribes. The effort to provide fair representation for all will definitely be continued in the selection of these task forces. Beyond geographical area representation, let us bear in mind that the Commission and the investigating task forces must be representative of experience and technical ability in the specific study areas prescribed in the legislation.

I invite you to let me and the other members hear whatever suggestions you have that may help the Commission fulfill its mandate to undertake a comprehensive and representative review of Federal-Indian relationships.

The sweeping review of the United States historical and legal relationship with American Indians contemplated by the legislation calls for the work of the Commission to be completed no later than June 30, 1977. Each task force appointed by the Commission must submit its report within one year from the date at which it was established. The final report of the Commission must be submitted within six months after the task force reports are completed.

Because the Congressional members of the Commission felt that a quick start for the Commission is extremely important we selected two staff people to begin operating the Commission. Director for the Commission is Ernie Stevens, past First Vice President of NCAI, former Director of Economic Development for the BIA, recently past President of American Indian Consultants, Inc. He is a member of the Oneida tribe of Wisconsin. Counsel for the Commission will be Mr. Kirke Kickingbird. Kirke is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Law, former member of the Board of Director of the American Indian Lawyers Association and Chairman of the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Committee. He is a member of the Kiowa tribe and was formerly Executive Director of the Institute for the Development of Indian Law.

Mr. Stevens, Mr. Kickingbird, and all other staff will serve at the pleasure of the Commission. But having these two highly qualified men on hand to operate the Commission should allow us to get underway effectively and to have a fair, capable staff throughout the life of the Commission.

The American Indian Policy Review Commission will begin its deliberations by setting the unique federal status of American Indian tribes into a proper moral and legal perspective as was intended in the original treaties and the Constitution. In contrast to that, we intend to compare and evaluate the policies, practices, and bureaucratic administration which has diluted and distorted this nation's original pledges to our Native American citizens. If we do no less than seek to honor the original intentions of the

Constitution we will have succeeded. If we do not attempt to recognize and correct a bicentennial record of administrative abrogation of sovereign tribal rights, we will have failed.

This historical Commission will conduct the first comprehensive review of Indian affairs in 47 years. It will be fitting that the Commission's findings will be assembled in this country's bicentennial year. Let us work together to recommend the establishment of a permanent legal relationship and effective trust responsibility under the Constitution for the American Indians and develop a report that can chart the next century of the Federal-Indian relationship.

The purpose of this letter is to keep you fully informed about developments regarding the Commission. I will endeavor to keep you advised on a regular basis during the next two years. The Commission itself will embark on the most extensive consultation system yet attempted. We will communicate with each tribe and organization.

I also want you to know that I have no intention of neglecting my duties as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs. The Commission staff is separate from my Senate staff. It will expedite matters if you bring issues for consideration of the Commission directly to the Director and General Counsel of the Commission. At the same time do not regard the Commission as a new superagency which can solve all of your on-going current problems. The Commission will not be dealing with current legislation before Congress. It will not be dealing with aiding your current programs in being refunded or examining your current problems with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or other federal agencies. Commission and Subcommittee work will overlap in some areas but I see their responsibilities as separate from one another.

There is much to be done, and I feel confident that the Congress and the Indian tribes working together can establish at last a permanent legal relationship with America's Indians.

With warm regards, I am
Sincerely,
James Abourezk

Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

Computer Course At UA

FAIRBANKS — A course dealing with computers and computer applications entitled "Making It Count," will be offered on television in the Fairbanks area for two college credits through the University of Alaska's Division of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions.

The course, listed under special topics as "Computer Information Science 193: Introduction to Computers," will be shown on KUAC-TV, Channel 9, starting Tuesday, April 29. Registration for the course will be open April 21-25 at the office of continuing education, Room 101 Eielson Building.

"Making It Count," produced by Boeing Computer Services, Inc., is designed to provide the student with a solid background in computer principles, methods, and applications.

The series will consist of twenty 30-minute programs. Consecutive programs will be aired on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and then re-aired back-to-back Saturdays 10:30-11:30 p.m.

Dr. Larry Helms, coordinator of Special Academic Services for the university, said, "The series is not designed to produce qualified programmers or computer experts, but it will give the student a considerable amount of information on the complex subject of computers."

The course will cost \$40 and, besides occasional quizzes based on the program material, will require four class sessions to be held on the four Saturdays following the series.

Helms also said high school seniors may take the course "if at the time of registration the student presents permission of his or her parents and high school principal."

A text and a manual are required for the course. For more information call 479-7222.

Sen. Stevens And Housing Authorities

U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens met Monday with representatives of the seven Alaskan regional housing authorities, the Association of Village Council Presidents, and of the Governor's office to discuss Alaskan housing problems.

The representatives told the senator that only 65 houses under the Indian housing program were allotted to Alaska for Fiscal Year 1976 by HUD. There is an estimated need of approximately 7,000 houses.

HUD in 1971 allotted 1,200 houses to Alaska of which about 1,100 have been built or will be constructed this year.

Stevens pledged the group his support in getting the necessary housing commitments through HUD to continue this program.

The senator set up an appointment with HUD Wednesday for the Alaska Native housing authority representatives to discuss their problems and to try to get a definitive schedule of housing commitments for Alaskan Natives.

After meeting with HUD officials, the representatives will talk again with Stevens to discuss future plans.

At the meeting were: Mike Jones, regional corporations consultant; Martin Moore, Emmonak, representing the Governor's office; George Sipary, Andreafski, and Rose Prince, Bethel, AVCP; Melvin Charlie, Minto, and Richard Carroll, Ft. Yukon, Tanana Chiefs Council; George Walters, Bering Straits; Tim Towarak, Unalakleet; and Herman Schroeder, Trefon Angasan and Robert Heyano, all of Dillingham.

Satellite Programming

JUNEAU, Alaska — Three hours of television network programming will be telecast to Juneau Friday via a satellite earth station installed temporarily in the Capital City by RCA Alaska Communications, Inc.

The earth station, with a 15-foot diameter dish antenna, was installed by RCA Alascom's Juneau toll center for the demonstration of TV receive capabilities of 15-foot antennas with a standard satellite.

More than 100 persons, including legislators, community leaders and news media representatives were invited to attend the demonstration.

RCA Alascom received special temporary authority from the Federal Communications Commission for the demonstration, which is being held in conjunction with a reception marking the introduction of Direct Distance Dialing to Juneau and 11 other Southeast Alaska communities.

Programming from network affiliates in San Francisco will be picked up off the air at the RCA earth station at Point Reyes, Calif., transmitted to the Canadian satellite Anik II in orbit some 24,000 miles above the earth, then down to the earth station in Juneau.

The programs will be viewed in Juneau on eight television monitors in the RCA Alom toll building.

The earth station, fitted with an Andrews antenna, is similar to the type of small bush earth station RCA Alascom proposes to install in rural Alaska communities.

The demonstration is designed to show the high quality television signal that can be received on a 15-foot earth station, using a standard satellite such as Telesat Canada's Anik II, on which RCA Alascom leases transponders.

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