

# INDIAN NEWS NOTES

## Deadline for 1986 Applications for Indian Child Welfare Grant Funds Is February

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has published information in the December 30 *Federal Register* about the 1986 Indian Child Welfare Act grant program. The announcement includes information about the purposes of the program, eligibility requirements, the size of the grants, selection criteria and the procedures for applying. This year applications may be submitted for projects of one year or three years duration. The closing date for the receipt of all applications is February 14. For additional information contact a Bureau of Indian Affairs area office or the BIA Division of Social Services, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20245 (202/343-6434).

## One-Volume Version of Acclaimed History of U.S. Indian Policy Is Published:

The University of Nebraska Press has issued a one-volume abridged edition of "The Great Father", a history of the United States Government and American Indians by Francis Paul Prucha. The original two-volume set, published in 1984, was acclaimed by reviewers as "the definitive work in the subject" and "the point of departure for all those embarking on research projects in the history of government Indian policy." It received the Ray Allen Billington Prize awarded by the Organization of American Historians. The 432-page abridged version includes all the topics discussed in the original, covering the two centuries from the Revolutionary War to 1980. Francis Paul Prucha is a professor of history at Marquette University and is considered a leading authority on American Indian history. The paper-bound abridged version is tentatively priced at \$9.95; the cloth edition is \$25.00. Orders should be sent to the University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0520. Add \$1 for shipping costs.

## Program Offers Teachers Opportunity to Enter Special Education:

Assistance for teachers in earning credentials in special education will soon be available through a cooperative program of the Native American Research and Training Center (NARTC) and the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Center for Excellence in Education. Organizers of the three year program, called Pursuing Education and Knowledge for Service (Project PEAKS), hope to minimize the high turnover of special education teachers by recruiting teachers already living and teaching on the reservations. Hiring of teachers from the local community will also eliminate the language barrier, said officials. Rural schools often have much difficulty recruiting special education teachers, but the problem is much greater at isolated schools in Indian communities, officials said. Teachers who enroll in the program will have the option to pursue either a master's degree in special education or certification in special education. They may also choose the area in which they would like to specialize which includes learning and reading disabilities, emotional handicaps and mental retardation. They may also earn certification to teach the blind, the deaf, the severely retarded or physically handicapped. A stipend of \$6,000 to \$8,000 will be

offered to cover tuition and living expenses for the academic year. Another \$1,200 to \$1,600 will be available for each summer session. Interested teachers may contact Marilyn Johnson at NAU, Box 5630, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011 (602/523-4791).

## Procedure for Taking Off-Reservation Land into Trust Is Tightened

Interior assistant secretary Ross Swimmer issued a directive December 18 to Bureau of Indian Affairs area directors that all applicants to take into trust land that is not within the exterior boundaries of a reservation must be submitted to the Bureau's Central Office for review and approval. The directive also required that all applications for trust land acquisitions from Oklahoma Tribes or individual Indians should be submitted to the Central Office for review. The area offices were directed to include with the applications information on why trust status is necessary for the intended use of the land and a detailed analysis of potential conflicts with state and local law that could result if the land is taken in trust. Previously, the area directors were required to submit to the Central Office only those applications for land that was not "within or adjacent" to a reservation.

## 1986 BIA Appropriation Total, before Gramm-Rudman, Is Close to 1985 Total:

President Reagan signed December 19 House Joint Resolution 465, making it Public Law 99-190 and thereby making appropriations for several federal agencies, including the Department of Interior and related agencies. The appropriation for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is \$1.002 billion, about \$16 million less than the total appropriated, including the supplemental, in 1985. (See attached chart for line item comparisons.) The Gramm-Rudman legislation, however, is expected to require a reduction ranging from one to five percent of the 1986 total. According to a current reading of the legislation, designed to reduce the national deficit, this reduction would have to be taken across the board, affecting every line item on a pro rata basis. A BIA budget office spokesman noted that the Gramm-Rudman reductions probably could not be totally absorbed in the Bureau's Central and area offices, since these offices use only \$54.4 million or 5.4 percent of the total appropriation. The 1986 appropriation for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services is \$818.2 million, an increase of almost \$18 million over 1985. IHS is a protected agency in the Gramm-Rudman legislation; it would be subject to no more than a one percent reduction under that legislation. The 1986 appropriation for the Indian Education Office in the Department of Education is \$67.1 million, approximately the same as 1985. Finally, in this same legislation the Navajo-Hopi Relocation Commission received an appropriation of \$22.4 million, which was a slight increase over the 1985 level. In a separate appropriation act, the administration for Native Americans in Health and Human Services received \$29 million for 1986. This was exactly the same as the 1985 amount.