

Indian News Notes

By VINCE LOVETT

PUYALLUP JURISDICTION IN TACOMA IS TOUCHY ISSUE — Tribal chairwoman Ramona Bennett said that the Puyallup Tribe has put a lid on discussion of tribal plans or questions pertaining to jurisdiction because of high feelings and racist attitudes in the City of Tacoma, the **News Tribune** there has reported. The paper recently completed a seven-part series on "Indians: The Nation Within." Part of downtown Tacoma, a large industrial center and some expensive residential areas of the city are within the original boundaries of the reservation — though not, for the most part at least, Indian owned. The city is faced with the prospect that the tribe could, as the paper headlined it, "call the shots in the city" through zoning ordinances, taxes, Indian hire statutes and the like.

ANDRUS WANTS HIGH ROYALTY FOR NAVAJO COAL LEASE — Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus told Navajo Chairman Peter MacDonald that he could not approve a proposed Navajo-El Paso Consolidation Coal Lease and mining plan until the royalty rate is renegotiated. Andrus estimated that the lease would have a rate of return of about 8 per cent — substantially under the 12½ per cent now mandated by the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975. Andrus wrote to MacDonald: "I cannot approve a lease which would return to the beneficiaries of the trust less than I would be required by law to charge for the trustee's, in this case the Nation's, identical resources." The plan called for the mining of almost 700 million tons of coal over a 38 year period.

GIPP NAMED TO HEAD HEW INDIAN EDUCATION OFFICE — Standing Rock Sioux George E. Gipp has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Indian Education in HEW's Office of Education. He is responsible for administering the Indian Education Act of 1972 which provides funds for programs to improve the quality of education for Indian students. In its fifth year of operation the law authorizes grants totaling \$57 million to schools, education agencies, Indian tribes and organizations in fiscal year 1977. Gipp has been an assistant professor at Penn State University where he earned a doctorate in education administration in 1974.

NAMING DEFENDANTS IS A HUGE TASK IN INDIAN LAND CLAIMS — Attorneys at the Justice Department have been buried in work, trying to prepare complaints for Indian land claim suits in Maine and New York before the July 18 deadline for the statute of limitations. Defendants have to be named — and there are an estimated 20,000 landowners involved in the Oneida's claim in New York. In Maine the tribes are limiting themselves to only those owners who have 100 or more acres of land. The attorneys obtained some relief when the deadline was moved back to August 18 by Congressional resolution. A bill to extend it 4½ years is scheduled to be brought to the House floor July 11. President Carter's mediator, Judge William Gunther, was expected to have a report and recommendations ready by July 10 — now moved back to no definite date.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON BIA 1978 BUDGET ISSUED — The House and Senate Appropriation Committees have completed their conference report on the BIA's 1978 budget. It approves a total appropriation of \$677,181,000, the Senate figure, which was \$5 million more than the House proposed. The increase includes \$650,000 for assistance to previously private schools; \$1.2 million for costs associated with the transfer of BIA schools in Alaska to local control; \$3 million for the housing improvement program; \$160,000 for Northern Cheyenne legal fees; and \$870,000 to start services to the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes. It also provides a decrease of \$750,000 for administrative travel. In addition to hitting hard at BIA school construction programs, the report orders at least \$2 million of school money used for special education programs and reduces Central and Area Office administrative staff and program funds by \$4 million.

NTCA PRESIDENT TESTIFIES AT OVERSIGHT HEARINGS — Joseph DeLaCruz, the recently elected president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, testified at the Senate oversight hearings on the Indian Self-Determination Act in Albuquerque, June 24. His first recommendation was that at least one layer of red tape be eliminated in the present review process. "I recommend that the Agency office be either excluded entirely from the contracting phase of the operation, that all reviewing and approving authority rest at the Agency level to the exclusion of the Area office. We must eliminate one or the other level of review."