

**Forrest J. Gerard—**

# **Senate Consultant**

A member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana will serve as consultant on Indian affairs to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Forrest J. Gerard was Director of the Office of Indian Affairs for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare since 1967. He will assist in developing new policies and legislative measures designed to serve the needs and interests of the Nation's Indian people, according to Senator Henry M. Jackson.

Jackson, the chairman of the Senate Committee, announced the appointment.

Gerard's appointment, according to Jackson, sets the stage for the Interior Committee to launch a far reaching review of the Indian programs during the 92nd Congress.

"Indian communities," said Jackson, "have traditionally looked to a single agency—the Bureau of Indian Affairs—for protection of their lands and resources and

assistance in solving the problems many face.

"Today," Jackson said, "the picture is vastly different as a result of the new programs which, for the most part, have resulted from landmark legislation enacted during the past decade.

"The Indians have become recipients of the services provided in these new programs, which are administrated by several departments and agencies of Government, in addition to the BIA."

Indians, he said, generally qualify for these programs on the same basis as other Americans. Jackson questioned whether total government expenditures were being applied most effectively and planned the establishment of a new Congressional Indian policy.

Mr. Gerard, who will aid in the investigative work, was born in Browning, Montana and graduated from Montana State University with a B.A. in business administration in 1949.