

# White House Names Coordinator for Indian Affairs

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (AIPA) — Casper W. Weinberger has been named the White House interagency coordinator

for Indian affairs on the White House Domestic Council.

Weinberger, secretary-designate for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), will be wearing a second hat as counselor to the President on human resources, including Indian affairs, according to new super-assignments announced by the White House here Jan. 6.

Weinberger will chair a committee on the White House Domestic Council, President Nixon's coordinating office for domestic matters. The Domestic Council is the top internal affairs office

under the Nixon administration. Its foreign affairs counterpart is the National Security Council chaired by Dr. Henry Kissinger.

The Domestic Council was created in 1969 to identify domestic issues, form task forces for remedies to specific domestic problems, and to prepare option papers for the President.

The broad interdepartmental coordinating role to be undertaken by Weinberger complements the position and functions held by Leonard Garment, special consultant to the President on minority and cultural affairs. A White House spokesman indicated that Garment and Bradley F. Patterson Jr., Garment's minority affairs assistant, would be working together with Weinberger on Indian issues.

No single Cabinet member on his own has the commanding

position to issue orders to other Cabinet members. With his White House hat, Weinberger can now pull together Cabinet officials and heads of agencies for specific issues and tasks, including Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton.

A White House source said that the day-to-day administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) would remain under the authority of Morton, as would day-to-day operational responsibilities.

Weinberger will be involved in broad interdepartmental "issue areas and problem areas" affecting Indians in the second term of the Nixon administration, said the White House source.

Such broad interdepartmental issues expected to cross Weinberger's desk are questions of eligibility of all Indians for federal services regardless of residence, a federal plan to regionalize and dismantle agencies serving the Indian populace, and budget cutbacks affecting most Indian programs.