

First of 6 Little Indians

Kahn-Tineta Horn, executive director of the Indian Legal Defense Committee centered on the Caughnawaga Reservation in Canada, is a dedicated young woman.

Part of her dedication to her Indian forefathers is her determination to raise several Indian children of her own to carry on the traditions of her people.

At the time she wrote the recent February newsletter for the Indian Legal Defense Committee, she was home on the Caughnawaga Reserve resting from her extensive speaking schedule long enough to have her first child.

One of her decisions, due to her dedication to the responsi-

bilities of her work was to bear this child and any subsequent children without a husband.

During the weeks before the birth of her child, Miss Horn traveled widely pursuing a busy speaking schedule around Canada and the United States. She faced violent reaction in such places as Newfoundland to her prospective motherhood.

At the beginning of February, days away from the imminent birth of her child, Miss Horn wrote a newsletter to the Indian people who support her fight to obtain equality under law for her people.

"MOTHERHOOD! Nine months and about 29 days ago I commenced a solemn duty to repay the gift of life given me by my Indian ancestors by bringing into the world another Indian...a child fathered by an Indian. My decision, because of my responsibility and dedication to my work, was that I should not have a husband."

In doing this, wrote Miss Horn, she was fully aware of the possible social criticism, economic responsibilities and difficulties of having a child, or children, without being married to their father.

This decision, she says, has caused bitter criticism from some people, warm commendation from others.

"I believe that criticism or commendation is not appropriate. It is a very serious personal decision linked with my lifetime dedication to Indians, and as such is a purely personal matter.

"It would be my hope (if I

am successful enough financially as I intend to support my children myself) to have not one, not six, but as many as ten little Indians.

"I might add that it is the most happy event of my life, a life which I feel has had more than its share of exposure to the problems, difficulties, barriers and persecutions of life. I am overjoyed at repaying a debt to my ancestors—the debt of the gift of life."