

Indian bones to be inventoried, returned

A special committee has been set up to monitor and review the inventory, identification and return of American Indian human remains and associated funerary objects.

The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Robert Adams, named five members to the committee formed by the law that created the National Museum of the American Indian.

President George Bush signed the legislation last November.

The five members are as follows:

•Roger Anyon, an archaeologist and director of the Tribal Archaeology Program, Pueblo of Zuni, New Mexico.

•Lynne Goldstein, an archaeologist and professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin,

Milwaukee.

•Andrea A. Hunter, an Osage anthropologist with the University of Missouri at Columbia.

•Russell Thornton, a Cherokee sociologist and professor at the Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley.

•Christy Turner, physical anthropologist, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University, Tempe.

Earlier this year, Frank Talbot, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, sent 1,500 letters to Native American tribes and American Indian organizations requesting nominations for the advisory committee.

Thornton, Goldstein, Anyon and

Hunter were appointed from among nominations by tribes and organizations. Section 12 of the law requires that three members of the committee come from these nominations.

The committee will review any findings on the origin or the return of remains or objects and help resolve any possible disputes.

The law establishing the museum directs the Smithsonian to make a detailed inventory of the 18,650 North American Indian remains and associated funerary objects in the Smithsonian's collections. The inventory will enable the Smithsonian to identify the origins of the remains and objects and to communicate their find-

ings to appropriate tribes.

If officials identify the remains of a particular person or a person culturally affiliated with a particular tribe, then descendants of the individual or of the tribe shall decide how and where the remains and associated funerary objects will be placed in the future.

The legislation authorizes \$1 million to be appropriated for fiscal year 1991, which begins October 1, to carry out the inventory, with subsequent amounts to be appropriated in future years.

The inventory of the Smithsonian's collections will begin when funds are appropriated.