

## **EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL AID**

# **Exemptions proposed for Natives**

A proposed rule to exempt certain income and assets of native Americans in determining student need for financial aid under the campus-based programs of HEW's Office of Education was announced recently.

The proposed exemptions are in keeping with the administration's goal to improve postsecondary education opportunities for American Indian and Alaska native students.

Exempt from consideration would be funds received by native Americans under the Distribution of Judgment Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Also exempt would be any property that may not be sold without consent of the secretary of the Interior and property held in trust for the student or family by the United States government.

Under the campus-based pro-

grams—National Direct Student Loans, College Work-Study, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants—a student receives financial assistance on the basis of need. Generally, such need is the difference between the cost of education and the amount the student and his or her family are able to pay toward that cost.

The expected family contribution calculation takes into account the income and assets of the student and, where relevant, the parents. As the family's ability to pay increases, the amount of need becomes less.

Exclusion of settlement payments as income or assets under the Distribution of Judgment Funds Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act is standard procedure in establishing eligibility of native Americans for Social Security and Aid to Families with Dependent Chil-

dren. The proposed rule would provide consistency in the treatment of these payments under programs administered by HEW.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments within 30 days on the proposed rule published in the "Federal Register." Comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Postsecondary Education, Office of Education, Seventh and D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.