

# **Community Rights of Calif. Indians**

The committee on Community Rights of Greenville, California, and four Native Americans living in the Indian Valley region of Plumas County filed suit on July 30, 1971 in Sacramento Federal Court.

The action claims discriminatory expenditure of federal housing assistance funds.

Named as defendants were the Housing Authority of the County of Plumas and its officers, including Robert Hunter of Greenville, who sits on the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

A spokesman for the Committee on Community Rights charges that: there is local prejudice against Indians and total lack of concern. The suit was filed by William Lamb of California Indian Legal Services, on behalf of the Indian people.

The suit alleges that \$158,000 was received in 1970-1971 by the Housing Authority to pro-

vide monthly rental assistance payments to the poor, who would live in approved new or rehabilitated private housing units.

The funds were intended to provide assistance for persons living in 120 housing units. Only 2 units were allocated to the Greenville area, where 90 per cent of the Indian population lives, the majority of which are poor and ill-housed Indians received no assistance.

Attorney Lamb states that "the federal law specifically declares a policy of remedying housing conditions in Indian areas, yet, the Housing Authority of Plumas County has consistently ignored the needs of the Indian community."

The suit seeks punitive damages and an order requiring that Indian housing needs be met, in carrying out the housing assistance program for Plumas County.