

REAPPORTIONMENT IRRITATES

Unprecedented Native American Coalition

By RICHARD LA COURSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(AP)—In an unprecedented political union among Native Americans, the Coalition of Organized Indians and Natives (COINS) formed here Dec. 16 has set a national Indian strategy for the 1970s.

The rare political alliance, born of the turmoil of the NCAI Reno Convention in the third week of November, agreed to establish a common front on issues facing the nation's Indian peoples and to fashion a common political strategy for the 1972 election year.

Participating organizations were the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the American Indian Movement (AIM), and the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), together with a number of other Indian organizations and federal agencies who attended as interested observers.

The joint national effort, bridging the sometimes anguished breach between Indians on reservations and in the cities, was viewed by coalition members as historic in nature.

Said NCAI President Leon F. Cook:

"This coalition is not meant to be exclusionary but to embrace the organizations recognized as national at this time. We represent the Indian world at this point in time. This meeting is proof positive that we can be genuinely together."

(The National Tribal Chairmen's Association declined to participate without any advance notice. It was learned that the NTCA, meeting in Sarasota, Fla., on Dec. 9 in a secret vote during



LEON F. COOK
... NCAI President

a closed executive council meeting determined that its invited delegates, President William Youpee and Navajo Chairman Peter

(Continued on Page 6)

future.

Native American Coalition...

(Continued from page 1)

Sound confusing? It isn't, really. When you join the Payroll Savings Plan where you work, an amount you designate will be set aside automatically from each paycheck. That's the "minus."

That amount will then be invested in U.S. Savings Bonds. That's where the "plus" comes in. Because you're automatically saving for your future, with one of the *safest* investments there are: U.S. Savings Bonds.

And, by deducting a little at a time from each paycheck, you don't feel the pinch financially. Before you know it, you'll have quite a tidy sum tucked away.

And now there's a bonus interest rate on all U.S. Savings Bonds—on E Bonds, $\frac{1}{2}\%$ when held to maturity of 5 years, 10 months (4% the first year). That extra $\frac{1}{2}\%$, payable as a bonus at maturity, applies to all Bonds issued since June 1, 1970... with a comparable improvement for all older Bonds.

Put a little "plus" in your future. Join the Payroll Savings Plan.

MacDonald, "were not authorized" to represent NTCA in the project coalition).

"The most frightening thing to the Establishment is a common effort," said Cook. "And they are betting that we will fall apart."

AIM Delegate Harvey Wells (Omaha) underscored the need for a "positive approach" to NTCA future participation, and declared the underlying principle of the coalition as "the recognition of each other's autonomy."

One indicator of the significance attached to the three-day coalition meeting was the attendance of a high number of federal departments and agencies as well as a representative of the Democratic National Committee and the presence of White House Minority Affairs Assistant Bradley Patterson.

Said Patterson:

"We will work with the total package you put together, or any part of it separately. We intend to be doing things with you which have a bellwether effect, to set up waves throughout the pertinent agencies."

Indian Commissioner Louis R. Bruce told the coalition he was "delighted this meeting came about," and offered his cooperation and encouragement "in the area of asking questions and getting answers."

"We are interested in Indian

people who are really advocates for what they and we are doing," said Bruce. "I don't know how near my head was to the block, but as of today we're running the show, and with your help this has come about. I feel that today we are beginning to move together."

COINS agreed to establish a national fund drive, to devise a national voter registration and education drive throughout Indian country (particularly in key swing states), to establish a single common Washington office to pool all information and resources for common use, and to establish common field offices around the nation.

It also agreed to plan coordinated efforts to oust selected members of Congress or to hamper their political ambitions either by working for their defeat in 1972 elections or narrowing their margins of victory through their ^{... application of} concerted political pressure and money in their districts or primaries.

Participants agreed to set a target amount of \$1 million for a 1972 national political fund drive, to monitor legislation not directly affecting Indians but indirectly of potential benefit, and to alert the U.S. public to Indian needs and positions "in a responsible and knowledgeable fashion."

Future coalition meetings are

planned in many areas across the nation with the aim of including local and regional organizations, said Cook.

Participating delegates were:

NCAI: Leon F. Cook, Leo W. Vocu, Margaret Powell and Franklin Ducheneaux; AIM: Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellcourt, Russell Means and Harvey Wells; NIYC: Gerald Wilkinson, Cornell Tahdooahnnippah and Scott McLemore. Several other observers from other Indian groups participated at their own expense.