

Morton Extends Policy of Indian Preference

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton today announced that he has approved recommendations of Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner Louis R. Bruce to extend the policy of Indian Preference to filling vacancies, whether by original appointment, reinstatement or promotion.

In addition, greater emphasis on training efforts will be directed toward the development of Indians. The changes will be effective immediately within the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"A careful review of statutes covering Indian Preference has led us to the conclusion that our past practice of giving preference in the Bureau of Indian Affairs in cases of new hire and reduction in force should be extended to include the filling of all vacancies," Secretary Morton said.

Secretary Morton stressed that in the implementation of this new policy, careful attention will be given to protecting the rights of non-Indian employees to the greatest extent possible within statutory requirements.

The new policy is in support of President Nixon's program for Indians, and is designed to enable Indian personnel in the the Bureau of Indian Affairs to progress as rapidly as their capabilities allow.

Implementing procedures are now being prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.