



# SKELETON CREW MANS DC BIA

## Massive Slow-Down of Programs May Develop Over Lack of Records

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Staff Writer

The last of the great Indian uprisings did not end with the turn of the century. Battle-weary bureaucrats are surveying damages to the paper-littered battleground of the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington, D.C. Casualties are not yet fully counted but observers on

the scene predict a massive slow-down of many BIA programs which depend on the mountain of paper and files for their existence. At the last report, litter within the building was two to three inches deep.

Estimating that 7000 cubic feet of records were destroyed, the Bureau assigned the value at \$100 a cubic foot for a total damage of \$700,000.

Damage to the structure itself is estimated at \$250,000; to the furnishings and equipment at \$280,000; and to art objects and artifacts at \$750,000.

In addition, occupation of the building by the Trail of the Broken Treaties Caravan cost the government some \$297,000 in employees' wages. During the seizure of the offices, the work of the Bureau ground to a halt.

This week a skeleton crew of about 75 persons began the slow work of reconstruction of the organization, working for the most part in "borrowed" offices. As of Monday, all but 10 or

15 of the Broken Treaties Caravan have left the city of Washington. Three official spokesmen have remained behind to continue discussions with government officials.

The three are: Anita Collins, a Shoshone Indian; Hank Adams, Sioux; and Herb Powless from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The three Caravan representatives have been meeting with top members of a new group created by the White House, the White House Inter-Agency Task Force on Indian Affairs: Leonard Garment, assistant to the President on Minorities; Frank Carlucci, Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Bradley Patterson, Jr.; and representatives from 16 departments of the federal government.

A Department of the Interior official said that most negotiations with the Broken Treaties Caravan have been conducted by the White House directly, rather than by his organization.

Last Monday, the Caravan presented a 20 point position paper to negotiators, outlining their goals and demands. The new agency intends to have an official response to that paper by Jan. 8, 1973.

Following that official White response on Jan. 8, Senator Edward Kennedy will call a Congressional hearing to examine and assess both Congressional and government systems as to



A BRIGHT NEW LOOK FOR OFF-BROADWAY — While one group of young Indian people stormed the bastions of government and the BIA, a totally different group of Indians stormed

New York City. The American Indian Theatre Ensemble, the first all-Indian performing theatre group rate rave reviews from N.Y. drama critics for an exciting new kind of theatre.

## Indian Theatre Ensemble Would Like to Tour Alaska

Alaskans may get a chance to see the first all-Indian theatre troupe in America. The American Indian Theatre Ensemble is presently playing to enthusiastic audiences on off-Broadway, but is seeking funds to finance a tour of Alaska in 1973.

The company was organized by Ellen Stewart of the experimental theatre, La Mama, and by Hanay Geiogamah, a Kiowa-Delaware Indian from Oklahoma. The company has been in residence since February of this year, studying theatre technique and absorbing the artistic intensity of theatre that can only be found in New York.

Eventually they hope to find a home that is centrally located in "Indian country where we can develop works and then take them to the reservations and urban areas where Indian people live."

"We want to do plays about the Indian past, present, and future. We believe that the American Indian Ensemble Theatre can function as a component of the overall movement to achieve true equality and self-determination for American Indians."

"Eventually we want to organize a performing arts group within every Indian tribe that is large enough and viable enough to sustain one. If we can do this then there is no question that Indian culture will thrive and evolve in the future."

The troupe's first offering is a combination of cultural heritage and contemporary relevance. The program opens with "The Deer Slayer", a dance by David Montana which depicts

the cycle of life and death for both man and animals.

David is accompanied by the E-Yah-Pah-Hah Chanters, students from the Institute of American Indian Arts at Santa Fe, New Mexico, under the direction of Ed Wapp, Jr.

"The use of sound," said

Theatre Journal, "is remarkable, the soft drumming that often propels the actions forward, and the whirring of the birds . . . a sensitivity to very low-level stimuli, dim lights, soft sounds . . . by which a strong and unfamiliar sense of being is

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## Hearings on Federal Buildings--

\$71, \$21 Million Bldgs. for Fairbanks, Anchorage

ANCHORAGE — Senator Mike Gravel has announced that the Senate Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of which he is chairman, will hold hearings on the new federal buildings planned for Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Hearings in Anchorage will be held on December 6, 1972 at Sidney Lawrence Auditorium. The public hearing in Fairbanks will be held on December 8, 1972 in Wood Center on the campus of the University of Alaska.

These hearings, to be conducted by Senator Gravel, had originally been scheduled for October, but the length of the Congressional session made it impossible for legislators to be absent from Washington for the time needed.

Joining Senator Gravel at the hearings will be Congressman Kenneth Gray, Democrat of Illinois, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds in the House of Representatives.

In addition, other members of the parent Public Works Committees of both houses are expected to travel to Alaska for public sessions.

Further, officials of the General Services Administration of the federal government and representatives of other concerned agencies are expected to attend, according to Senator Gravel.

"These hearings are vitally important for the people of Anchorage and Fairbanks," Senator Gravel said.

"This is their opportunity to state their views on the building — where it should be located, how it should be located, how it should be designed, and what purpose it can serve in the community."

"We will be hearing testimony from officials of the State of Alaska, the city and borough governments, civic leaders and concerned, interested citizens," he added.

The \$71 million building for Anchorage has already been approved by the Congress,

through action by the Public Works Committees of the Senate and the House in the last month

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## Editorial Comment—

# Terribly Wounded BIA Will Never Be the Same

The seat of the Bureau of Indian Affairs system in Washington, D.C. has been dealt painful wound by the people to whom it administers services — the Native American Indians of the land. Although the Indians who did damage to the BIA are something of a splinter group, mostly urbanized people, they are nevertheless the same people as those on reservations. At any rate, the wound is of such proportions that the BIA will never be the same from here on and into the future. If the agency is to exist, it will have to make a new beginning based on more realistic approaches taking into account the distinctive lifestyle of the people it services as one of the main objectives to aid and abet.

Last week, urban Indians and their leaders took over

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