

# Computers will speed BIA services

by

Vince Lovett

A newly developed automatic data processing system for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' social services programs will be implemented October 1 in all areas except Alaska, Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ken Smith announced June 10.

existing and planned local operating level systems.

Smith said that he was especially pleased with the development of the Bureau's social services automation program because it "came from the users... It didn't start with the planners."

With the new system in place, the processing of a request for general assistance, which in the present manual system takes 3-6 weeks before delivery of the first check, will be completed in 2-3 days.

Ray Butler, director of the Bureau's Social Services programs, said the laborious manual system has not been able to keep up with the growth of the programs. He noted that the social services budget grew from \$1.5 million in 1981. The number of people receiving general assistance grew in this time from 12,000 to 58,000.

Smith said the new system will eliminate some emergencies now created by the time lag in delivery of services; will give social workers more time for clients by cutting down paperwork time; will give management immediate data needed for analysis and planning; and will provide accurate, timely audit and program reports required for budgeting and reports to Congress. The system will also work in conjunction with other

Butler said the Bureau's Phoenix area office played a leading role in the development of the new ADP system through pioneering a conversion to the system in October 1979. The system has been thoroughly tested in the Phoenix office which serves 46

reservations in Arizona, Utah and Nevada. Operation of the system will be delayed in Alaska past October 1 because of some special telecommunications problems, but will be operation in all other areas by October 1.

The Bureau's general assistance and child welfare programs are for eligible Indian people living on or near a reservation who are not able to receive such assistance through state or local public welfare agencies. The Bureau's social services program also includes providing assistance

to Indian communities through tribal work projects (similar to so-called "workfare" projects); child welfare services; assistance to Indian communities through tribal work projects (similar to so-called "workfare" projects); child welfare services; assistance to Indians to enable them to get needed services and assistance from state and local agencies;

## NORTHWEST INDIAN YOUTH BLAME ADULT INDIFFERENCE FOR HIGH DROPOUT RATE:

At a recent Northwest Indian Youth Conference, attended by some 950 Indian youth from the Pacific Northwest, the Southwest, Alaska and Canada, the young people discussed the problem of the very high dropout rate for Indian students.

According to the Quinault QDNR&ED newsletter, the "students agreed their curricula are not problems; they all felt they had as much intelligence and ability as their non-Indian peers. Only a handful of the students said they were contemplating dropping-out of high school. The students unanimously agreed the most disturbing and most effective means of 'putting-out' a student was through lack of support from indifferent families, teachers and counselors. The result is inevitably a 'I don't give a damn' attitude of defeatism."

## "WINDWALKER" FILM IS AVAILABLE FOR FUND RAISERS BY INDIAN GROUPS:

The highly-acclaimed film, *Windwalker*, is now available in 16 mm copies for fund raising events by American Indian community groups. Pacific International Enterprises, Inc., will provide the film, posters and tickets to groups in exchange for half of the proceeds. Sponsoring groups must provide their own projector and auditorium.

*Windwalker* has been described as "one of a kind, the most authentic look at American Indian culture ever presented on film." For further information write Jerry Thompson, P.O. Box 1727, Medford, OR 97501 (503-779-0990).

# Defeat of "Sagebrush Rebellion" bill urged

WHEREAS a "Sagebrush Rebellion" bill, HB 2982, has been introduced in the Oregon state legislature, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission presents the following:

Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation -- member tribes of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. The commission therefore opposes HB 2982.

This proposed legislation seeks the transfer of unappropriated public lands, owned and administered by the United States, to the state of Oregon. If enacted, the legislation would further the attempts of certain other western states to accomplish a nationwide transfer of federal lands into state ownership.

The Columbia River treaty tribes reserved certain rights in treaties by which vast amounts of land in the Columbia River Basin were ceded to the United States. The tribes reserved the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed stations, as well as the right to hunt, gather roots and berries, and pasture stock on unappropriated public lands. The tribes exercise these treaty rights on national forests, public domain lands, and other lands owned by the people of this nation and administered by the federal government.

This transfer would gravely affect the lives on portions of the Columbia River treaty tribes -- the Nez Perce of Idaho, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and Confederated

Federal land management agencies owe a trust duty to the

tribes and can be held to the highest judiciary standards in the administration of public lands. This trust responsibility is uniquely federal. States have no comparable obligations, and their powers and potential actions as trustees are at best uncertain. A clearly defined and enforceable trust responsibility, to Indians and to the land and resources they share with all other United States citizen, is vital to the future of the Columbia River treaty tribes.

lands and resources are now unavailable to the public. Therefore Be it Resolved that for all the above reasons the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission strongly urges the Oregon legislature to reject any attempt to transfer public lands to the state. The resolution expresses the commission's certainty that defeat of HB 2982 will be in the best interests of the people of Oregon and of the Nation.

Public lands are administered under federal statutes that direct management for many public uses and that mandate resource conservation, including protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat. Other statutes require that federal agencies take environmental and social costs into account in making resource decision. And still other federal laws give citizens the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Another important issue is: would also entail significant lands to the states: these lands are now accessible to everyone, and the resources upon them benefit all citizens, including the Columbia River treaty tribes who depend upon them for livelihood and for perpetuation of their culture.

The state of Oregon does not have equivalent laws, and thus the framework for public land management in the public interest is wholly lacking. Further, proper administration of public lands demands large

History has shown that if federal lands go into state ownership, there is great danger that these lands will thereafter be conveyed to private interests. Of nearly seven million acres that the United States granted to Oregon when it became a state, over six million are now privately owned. What once were public lands and resources are now unavailable to the public.

## TOE NESS

There was this big game hunter who had bored his audience for an hour, but he was only beginning to warm up to his subject. "Once when I was sitting down resting in the jungle, a tiger came so close to me that I could feel his moist breath on the back of my neck. Do you know what I did?" "Let us guess," came a tired voice from the rear. "You turned up your collar, I betcha" YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

Customer: "Just look at this chicken you served! One leg is longer than the other."

WAITER: "Were you planning to eat the chicken or dance with it." YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

Newspaper editor: "What did the two candidates have to say today?"

Reporter: "Nothing."

Editor: Good--keep the story down to a couple of columns." YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

A reporter was interviewing an old codger who was celebrating his 100th birthday. "What are you most proud of?" he asked.

"Well," said the man. "I've lived 100 years and haven't an enemy in the world."

Reporter: "Gee, thats amazing."

"Yep," added the centenarian, "Out lived every last one of them!" YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

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