

Smith announces changes in BIA structure

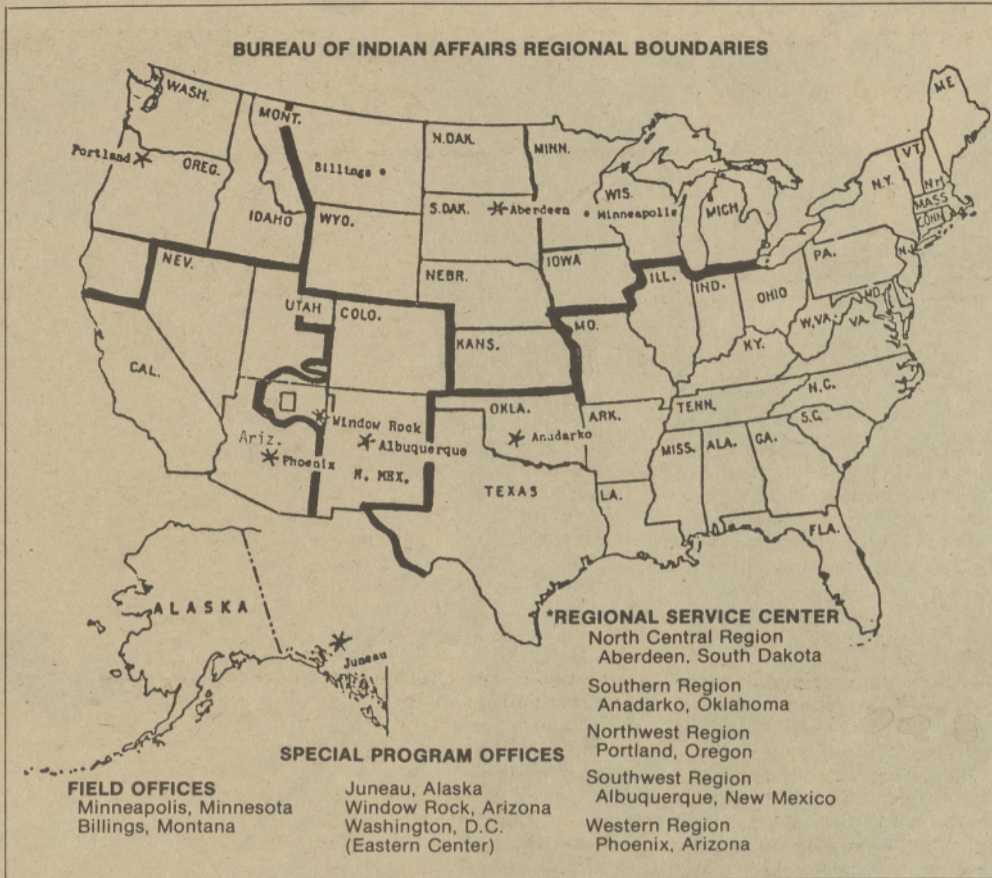
Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Ken Smith recently announced a reorganization of the BIA's administration structure that will create a \$16 million annual saving and "move the Indian agency a long way toward its goal of making as much of its budget as possible available for funding of programs at the reservation level."

The reorganization would consolidate the BIA's 12 area offices into five regional service centers located at Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anadarko, Oklahoma; Aberdeen, South Dakota; Phoenix, Arizona; and Portland, Oregon. Field offices at Billings, Montana and Minneapolis, Minnesota will report to the Aberdeen Center in South Dakota.

Special program offices at Juneau, Alaska, and Window Rock, Arizona, will serve the state of Alaska and the Navajo Reservation and will report directly to the BIA central office in Washington, D.C.

Smith said the reorganization of the Bureau is designed to reduce the cost of administering the Bureau's field programs; to restructure the field offices to provide improved technical service capability; and to improve the efficiency of implementing Bureau programs and services.

The major changes from the proposed plan revealed in February are (1) elimination of the proposed Northeast regional service center through consolidation of the area previously served by the Minneapolis area office with the North Central region, and



the administrative consolidation of the area previously served by the Eastern area office with the Southern region; (2) location of the North Central regional office in Aberdeen, rather than Rapid City; and (3) location of the Southern regional office in Anadarko, rather than Oklahoma City.

Smith said, "Foremost is the impact of Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self Determination Act which has encouraged and strengthened tribal government participating in designing and contracting for the delivery of program services to the tribes."

About 25 percent of the operation of Indian programs

was performed under self-determination contracts by FY 1981, and the percentage will continue to increase, Smith said.

"The enactment of Public Law 95-561, the Indian Education Act, continued the emphasis on Indian involvement by creating school boards and implementing a system of

employing teachers through contracts rather than as direct Bureau Staff. In school year 1981-82, almost 2,000 out of a total of 74,00 Bureau educators were employed under this system. We expect the number of contract teachers to increase by as much as 1,000 in the 1982-83 school year," Smith said.

A third reason was Public Law 92-203, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which is limiting the Bureau's responsibility for Alaska programs. "Certain programs in Alaska such as general assistance and education have been or are projected to be delivered in the future by the State," Smith said.

The Bureau also anticipates a continued increase in various BIA programs contracted to Native villages and organizations.

The total number of employees to be in each of the locations are still intermediate. Final decisions will be made on the staffing patterns needed to fulfill the responsibilities the BIA has at each service center as implementation plans go forward. We are confident that the reduction in total Federal employees in the area and central offices will be 372 as we originally planned.

"This is my response to the request that I have heard repeatedly from tribal leaders throughout my travels in Indian Country to reduce the overhead costs of operating the Bureau," Smith said. Estimates of the one time costs of carrying out the reorganization are in the neighborhood of \$7 million.

Coin phone calls restricted

Coin phone calls billed to a third number will require positive acceptance from the number being billed beginning July 1, according to Glenn Kennedy, Area Manager—Community Affairs Pacific Northwest Bell.

Presently, a caller can bill the charges to a third number even though there is no one at the number to accept the charges.

The move to verified billing charges will protect PNB's customers from losses due to fraud.

The third number billing restrictions applies only to calls from coin phones, where the majority of losses occur.

After July 1, callers will be informed that a third party billed coin call cannot be completed if no one answers the billing number or if the line is busy. The caller will be asked either to try the call later or use a different form of billing, such as Called Card (telephone credit card), collect, or full payment at the coin phone.

The July 1 date ends a three-month informational period during which operators have been explaining the upcoming billing changes to those who use third party billing. Operators also offered to provide the caller with a free Calling Card.

Media reps gather for conference

Print and broadcasting personnel from across the nation gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the National Indian Media Conference IV. Daily workshops concerning newspapers, televisions and radio media outlets were conducted by key people in each of the three fields.

Of major concern to many is the tight financing due to the depressed economy. Workshops were held to inform people how to gain financing and methods to become financially dependent. The editor of the Lakota Times, Jim Giago, related to press and newspaper people how he

started his paper in Pine Ridge, North Dakota with a small loan from a local bank. His paper at this time making a profit and is financially independent. Advertising, he said is the key to the Lakota Times' financial and independent success, all in a year's time.

Several papers in Indian Country have folded with the increase of federal cutbacks in Indian programs and many more will face the same future if they can't find a new source of income.

In an opening speech, Myron Jones, Board of Directors of National Public Radio stated the media has an obligation to bring to the people beauty as

well as the truth of issues in Indian country. He stated it was important for the media to put forth to the Indian people a true picture of the tribal governments as it works daily not just the problems of government or the basic news release.

Many of the participants termed the conference a success in reaching print, radio and television personnel with new ideas and technology in the communications fields. The conference gives people in media the opportunity to gather and share ideas and goals for reaching North American Indians.

Toe Ness

An attractive young teacher took 12-year-old John aside one day after class, and asked him why his schoolwork had fallen off. "I can't concentrate," replied the boy, "I'm afraid I'm falling in love." "Is that so... and with whom?" He answered, "With you." "But John, it's true that I'd like a husband someday... but I don't want a child." "Oh don't worry," said John confidently. "I'll be careful." YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

A fisherman radioed to his wife at home. "Don't expect any shrimp today, I'm coming home with Crabs." YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

Getting married is a good deal like going into a resaurant with friends. You order what you want then when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had asked for that instead. YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

When a woman is young, she's afraid her clothes won't conceal enough of her. . . As she grows older, she's afraid they'll conceal too much. YIKES!!!

SS SS SS

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