

## AUTHORITY (Cont.)

Indian Tribes is limited to regulating commerce unless more authority has been granted by a treaty.

Government lawyers argued on November 28 that Congress has unlimited authority over Indian tribes.

Attorneys for the tribes urged U.S. District Court Judge Louis Oberdorfer to hold a trial on the lawsuit so they could present evidence showing that tribes were never intended to submit to state authority.

The lawsuit is supported by dozens of tribes all over the country and every tribe in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Oberdorfer called the case interesting and said he would take the government's request for a dismissal under advisement.

- Courtesy of the American Indian Report

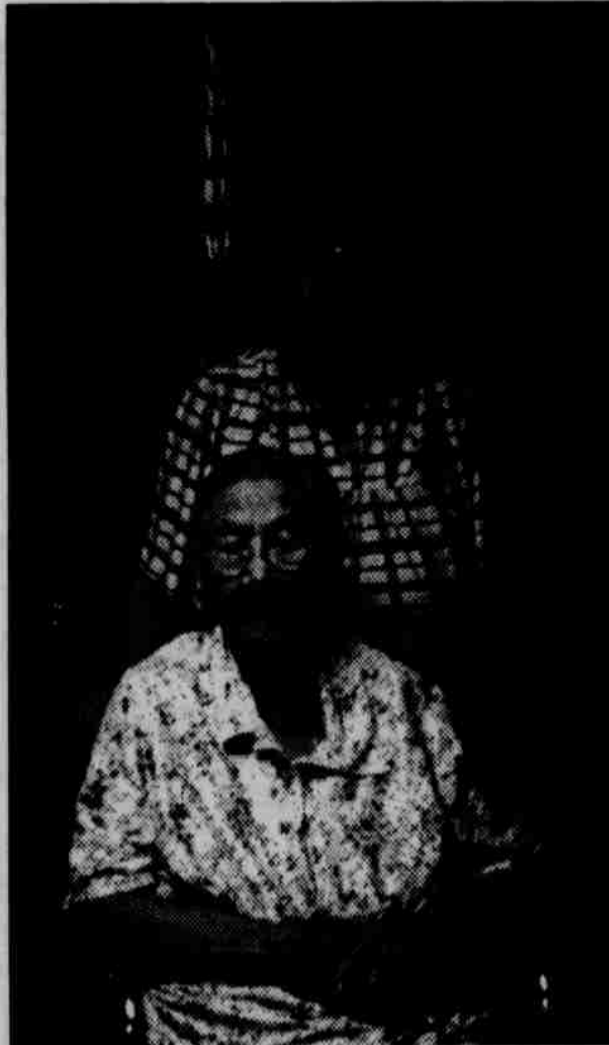
## NATIVE LANGUAGES BILL INTRODUCED

On October 23, 1989, legislation was introduced which would establish as the policy of the United States the preservation, protection and promotion of the rights of Native Americans to use, practice and develop Native languages. S. 1781 was sponsored by Sens Inouye HI, DeConcini AZ, Daschle SD, Reid NV, Conrad ND, Cochran MS, Matsunaga HI, Murkowski AK, McCain AZ and Burdick ND. Stated Senator Inouye in his introductory remarks about the bill, "While some Native languages had become virtually extinct before Native people realized the magnitude of their loss, there are now strong efforts nationwide among Native people to recover and perpetuate this part of their cultural heritage." S. 1781 draws on recommendations of the Native American Languages Institute, and is similar to a resolution introduced and passed by the Senate at the end of the 100th Congress.

S. 1781 would: encourage and support the use of Native language as a medium of instruction; allow exceptions to teacher certification requirements for federal programs for the employment of teachers who teach in Native American languages; recognize the right of Native American governing bodies to use Native languages as a medium of instruction in Department of the Interior-funded schools and to give official status to their language for the purpose of conducting business; give proficiency in a Native language the same academic credit as coursework in a foreign language; encourage the inclusion of Native languages in the curriculum of all institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education; and provide that the use of Native languages may not be restricted in any public proceeding; including publicly supported education programs. S 1781 also directs federal agencies to evaluate their policies and procedures, in consultation with Indian tribes, to determine changes necessary to bring those programs into compliance with the Act; within one year after enactment of the bill, the President would be required to report to Congress on recommendations for amendments existing laws to accomplish such compliance. Under S. 1781, the term Native American includes Pacific Islanders as well as American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs approved S. 1781 on November 14. It is expected that the bill will be brought to the Senate floor early in the second session.

- Courtesy of the Friends Committee on National Legislation



Tribal elders Nora Kimsey and Pauline Johnson.

### "IS MARIJUANA SAFE?"

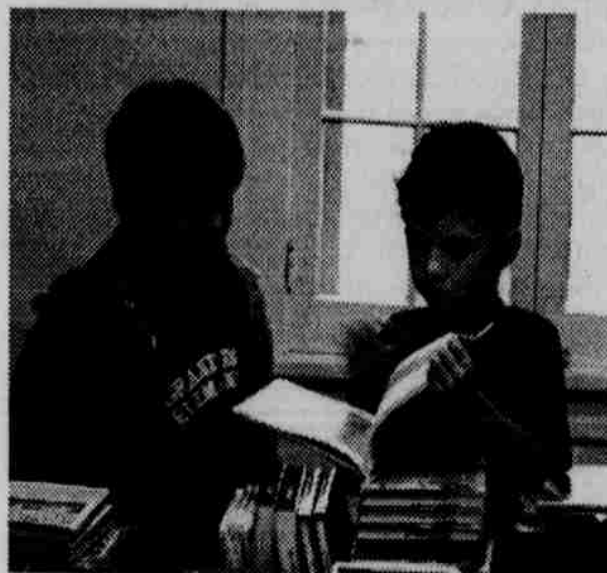
The most recent National Institute on Drug Abuse report shows the danger of thinking marijuana is safe. Sixteen of 19 cities surveyed for the report noted increases in their already record number of marijuana-related hospital emergency room cases.

Many cases involve driving. A 1988 Maryland study showed that more than one-third of the patient treated at the state's shock trauma center had used marijuana shortly before their accidents.\* The number of marijuana-related injuries, by the way, exceeded the number of alcohol-related injuries.

It also should be noted that today's marijuana is five to 10 times more potent than the marijuana of 10 years ago.

\*According to blood tests that detect marijuana use within the past four hours.

Source: Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Narcotics Committee.



Jed Meyers and Tribal youth Joe Mercier at the JOM Program's first Free Book Fair held at the office.

## WHAT IS NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND WHO MAY JOIN?

The National Congress of American Indians, (NCAI), founded in 1944, is the oldest, largest and most representative national Indian organization. NCAI serves the needs of a broad membership of Indian and Native governments, organizations and people.

The founding members of NCAI stressed the need for unity and cooperation among Indian governments and people, for the security and protection of treaty and sovereign rights and for the betterment of the quality of life for Indian people. From its modest beginning with some 100 people, NCAI has become the leading Indian membership organization, now serving a diverse network of nations with a combined citizenry comprising more than three quarters of the American Indian and Alaskan Native national population.

The NCAI is organized as a representative congress of consensus on national priority issues. Indian and Native governments pass laws to become members of NCAI, selecting official delegates to the NCAI Convention and Executive Council. The delegates deliberate issues of pressing concern in accordance with their government policies, goals and needs. NCAI has led and participated in a myriad of coalitions with other Indian national and regional organizations, business interests, environmental and civil rights groups and legal and other professional organizations, among others, to attain the goals of NCAI's broad-based membership.

### NCAI'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES:

- \* Protect Indian and Native traditional cultural and religious rights.
- \* Seek appropriate, equitable and beneficial services and programs for Indian and Native governments and people.
- \* Secure and preserve Indian and Native rights under treaties and agreements with the U.S., as well as under federal statutes, case laws and administration decisions and rulings.
- \* Promote the common welfare and enhance the quality of life of Indian and Native people.
- \* Promote a better understanding among the general public regarding Indian and Native governments, people and rights.

### CURRENT NCAI ISSUES:

- \* Protection of programs and services to benefit the Indian Elders and Children.
- \* Promotion of Indian education, jobs and housing opportunities.
- \* Enhancement of Indian health care and prevention of juvenile drug and alcohol abuse.
- \* Advancement of environmental protection and natural resource management.
- \* Protection of Indian cultural resources and religious freedom.
- \* Development of Indian country economies.

### MEMBERSHIP:

NCAI membership consists of Tribes, organizations, and individuals. Individual Indian membership is \$10 per year or \$12 for an Indian Couple. For other membership rates and information contact: NCAI, 900 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C., 10003 - (202) 546-9404. Call or write today!