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1981 annual report



americans
for
indian
opportunity

self-determination for Native-Americans

AIO

Letter from the president

The 1980's are already rushing by and more is happening than at any time since Americans for Indian Opportunity was established in 1970, the same year that the Federal Government announced its policy of self-determination for Indian people.

No community in America is more conscious of the impact of the new federalism than American Indians; and no group of people could have recognized this fact and taken action faster than the Board of Directors of AIO.

To respond to radical changes not anticipated by the Administration but triggered by the reorganization of the Federal Government and by Federal budget cuts, the Board decided that fast action and flexibility are the prerequisites of the 1980's.

The first step required was to move back to Washington. The office in Albuquerque, New Mexico could no longer assist in promoting the efficient application of gains made by Indian people in the last decade. Leaving part of the team to finish up work on the 1981-82 Environmental Health Impact report, AIO transferred operations to new offices in Washington, in January 1982, — the fastest move by a national Indian organization since Sitting Bull.

At the heart of the emergencies facing Indian people lies the crisis of economic dependency imposed by policies of past Administrations. Underlying this we find the information crisis:

How many citizens of this country understand their relationship in the Constitution, in law, or in history to the first Americans?

Two million Indian people, remembering that history is still being made, recognize that asserting their right to self-determination, self-sufficiency and the right to be different, is part of their contribution to the great American recovery.

The circumstances in which we find ourselves in the new decade have a familiar ring. The burden has always been on Indians to educate and advise the non-Indian community, the Federal agencies and the Congress. This information gap has often led to harmful legislation aggravated by inappropriate administrative policies. Approaching the problem at this end is no longer enough. We have to find ways of directing Americans' attention to the information gap so that the existence of the policy vacuum in Indian affairs can be recognized.

To do this we must harness the lost power of America's greatness. Working together with tribal governments so that they play their part in the Federal system, we can strengthen Indian economies while maintaining Native American Culture.

Let no one doubt that this can be done! In Indian country we have the greatest remaining undeveloped dimension of the Nation. The contributions which



can be made to the National economy, to stimulation of jobs to the creation of wealth are astronomical. *BUT* in order to do that, the role of the tribal governments must be recognized.

In working together harmoniously towards these goals, what we are doing is of historic importance. The first Americans are the last group of people in this land to obtain the greatest of American opportunities - the right to steer ones own destiny.

The interdependent process which we think of as the Federal system cannot flourish without the tribes and the tribes cannot flourish without playing their part fully. When AIO talks of working together, we truly mean AMERICANS FOR INDIAN OPPORTUNITY.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "LaDonna Harris".

LaDonna Harris
President

Developing nations within

Many people are familiar with the idea that the world can be divided into developed and developing countries but few remember that within the United States there exists a similar dichotomy. Several hundred American Indian tribes, 252 of them recognized by the Federal Government (with many operating under International Treaty Law), and many more "unrecognized" by the present Federal Government as a result of past policies, constitute the developing nations within the Federal system.

Citizens of these developing nations, American Indians or Native Americans, because of their unique place in the Constitution and in law, enjoy dual citizenship. First, they are United States citizens (and so under operation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution they have State citizenship too). Secondly, they are citizens of the Indian tribes of which they are members. Under the law an Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe - only a tribe can determine who are its members.

The promulgators of the United States law provided the first Americans with certain guarantees

in perpetuity. The basis of this system of guarantees is the Federal Government's trust responsibility for Indian people and from this unique relationship comes the principle of dual entitlement. American Indians are not only entitled to all services of the Federal Government — just like other Americans — they are equally entitled to additional services from all branches of the Federal Government because of binding agreements set out in treaties, Constitutional provisions and acts of Congress which have been upheld and reinforced by successive decisions of Federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The words of the founding fathers, though specifically including Indian tribes in the Constitution, so making them full participants in the Federal system, did not prevent the tragedy of subjugation of the Indian nations. Nor did the results of exploitation fade away with the Indian Self-Determination Act which confirmed that the policy of terminating the trust responsibility

was wrong. When our lawmakers again recognized the rights of Indian people to self-determination they overlooked crucial facts:

- Indian people could not give input to all important regulations interpreting the laws which affected them.
- Past policies had left Indian people dependent on social programs.
- Without economic foundations — physical and service infrastructures, the means to enhance human resources, and ways of generating "value added"* on the reservation — sovereignty could not flourish.
- Indian people could not benefit from their theoretical access to vital information because, just like the Government, they did not know what questions to ask.

Common goals of increased control by local units of government and economic self-sufficiency can be embraced by Indian people and all those who want these policies to work, but AIO believes that failure to acknowledge crucial facts and failure to identify corrective measures will deprive all parties of success.

* *value added* — at each stage of processing of raw materials, or the production and distribution of commodities, services, or information, the value increases; this is the way a single dollar can be made to work over and over again.

In the past year

They all said it couldn't be done and it was certainly another first for AIO! Six Federal agencies¹ working together, four more contributing observers² and *all* working with people from the tribes, the States, and the regions towards a common purpose. These were the diverse sources of expertise which AIO assembled to assess the environmental health impact of resource development on Indian communities and the roles of the Government agencies charged with responsibilities for various aspects of environmental protection and individual safety.

Once we had set up the umbrella of co-funding and contributing agencies into the Federal Interagency Coordinating Group, AIO was able to initiate research into environmental health impacts by selecting Indian community representatives from different areas of the country and by compiling and collating information on past, present and anticipated modes of development on Indian reservations.

Interaction between Federal and Indian representatives helped us to identify areas of concern and potential misunderstanding and to formulate strategies for overcoming mistrust. The process suggested the route for further research for Red Papers and Red Alerts (see list).

From this process we identified both the groupings of tribes which could bring the most constructive collective contribution to the seminars and the people with expertise in environmental health and planning, some of whom we asked to make presentations within the seminars. In this way we involved the tribes and people from regional and national agencies for the first time in a mutual learning and teaching process.

The six regional groupings of tribes which could most benefit from discussion, in a single location, of problems in common, were: Great Lakes and Eastern tribes (Milwaukee, Wisconsin); North West tribes and Alaska (Seattle, Washington); Southern California, and Arizona tribes (San Diego, California); Great Plains tribes (Billings, Montana); and New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Oklahoma tribes (Albuquerque, New Mexico.)

Two hundred Tribal representatives, 140 Federal officials, 25 State officials and 85 interested individuals participated in the seminars which exposed the widest possible range of

participants to AIO's customary seminar style which eliminates the inhibiting effects sometimes imposed by rigid agendas. The speakers were excellent and almost all were able to respond to the flexibility of our system in which participants are encouraged to ask questions at any time, but where the flow of useful discussion is not interrupted by counter-productive formalities.

We produced written reports covering the materials of each seminar. These were given to all tribes as well as to the participants of each particular seminar.

AIO feels proud of the way in which we got maximum for all from funds available. Not only did we videotape the entire proceedings so that the benefits of what we learned and shared could be passed on but there were other spin-offs, like the Resource Directory in the areas of Environmental Health and Safety and the Handbook of Federal Responsibility, both of which are published separately.

The primary goal of this project is that tribes will develop their own systems of incorporating environmental health concerns in all their decision-making. The Federal government has not been

¹ Departments of Labor, Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Administration for Native Americans.

² Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers

able to develop such a system nor have the States.

The beneficial fall-out from the intercommunal/interagency process was not confined within the Federal Interagency Coordinating Group; specific changes were instituted within their departments as a result of attendance by observers from the Department of Agriculture and the Corps of Engineers. When it was brought to his attention that Indian tribes did not receive benefits from policies on soil and moisture conservation, the Secretary of Agriculture changed regulations to allow tribes to function as Conservation Districts to enable them to monitor their soil and water. The U.S. Corps of Engineers initiated meetings between AIO's President and the Corps' regional chiefs. This led to the establishment of direct channels of communication between tribal leaders and the Corps and a process of liaison through AIO which continues to expand.

An example at tribal level is the Fond du Lac reservation which, as a direct result of AIO's project, has applied and received grants from the Minnesota Humanities Commission in co-operation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature to fund their own environmental conference.

One of the principal gains of the past decade for which AIO can claim its share of credit has been widening acceptance of the

principle that all Federal agencies have a part to play in the trust responsibility. Full participation in the environmental health impact investigations by the Departments of Labor and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service and the Administration for Native Americans, lead agency in the project, demonstrates the spread of acceptance of this principle.

In the interests of coalition building, AIO's officers give lectures and invite non-Indian representatives to AIO meetings. AIO's President serves on a number of national boards of Indian and non-Indian

organizations. She was appointed to the Board of the American Indian National Bank, is on the advisory committee preparing for the first conference on Indian Affairs by the Aspen Institute, sits on the Wonder Woman Board, the Women's Conference on National Security and the Board of the Institute of Women of Color.

International duties include her re-election to the United States delegation to UNESCO, and participation in conferences affecting Indian issues in the Hemisphere.

Red Papers

Radiation and Its Health Effects
Asbestos, A Lingering Danger
Timber Production and Its Environmental Impacts
Copper: Its Environmental Impacts



Red alerts

Agent Orange & Vietnam Veterans
MX Missile
Power Lines
Worker's Health
Aluminum Wiring
Nuclear Water Transportation
Acid Rain
Hazardous Waste & Illegal
Dumping
Superfund
Seek and Find - EPA Region V
Hazardous Waste Project
Fort Hall Chemical Fire
Radioactivity Affects on Fowl
Radiation Victims
PCB's
Nuclear Power Plant Construction
Uranium Market
Penobscot Budworm Spraying
Surface Mine Legislation

Geothermal Development
Churchrock Uranium Tailings Spill
Uranium Miners
Toxic Shock Syndrome
Oil
Flouride & Aluminum Processing
Plants
EPA Indian Policy
Recommendations to Federal
Radiation Policy Council

Uranium Surveys Conducted
by the National Uranium
Resource Evaluation
Program (NURE) of the
Department of Energy



What next?

During the environmental project it became clear that laws designed on the States' assumption of more responsibility often beg the question of States' non-jurisdiction over the tribes. This gap points to a policy vacuum in Washington. If national agencies are to hand over power to smaller units of government, then it is crucial that new laws take questions of Indian jurisdiction fully into account.

Recognition of this gap and discussion of how to bridge it led the Board to its decision that AIO should return as quickly as possible to the Nation's capital to work on the problem.

The judgment of the Board was confirmed by the enthusiastic response to the revival of the traditional Thursday meetings. These meetings include all Washington based Indian organizations, the Indian desks in Federal agencies and representatives of educational and religious organizations, and interested members of the international press.

By their support and attendance, participants at the resumed Thursday meetings demonstrated that they too agree that information sharing is even more important than ten years ago; the meetings enable participants to avoid duplication of effort while staying abreast of changes taking place simultaneously throughout the different national agencies and in Congress.

They also provide a means of taking emergency action to deal with problems arising in the Indian community where solidarity and mutual support are essential if we are to continue to take greater control of our own lives. But we also need non-Indian

allies and we continue to be fortunate in finding them at critical times like the present moment in history.

AIO's role in coming years will be defined by how accurately we formulate vital questions. Our goals will be set by the answers to those questions.

Several significant changes have



taken place since 1981 and we face the prospect of still more radical changes with unforeseeable consequences. One danger for tribal governments stems directly from the financial implications of steps taken at the Federal level over which they exert no control. In our publication, "We the People(s)" we showed how

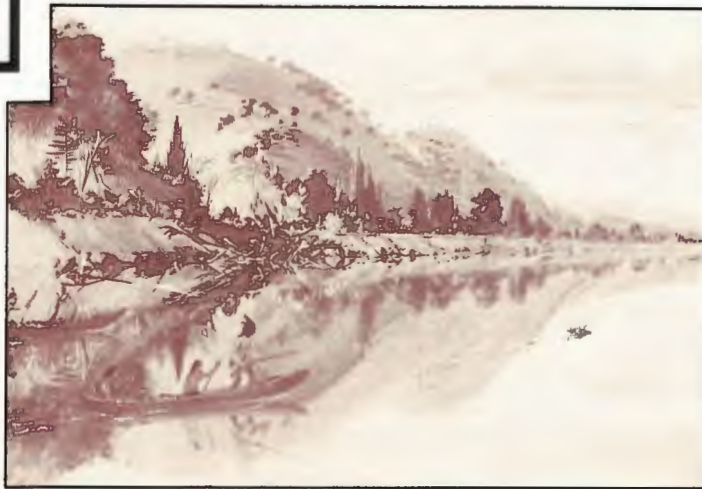
underdevelopment of human resources, the absence of infrastructure and services and lack of control over Indian resources are preventing the tribes from achieving true self-determination. The document pointed to the financial burdens to which tribal governments were exposed because they were made responsible for administering Federal programs which the Tribes neither designed nor controlled. These inherited programs were not instituted on the basis of cost-benefit effectiveness and it is unjust if they are judged on such a basis.

Achievements in developing our human resources can be attributed directly to our breaking free from the limitations of working solely

under the auspices of the Department of the Interior. Breaking out into the broad-based Federal system was the most critical step on the road to true self-government.

If tribes get into financial difficulty because of a system not of their choosing, and if, as a result, Indian governments' access to the Federal system is again limited to a single channel, the explicit loss of tribal control will be a step directly backwards from the goals of self-determination and self-sufficiency.

We are troubled at the thought that more programs from other Federal agencies might be transferred under a single agency. This would directly limit development of our human resources and managerial and technical expertise and thus limit our participation in and contribution to democracy.



Americans for indian opportunity

A James Abourezk of South Dakota was the first Lebanese American elected to the United States Senate. He was one of the greatest civil libertarians and consumer advocates that served in the U.S. Senate, especially on behalf of American Indians. He now has law offices in Washington, D.C.

Bill Alcaida is a member of the Chemehuevi tribe of Parker, Arizona. He is now Manager of the Colorado River Indian Tribal Farm, which he helped create, and is one of the most recognized and successful tribal enterprises in the country.

Lionel Bordeaux is a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe. He is a distinguished educator and is one of the founders of the Sinte Gleska Community College in South Dakota. Lionel was later made President of the college.

Joan Bordman is a member of the Sioux tribe and is presently living in Newark, California. She excels strongly in community organizing and the use of organizational development techniques to bring about social change. Joan is now in private consultation practice.

Edgar Bowen, from Myrtle Point, Oregon, now serves as Chief of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indian tribes. He has 25 years teaching experience and 17 of those years were spent as a teaching Principal.

Mary Jo Butterfield of Neah Bay, Washington, is a former member of the Makah Tribal Council. She is an advocate for Indian children and families. Mary Jo is also a member of the President's Commission on Mental Health for Indians, the National Indian Lutheran Board, and other distinguished groups.

Ron Cournoyer a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe resides in Sarasota, Florida where he owns his own consulting firm which assists in tribal economic development. Ron is the former Director of the United South Eastern Tribes.

Eugene Crawford, a member of the Sisseton Sioux tribe, is the first American Indian staff member of a Lutheran organization. He serves as Director for Indian Services in the Division of Mission Services of the Lutheran Council in the USA. Gene gives daily and valuable support to American Indian individuals, tribes, and organizations.

Ada E. Deer is a member of the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin. She is a former Chairperson of her tribe and pursues an outstanding career in social work. She was a strong figure in her tribe's regaining federal recognition. She has served on many prominent national boards and commissions and is now Lecturer at the Native American Studies Program and School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin.

Andrew Ebona a Tlingit-Haida from Alaska, is now Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of the State of Alaska. He has the distinction of being the only former AIO staff member who made it to AIO's Board of Directors. He was recently the Executive Director of the Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida.

Coy Eklund, a native of Minnesota, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States based in New York. He is a leading corporate executive in areas of corporate responsibility and is an outstanding advocate on women's rights and human rights.

LaDonna Harris is a member of the Comanche Tribe. She is President and Executive Director of Americans for Indian Opportunity. LaDonna is a noted human rights and political activist and has served on the Boards of many national organizations including Common Cause, National Organization of Women, National Women's Political Caucus, and the National Urban League.

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh is a former Director of the State Commission on Civil Rights. He is a devout human rights activist and now serves as President of the University of Notre Dame.

board of directors

Minerva Jenkins is originally from the Fort Mojave Reservation in Arizona. She has served on the Tribal Council and has helped on many important decisions. Minerva has given many distinguished services to her tribe and to all Indian people.

Louis LaRose is a member of the Winnebago tribe in Winnebago Nebraska, where he serves on the tribal council. He is a nationally recognized Indian leader and philosopher. Louis has served as Chairman of his tribe as well as many other honorable positions.

Charles Lohah is a member of the Osage tribe of Oklahoma. He has served as a professor at Antioch College and a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund. He helped in establishing and organizing CERT, of which he is now a staff member.

Grace McCullah is a member of the Navajo tribe. She is presently Executive Director of the Indian Development District of Arizona in Phoenix. Grace was selected as one of five American women noted for outstanding contribution to the economic development endeavors of American communities in the United States.

Bette Mele is a member of the Seneca Nation of the Alleghany Reservation in New York State. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She is former President of the Indian Rights Association. Bette is a strong defender of Indian rights and an advocate for women's rights.

Jerry Muskrat, an Oklahoma Cherokee, is now Administrative Appeals Judge of the Department of Interior's Board of Indian Appeals. He is also author of outstanding publications in the area of Indian law.

Morgan Otis, Jr. is a member of the Kiowa and Arapaho tribes. At present he is an Associate Professor for the School of Education at California State University, Sacramento. He is an outstanding educator and author of many Indian educational publications.

Elma Patterson, of the Tuscarora tribe, presently lives in Lewiston, New York. Her specialty is social work and she now works in the New York State Department of Social Services Office of Indian Services. Elma has received many awards for "Outstanding Work."

Calvin Peters is a council member and legislative specialist for the Squaxin Island tribe of Washington State. He is also First Vice President of the Affiliated Northwest Tribes.

Allen Rowland is a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe and presently resides in Lake Deer, Montana. He is Chairman of his tribe and serves on the Executive Board of CERT. Allen is a distinguished leader in the area of Indian natural resources, particularly in the area of environmental control.

Jack Rushing is a member of the Creek Nation and is now residing in New York State. He is currently practicing law and investment banking.

Joe Sando, noted author, lecturer, and teacher, is a native New Mexican, born in Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico. He is a well-known authority on "The Pueblo Indians," which is the title of one of his several important books.

Vicki Santana is a member of the Blackfeet tribe and now lives in Browning, Montana. She is an outstanding young Indian woman lawyer. She served as Senior Staff Attorney at the American Indian Law Center, University of New Mexico, on the Indian Religious Freedom Project.

Eddie Tullis, member of the Alabama Creek tribe, is a strong advocate for non-federally recognized tribes. He is regional Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians and is recognized as a national Indian leader.

Jake Whitecrow is a member of the Seneca, Quapaw, and Cayuga tribes. He is the former Chairman of his tribe and has served on the American Indian Policy Review Commission. He is now the Director of the National Indian Health Board.

Aio staff and their titles

LaDonna Harris - President & Executive Director

Elizabeth Lohah - Deputy Director

Steve Kline - Accountant/Financial Administrator

Meghean Field - Ex. Secretary to the President



In memorium

AIO would like to pay special homage to Mr. Edwin Mitchell who passed away this year.

For four years, despite his stroke and ill health, Mr. Mitchell served on the AIO Board and continued to represent the Northeast Coast tribes. Mr. Mitchell began his service to the tribe as game manager and eventually became Lt. Governor. He was instrumental in the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement. Mr. Mitchell devoted his life to the betterment of Indian people.

AIO regrets the loss and extends heartfelt sympathy to his family, but Edwin lives on in the legacy of achievements he made on behalf of Indian people through his participation on the AIO Board and in service to his tribe.

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**BALANCE SHEETS
OCTOBER 31, 1980 and 1981**

Assets	1981	1980
Unrestricted Fund		
Cash (including interest bearing accounts of \$92,343 in 1981 and \$31,627 in 1980)	\$ 93,308	\$217,550
Receivables:		
Restricted funds	1,499	44,083
Accounts	1,898	1,449
Contributions	10,100	
Employee advances	13,164	4,890
Total receivables	26,661	50,442
Other Assets	7,402	7,450
TOTAL	\$127,371	\$275,422
Restricted Funds		
Cash (including interest bearing accounts of \$64,848 in 1981)	\$ 65,143	\$ 91,853
Due From Unrestricted Fund	26,174	141,750
Grants Receivable	71,527	231,451
TOTAL	\$162,844	\$465,054
Property Fund		
FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT - At cost less accumulated depreciation: 1981, \$19,133; 1980, \$16,049	\$ 8,762	\$ 9,362
Liabilities and Fund Balances	1981	1980
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,686	\$ 4,170
Accrued and Other Liabilities	13,981	13,099
Due to Restricted Funds	26,174	141,750
Total Liabilities	43,841	159,019
Fund Balance	83,530	116,403
TOTAL	\$127,371	\$275,422
Due to Unrestricted Fund	\$ 1,499	\$ 44,083
Deferred Revenue - Designated For Future	156,345	420,971
Fund Balance	5,000	
TOTAL	\$162,844	\$465,054
FUND BALANCE	8,762	\$ 9,362

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1981 WITH
COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1980**

	1981				
NOTES	UNRESTRICTED FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	PROPERTY FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS 1981 1980	
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Public support:					
Grants and contributions	\$138,814	\$264,126		\$402,940	\$389,241
Donated services	19,469			19,469	17,420
Gifts in kind	28,601			28,601	33,246
Other	5,931			5,931	9,447
Total public support	192,815	264,126		456,941	449,354
Interest revenue	4,299	3,769		8,068	1,427
Total public support and revenue	197,114	267,895		465,009	450,781
EXPENSES:					
Program services:					
Community services	9,410		\$ 71	9,481	16,314
Education and information dissemination	50,829		320	51,149	41,696
Federal agencies liaison	15,957		142	16,099	7,250
Natural resources	62,710	267,895	2,416	333,021	303,639
Lobbying	1,714			1,714	1,814
Total program services	140,620	267,895	2,949	411,464	370,713
Supporting services:					
Fund raising	18,810		107	18,917	7,250
Administration	70,104		497	70,601	54,388
Total supporting services	88,914		604	89,518	61,638
Total expenses	229,534	267,895	3,553	500,982	432,351
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES					
	(32,420)		(3,553)	\$(35,973)	\$ 18,430
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR					
Restricted contributions		7,500			
Property additions	(453)		453		
Property contributions		(2,500)	2,500		
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ 83,530	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,762		

See notes to financial statements

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1981
AND COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1980**

	PROGRAM SERVICES					
	Community and Information Services	Education and Information Dissemination	Federal Agencies Liaison	Natural Resources	Natural Lobbying	TOTAL
Salaries and payroll taxes	\$3,109	\$15,424	\$ 6,811	\$112,252	\$ 469	\$138,065
Fringe benefits	748	4,010	2,816	26,630	143	34,347
Total	3,857	19,434	9,627	138,882	612	172,412
Professional fees	925	5,448	2,035	43,837	185	52,430
Office supplies, printing and postage	331	15,781	727	29,988	66	46,893
Office rental	240	1,297	529	10,907	48	13,021
Equipment rental	217	1,170	477	28,863	43	30,770
Travel and conferences	3,377	5,196	1,542	65,875	667	76,657
Telephone	223	1,206	491	8,436	45	10,401
Miscellaneous	240	1,297	529	3,817	48	5,931
Total expenses before depreciation	9,410	50,829	15,957	330,605	1,714	408,515
Depreciation	71	320	142	2,416		2,949
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,481	\$51,149	\$16,099	\$333,021	\$1,714	\$411,464

See notes to financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 1981**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. (AIO) have been prepared on the accrual basis. The significant accounting policies followed are described below.

Property and Depreciation

Property acquisitions in excess of \$50 are capitalized. Depreciation is provided utilizing the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Grants and Contributions

All grants and contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor.

Those restricted by the donor, grantor, or other outside party for a particular operating purpose are deemed to be earned and reported as revenues when expenditures are incurred in compliance with the specific restrictions. Such amounts received but not yet earned are reported as deferred revenue. Those restricted to acquisition of property are a direct credit to the restricted fund balance, and will be

transferred to the property fund at such time the funds are expended for the designated purpose.

Donated Materials and Services

Donated materials are recorded at estimated fair market values. Donated services have been recorded at amounts paid individuals in equivalent positions, or at amounts indicated by the donor in the case of professional services.

Other donated services of a substantial number of volunteers who have donated significant portions of time in AIO's program services and fund raising efforts are not shown in the accompanying financial statements inasmuch as no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

2. FUND TRANSFERS

Property Fund

Expenditures during the year from the general fund for property and equipment are treated as a reduction of the general fund balance and recorded as additions to the property fund.

SUPPORTING SERVICES

TOTAL EXPENSES

Fund Raising	Administration	TOTAL	1981	1980
\$ 4,527	\$20,897	\$25,424	\$163,489	\$195,863
1,484	6,599	8,083	42,430	36,494
6,011	27,496	33,507	205,919	232,357
1,935	28,856	30,791	83,221	71,099
6,446	3,107	9,553	56,446	28,390
385	2,258	2,643	15,644	15,272
347	2,037	2,384	33,154	13,254
2,944	1,993	4,937	81,594	46,747
357	2,098	2,455	12,856	13,917
385	2,259	2,644	8,575	8,178
18,810	70,104	88,914	497,429	429,214
107	497	604	3,553	3,137
\$18,917	\$70,601	\$89,518	\$500,982	\$432,351

Restricted Fund

An excess of deficiency of revenues over expenses in the restricted funds is transferred to the unrestricted fund balance at the completion of each project.

3. FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities at AIO have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

AUDITOR'S OPINION

Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc.:

We have examined the balance sheets of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. as of October 31, 1981 and 1980 and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year ended October 31, 1981. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. as of October 31, 1981 and 1980 and the results of its operations and changes in fund balances for the year ended October 31, 1981, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis during the two years ended October 31, 1981.

Our examinations were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules are presented for the purpose of showing the composition of the restricted funds balance sheet and statement of support, revenue, and expenses (excluding the notes thereto) by restricted grant rather than the financial position and results of operations of the individual restricted grants and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplemental schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examinations of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion are fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

November 30, 1981

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE - BALANCE SHEET
BY RESTRICTED GRANT OR FUND
OCTOBER 31, 1981**

	Environmental Health (ANA, BIA IHS, DOE, DOL, EPA)	Environmental Protection Agency	University Of Oklahoma	Field Foundation	Restricted For Property Acquisition	TOTAL
Assets						
Cash	\$ 65,143					\$ 65,143
Due From Unrestricted Fund				\$21,174	\$5,000	26,174
Grants Receivable	64,363	\$1,499	\$5,665	—	—	71,527
TOTAL	\$129,506	\$1,499	\$5,665	\$21,174	\$5,000	\$162,844
Liabilities						
Due To Unrestricted Fund		\$1,499				\$1,499
Deferred Revenue	\$129,506		\$5,665	\$21,174		156,345
Fund Balance	—	—	—	—	\$5,000	5,000
TOTAL	\$129,506	\$1,499	\$5,665	\$21,174	\$5,000	\$162,844

See notes to financial statements.

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF SUPPORT, REVENUE
AND EXPENSES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
GRANT FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1981**

	Environmental Health (ANA, BIA,) IHS, DOE, DOL, EPA)
Public Support And Revenue:	
Grants and contributions	\$264,126
Interest revenue	3,769
Total public support and revenue	267,895
Expenses:	
Salaries and payroll tax	102,475
Fringe benefits	25,030
TOTAL	127,505
Professional fees	15,998
Office supplies, printing, and postage	27,674
Office rental	9,385
Equipment rental	19,339
Travel and conferences	57,328
Telephone	7,368
Miscellaneous	3,298
Total expenses	\$267,895
Excess Of Public Support Over Expenses	\$ —0—

NOTE: All grants as indicated at page 7 do not appear on this schedule due to inactivity during 1981.

See notes to financial statements



**AMERICANS
FOR
INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY**

Suite 301
1140 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 463-8635

Contributions to AIO
are tax deductible

1970
1971
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1980

Self-determination for Native Americans

AIO ➔

Letter from the President

When Americans for Indian Opportunity was formed as a national Indian organization in Washington, D.C. in February of 1970, we had little idea of where the Indian community — or the country — might be ten years later. What we did know, then, was that American Indians ranked at the bottom in virtually every social and economic measurement — housing, health, employment, family income, educational level. We thought something ought to be done about these dreadful statistics — and we started out to do it, with the help of dedicated board members, staff members, officers, leaders of other Indian organizations, and sensitive, interested non-Indians.

Looking back over the past ten years, now it is clear that the problems have not been solved in any final or total sense. It is also clear that a lot of good changes have come during the past decade — and that AIO has been in the forefront of these changes, often pioneering the concepts involved.

As our 1971 Annual Report stated: "The organization stands for self-determination, the right of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts, individually and collectively, to make their own decisions, run their own programs and do things their own way. AIO believes that Native Americans are entitled to a fair share and to equality of opportunity, while still retaining the right to be different — a fundamental American Ideal." Those are still our beliefs.

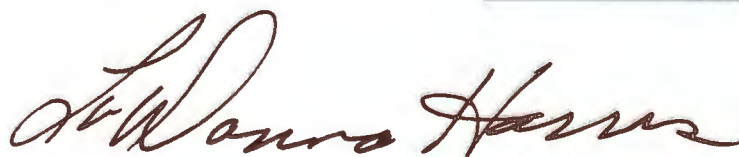
Our 1973 Annual Report pointed out that AIO seeks to achieve its objectives and purposes as follows:

- To provide technical assistance to local Indian tribes and groups as they strive to improve conditions in their local communities.
- To act as an advocate for Indian people on the national level and with the federal government.
- To act as a catalyst for action and at the same time to serve as a unifying force in the Indian community.
- To advise and educate non-Indian institutions on Indian issues and on their responsibilities to the Indian community.
- To seek and develop opportunities for Native Americans to participate in the larger non-Indian society while maintaining pride in their Indian culture and heritage.

During the past ten years, we have seen — and have helped to lead — a resurgence of pride in Indianness, a closer sense of community among Native Americans, a greater recognition by the federal government that the government's trust responsibility is "government wide," not just centered in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an increased understanding by the federal government that Indians are Indians, no matter where they live, in urban areas or in traditional areas, increased assertion by American Indians that, through their tribal organizations, they are entitled to govern themselves and control their own natural resources, recognition in the courts and by local, state, and federal governments that Indian tribes are units of government and must be dealt with as such, and widespread awareness among American Indians that they can exercise far greater control over their own cultures, economy, governments, and environments, than was earlier understood.

With each forward step of progress taken by American Indians and Indian tribes, new and different challenges have developed. As tribes have begun to strengthen their governments, rather than leaving government decisions to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or others, internal controversies have been generated. As Indian individuals and tribes have begun to assert more aggressively their civil, political, and economic rights, non-Indians who had benefitted from earlier Indian passivity have often been hostilely resistant.

So, Americans for Indian Opportunity's work goes on — and must continue to work with all Americans who believe in Indian Opportunity — until American Indians, individually and collectively, truly can be said to fully possess the American right to participate in the social, political, economic, and environmental decisions which affect their lives. We thank all those who have helped — and continue to help — in this struggle.



LaDonna Harris
President



AIO's Philosophy

American Indians, or Native Americans, are, of course, U.S. citizens, with all of the same rights and privileges that other citizens have. But they are unlike any other ethnic group in America in that they also have "dual citizenship" and "dual entitlement."

Dual citizenship of American Indians who are members of Indian tribes means that, like all American citizens (although this was not spelled out clearly until a 1924 Act of Congress), American Indians are first, American citizens, (as a result of which, by operation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, they have state citizenship, too) and, second, they are *also* citizens of the Indian tribes of which they are members. Because of treaties, constitutional provisions, acts of Congress, and decisions of the federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, the tribal governments of American Indians — unlike *private* organizations of other ethnic groups, are *units of government*.

Dual entitlement means that American Indians are not only entitled to all of the services of the federal government that all other citizens are entitled to, they are also entitled to additional services because of legal binding agreements set out in treaties, constitutional provisions and acts of Congress which have been upheld by decisions of federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Who is an American Indian? An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe. Only a tribe can determine who its members are. AIO believes that there are legitimate Indian tribes that have not been recognized as such by the Federal government and we support their right to establish their credentials. We also believe strongly, as affirmed by the Snyder Act, that an American Indian is an Indian wherever he or she decides to live — on reservation or off reservation — and is therefore entitled to all benefits allowed any tribal

member. AIO recognizes that the relocation and termination policies of the Federal government in the early fifties did severe damage to the fabric of the Indian community and puts a great deal of effort into reversing those policies and trying to heal the wounds they inflicted. AIO has always seen all American Indians as our constituents.

Self-Determination. We believe that self-determination for American Indians means, among other things, that there must be full political self-government for American Indians and economic self-sufficiency, including the right to control their own economic resources. We have fought for every measure which would strengthen tribal

"Many social and economic problems that we face have been caused by non-Indian actions towards us, but they are not going to be solved by non-Indian actions. They are only going to be solved by Indian actions. I think that failure to begin building the social, economic, and political systems that we need to care for our people will be the larger failure."

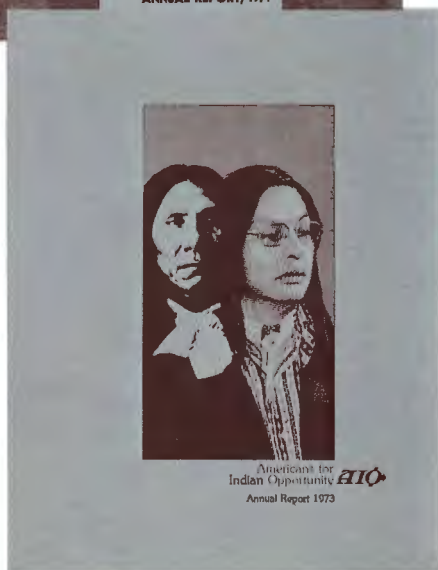
A. David Lester - Creek - 1980

governments and have aided tribes to make their governments more viable. We also believe that no people are truly free unless they control their own economic resources. There has been a great deal of colonialism in relations with American Indians and Indian tribes — both by paternalistic government officials and by private corporations. AIO pioneered the concept that American Indian tribes are much like developing nations and that, even though they might have the appearance of self-government, following a change in the colonial

situation they did not really have self-government as long as outside, non-Indian interests controlled their resources.

AIO is neither anti-development or pro-development in regard to tribal economic resources. We are anti-exploitation. We have worked to help tribes wrest back control of their own natural resources, so that they can make their own economic decisions, and, should they decide in favor of one or another kind of development of such resources, we have worked to see that they understand the trade-offs involved in those decisions — cultural, environmental, and economic.

In the early 1800's, U.S. Supreme Court decisions made clear that the role of tribal governments in the U.S. federal system and the relationship between the U.S. government and American Indians is a unique one, unlike any other relationship in our system. We think the right to be different is a fundamental right in this country, that America never was, and never should have been, a "melting pot," with everyone having to look alike, speak alike, worship alike, or act alike. In recent years, American Indians wherever they live — on reservation or off-reservation — have gained enormous personal strength from increased pride in Indianness. They have reached out to each other — across tribal lines, cultures, and languages — to find renewed strength and a sense of community in each other. They are helping to show Americans that the right to be different is a fundamental right in this country — a good one for the country and for the people involved. They are helping to show, also — out of their traditional respect for the earth and living things — that all life is interdependent and that humans must assume greater responsibility for the protection of the earth's environment. These are important contributions which can have growing significance in America.



Just as the strength of American Indians is in the Indian community itself, so is the strength of AIO. From the very first, we have made it one of our principal aims to help pull the Indian community together, so that American Indians can realize the full impact of our influence.

That fact that over 300 Indian tribes, most with differing languages and cultures, can work together so closely in their common interests should be an inspiration for the non-Indian society in America. We have some disagreements among ourselves of course, but whether we live in the cities or on reservations, Native Americans agree on the fundamental issues that affect our lives: education, jobs, health, treaty rights, self-determination, tribal sovereignty, and the right to be different.

AIO began very early to share information with other Indian

American Indians Working Together

organizations, tribes, and individuals so that concerted action could develop on central issues. AIO started a weekly "Thursday meeting" in Washington including all Washington-based Indian organizations, the Indian Desks in Federal agencies, and representatives of educational and religious organizations. This engendered increased cooperation on important matters, and helped share staff work and spread information. After AIO moved its national headquarters to New Mexico, we continued this

timely manner. The "Red Alert" is a newsletter which is mailed to all Indian tribes and organizations, with subject matters ranging from government programs and information on funding sources to new regulations and announcement of impending policy decisions on which American Indians may have some impact. The "Red Alert" has proved to be very popular and useful in Indian country, as well as within the non-Indian sector.

Officers and staff members of Americans for Indian Opportunity work very closely with other Indian organizations, such as the National Congress of American Indians. We work closely with the Native American Rights Fund in regard to lobbying and advocacy. We participate in most of the national conventions and meetings of other national and regional Indian organizations. We share information with other Indian organizations and with Indian tribes through local and regional meetings, making presentations concerning present-day issues. We continue to work closely with the Council of Energy Resource Tribes whenever we can be helpful toward Indian control of Indian resources. At our own meetings, we invite representatives of other national Indian organizations. In 1980, for example, the principal officers of the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairmen's Association took an active part in seminars on modern problems which were sponsored by AIO at its annual Board meeting.

As AIO develops new reports and new materials on particular issues, we share them with other Indian organizations, both general and specialized. For example, our reports and materials in regard to the environmental impacts of resource development were shared in meetings such as the National Indian Physician's Association, the National Indian Social Workers Association, the National Indian Nurses Association, and the National Indian Health Board.



Brothers: When we look into the history of our race, we see some green spots that are pleasing to us. We also find many things to make the heart sad. When we look upon the first council-fire kindled by our forefathers, when the pipe of peace was smoked in brotherly friendship between the different nations of red people, our hearts rejoice in the goodness of our Creator in having thus united the heart and hand of the red man in peace.

For it is in peace only that our women and children can enjoy happiness and increase in numbers.

By peace our condition has been improved in the pursuit of life. We should, therefore, extend the hand of friendship from tribe to tribe, until peace shall be established between every nation of red men within the reach of our voice.

John Ross - Cherokee - 1843



function by holding regular receptions and other meetings in Washington when AIO officers and staff members are there on important business.

In addition, AIO uses such vehicles as the "Red Alert" to inform the total Indian community of crucial issues in a

Coalition With Others

Solidarity and mutual support are essential in the Indian community if we are to have greater control of our own lives. But, we also need non-Indian allies — and we have been fortunate to find them at crucial times. We found them, for example, when we were working to get new legislation passed to restore federal recognition of the Menominee Indian tribe. Church and women's organizations were particularly helpful then, as they were later, when we were successful in getting legislation passed to return Havasupai lands in the Grand Canyon.

In the interest of coalition-building, AIO's officers and staff appear before many non-Indian groups. They give lectures, invite non-Indian representatives to AIO meetings, and join together on general issues, such as environmental issues, with non-Indian organizations like the Environmental Action Foundation. AIO's officers attend the meetings of other non-Indian organizations with similar interests, such as the 1980 Annual Dinner of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Urban League. AIO's President also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the U.S. Commission on UNESCO, using their meetings as a way of spreading information about the problems and needs which face American Indians.

As another means of coalition-building, AIO continues to accept a number of non-Indian interns and volunteers to work in our national office — from Dartmouth College, Gettysburg College, the University of New Mexico, and from some church groups. Invariably, these interns and volunteers go away, back to their communities, yet they leave with an increased awareness of the problems American Indians face and greater sense of advocacy for helping to solve these problems.

AIO's President serves on a number of the national boards of non-Indian organizations, and continues to take



part in a number of non-Indian meetings and conferences. AIO holds meetings with corporate executives to encourage them to include Indians when considering contributions of their corporate trust funds. AIO has successfully involved a number of major corporations in providing

"Indian institutions of government are an integral part of the federal system, and I think that it's possible to convince the larger public that the concept of Indian rights to self-government are not radically different from the rights that they have secured for themselves, and, therefore, is not revolutionary but rather red, white, and blue Americanism."

A. David Lester - Creek - 1980

technical assistance to Indian tribes. Perhaps most importantly, we have encouraged them to make financial investment partnerships with Indian tribes.

AIO's efforts towards coalition-building among non-Indians will continue to increase the strength of the Indian cause in America.

National Advocacy

From the very first, AIO has been a strong voice for American Indian concerns to local, state, and federal governments. Our 1971 Annual Report states, for example, "support was given to the Administration's stated policy of self-determination for Native Americans." As a matter of fact, AIO's President helped draft President Nixon's landmark message on that subject. The 1971 Annual Report also details AIO's efforts in support of Indian control of Indian education, the revision of the Johnson-O'Malley regulations helping them to better serve American Indian children, support for the Taos Pueblo Blue Lake restoration, for the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for increased appropriations for Indian Health Services.

That record of advocacy continued throughout the past decade. The 1973 Annual Report, for example, details how AIO formed a national conference on "Justice and Native Americans," a conference which brought together Indians, law enforcement officials, and U.S. Justice Department

representatives. This resulted in a television documentary film and a list of important law enforcement recommendations which were widely adopted. The 1973 Annual Report also called attention to the fact that AIO caused important improvements to be made in the regulations implementing the Indian Claims Distribution Act.

The 1976-1977 Annual Report lists other advocacy successes: "Raising the head of the Indian Desk in the Department of Agriculture to the level of Special Assistant to the Secretary, seeing that Indian interests were protected in legislation and administration of laws pertaining to safe drinking water, clean air, and pesticides; securing the Federal Energy Administration's continued support of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes; securing Interior Department regulations protecting Indian tribes in mineral development contracts, separate from the Department's regulations concerning federal public lands; getting Indian tribes included along with States in President Carter's Energy Message." These are only the highlights of those years.

The 1978 Annual Report pointed out: "As a result of this kind of AIO activity, the U.S. Department of Energy has created an Indian division, and the department has determined to deal directly with Indian tribes as political entities and give support to the Council of Energy Resource Tribes."

"Another example of our advocacy role is our work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This agency has now activated an internal working group with a specific coordinator to insure that Indian concerns are heard throughout the agency, that EPA deals directly with tribes as political entities, and that Indian tribes are informed about EPA laws and programs."

"We have been successful in helping expand the concern of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture with Indian needs and have helped the Department move toward making their programs more applicable to Indian tribes."

"Our efforts have helped bring about the enactment of new legislation to elevate the head of Indian housing in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the level of Assistant to the Secretary."

"We have maintained close liaison with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and with members of the White House staff, and we have intervened with them at crucial times in regard to Indian legislation, federal regulations concerning Indians, and the funding of Indian programs."

"In the U.S. Department of the Interior, we have helped set up, together with the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, a meeting on Indian water rights. We helped make sure that the Bureau of Mines and other divisions within the Department of the Interior worked directly with Indian tribes as political entities. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has instituted a program for providing natural resource inventories to tribes. AIO played a major role in the institution of this program."

"AIO was asked by the Office of Indian Education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to conduct a regional training seminar for school administrators and Indian parents on the subject of Indian education programs. The Office of Indian Education officials state that this seminar, which was held in October, 1977, was the best such seminar ever held, and that it was the only one that had enjoyed participation by Indian students."

During 1979, and again in 1980, AIO was active in securing the extension of the life of the Senate Select Committee on

Indian Affairs. We worked closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and helped sponsor a Small Farms Conference. AIO hosted the White House Fellows during their tour to the Southwest and briefed them on Indian issues. Both the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Indian Religious Freedom Act were passed with AIO's support and active efforts.

AIO has continued to work closely with key committees and members of Congress, providing information and marshaling influence from Indians and non-Indians in regard to pending legislation. As the Reagan administration took office, a representative of AIO appeared to

Our fight for existence is today, not in the future. Our lands, our waters, our air, our fish and wildlife, and our right to utilize and protect them, must be foremost in our minds at all times.

Colville Representative - 1980

testify at the confirmation hearings for the Reagan appointment as Secretary of the Interior, not with any thought of blocking the nomination, but with the desire to make sure the nominee affirmed his own personal support of the statements of President Reagan in favor of Indian political self-government and economic self-sufficiency; which he did, on the record.

More than any other people, Native Americans are greatly affected by what the Federal government does. AIO's work, therefore, necessarily requires close and continued contact with the Congress and with Federal agencies and departments on behalf of Indian people.



Indians of the Hemisphere

From the beginning, AIO felt a need to establish closer contact with native peoples of various countries, particularly the native peoples of this hemisphere. Thus, our 1973 Annual Report calls attention to a conference on native people of the North American continent, which AIO sponsored in conjunction with the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, and the Johnson Foundation. This conference discussed common interests and problems, and developed a beginning strategy for focusing international attention on Indian issues. The conference proceedings were videotaped for television and educational purposes. AIO believes that closer cooperation with native peoples of other countries, and especially native peoples of this hemisphere, can help produce a better climate within this country for progress on American Indian problems and needs.

At our 1980 Board meeting, a number of AIO Board members expressed the feeling that AIO should increase its efforts toward closer cooperation and contact with native peoples of this hemisphere. Similar sentiments were expressed by invited guests, such as Ron Andrade, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, and Gerald Wilkinson, Executive Director of the National Indian Youth Council. Accordingly, AIO's President has been working closely with the U.S. Commission of UNESCO and its Executive Board, drawing greater attention to the problems of Native

Americans of this hemisphere. She has had conversations on this subject with such officials as the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States,

It is for reviving the ancient talk of our forefathers, and of perpetuating forever the old fire and pipe of peace brought from the east, and of extending them from nation to nation, and for adopting such international laws as may be necessary to redress the wrongs which may be done by individuals of our respective nations upon each other, that you have been invited to attend the present council.

Let us so then act that the peace and friendship which so happily existed between our forefathers, may be forever preserved; and that we may always live as brothers of the same family.

John Ross - Cherokee - 1843

Gale McGee, and in 1980, she attended and presented a paper at the Eighth Inter-American Indigenous Congress in Merida, Mexico.

AIO believes that by reaching out to other native peoples, particularly of this hemisphere, assistance can be given to them, strength can be drawn from them, and greater pressures can be generated for solutions to Native American problems in this country.

Strengthening Tribal Governments and Improving Indian Life

Challenges facing tribal governments have mounted rapidly in recent years because of court decisions and new acts of Congress. Tribes moved rapidly to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction on the reservation and assert increasing control over their reservation resources. AIO sees it as its central role to strengthen tribal governments and assist the tribes toward economic self-sufficiency.

Back in 1974, AIO sponsored a national meeting of Indian leaders, government officials, and knowledgeable consultants in regard to Indian natural resources. Out of this meeting came the concept of Indian tribes as

"It is my opinion that the most important Indian right, and this is taking into account treaty rights, any other rights that we have as Indians, our most important right is the right to self-government. Indian self-government is not derived from the federal government. It is derived from the tribal society, itself. In order to be able to exercise that right, we do need the label of recognition, but that recognition does not confer on Indian government the right to self-government. Only the tribal people, tribal members, can confer on tribal government the right to govern."

A. David Lester - Creek - 1980

developing nations, which could not really have self-government until they controlled their own resources. This national meeting was followed by a series of regional seminars for tribal leaders and a contract with the U.S. Economic Development Administration

providing assistance to tribal leaders. A textbook was produced, written, and edited by Maggie Gover, "You Don't Have to be Poor to be Indian."

All of this began when AIO asked the question: "If we have some of the richest lands, minerals, and other natural resources, why are we still the poorest people in the United States?" AIO's seminars and studies showed that money which came to the reservations from the outside did not stay on the reservation, but was spent off the reservation, because of a lack of Indian businesses, enterprises, and infrastructure. Out of this came a publication detailing the problem, "We, the People(s)." AIO's seminars and studies also showed that Indians did not benefit from their own resources as they should because somebody else controlled their resources and the management of them. The Council of Energy Resource Tribes was established to wrest back Indian control of Indian resources. The U.S. Department of Energy established an Indian office and an Indian energy policy.

From these steps, we moved one step further. We came to the conclusion that Indian tribal governments would have to be strengthened so they could protect themselves from the negative effects of economic development. We sponsored conferences on the "realities of reclamation," bringing together Indian tribal officials and federal agencies. We held seminars on tribal environment and control — involving pesticides, model environmental codes, reclamation, and possible state-tribal compacts.

Every new experience led us to another step. We are now engaged in a project

to assess the environmental health impacts of development on Indian communities and the roles of government agencies charged with the responsibilities for various aspects of environmental protection and individual safety. Our earlier projects made us acutely aware that tribal governments are, as are other governmental entities including the federal government, making daily decisions with far reaching effects with very little information regarding the impacts of those decisions. We are also convinced that while there are many federal agencies that have certain responsibilities for protecting the nation's environment and health, very

"The land, air and water, are the living creatures which inhabit these realms, are interwoven with and essential to human life. Many may take what is needed, even that which will add to his comfort and enjoyment of life. The taking must be done, however, with a sense of respect and responsibility. For mankind to use up or poison the natural resources upon which he depends is not only unlawful, but suicidal."

Governor Wilfred Pehrson - Penobscot
1980

little is understood about cumulative environmental and health impacts, and even less coordination and information exchange goes on between responsible agencies. There appear to be both gaps and overlaps in areas of responsibility.

We have begun to make an assessment of the environmental and health hazards of resource and other



economic development and of federal programs. We are providing the information we develop to tribal decision-makers in regional seminars, Red Alerts, and Red Papers on subjects such as asbestos, low level radiation, timber, mineral and agricultural development.

A final report will be prepared incorporating this information. We are also preparing a handbook on the federal agencies involved in various areas of environmental and/or health regulation and service delivery for the use of the tribes.

This project is unique in that we have the financial support of six federal agencies as well as their active participation in every phase of the project. Those agencies are the Departments of Labor and Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service with the Administration for Native Americans as the lead agency. The Departments of Agriculture and Transportation are also participating in the seminars.

The primary goal of this project is that tribes will develop their own individual systems for incorporating environmental and health concerns in all their decision-making. The Federal government has not been able to develop such a system nor have the states. AIO believes that tribes can and will lead the way in community environmental and health protection systems. Thus they will not only protect their own peoples, they will make a major contribution to the nation as a whole.

AIO is proud of the role it has played in bringing environmental health concerns to the attention of the Indian community and to the various federal agencies. Changes are already underway, the most prominent being that the Environmental Protection Agency has now issued a national Indian Policy statement.

In all of this, we have been guided by U.S. law as it pertains to American Indians, particularly as set forth in two principle early Supreme Court cases, *Cherokee v. Georgia* and *Worcester v.*

Georgia, and more recent cases, such as *Wheeler v. U.S.* These decisions make clear that Indian tribes are "distinct, independent, political communities, retaining their original natural rights," that tribes and their members have a "unique relationship" with the federal government, and that tribes, today, have all the inherent powers of sovereignty which they have not specifically given or had taken away from them.

AIO believes that by complying with its legal and other obligations to American Indians, the United States can reaffirm its own dedication to justice for all, can see the strength in pluralism among all our people — Indians and others — and can, through tribal governments, deliver services to people at the most close-to-the-people level. In the process, other Americans can learn from the principles and heritage that American Indians bring to the total American community.

AIO STAFF AND THEIR TITLES

LaDonna Harris -	President & Executive Director
Maggie Gover -	Program Director & Assistant to the President
Mary Alice Archuleta -	Administrative Assistant/Conference Coordinator
Regis Pecos -	Research Director/Assistant to the Program Director
Jon Jantzen -	Editor/Writer
Kim Kinsey -	Researcher/Conference Coordinator
Ed M. Paz -	Accountant/Financial Administrator
Julie Caton -	Project Secretary
Teresa Trujillo -	Executive Secretary to the President
Julia Provost -	Researcher/Conference Coordinator
Sandy Begay -	Receptionist

Americans for Indian Opportunity Board of Directors

James Abourezk of South Dakota was the first Lebanese American elected to the United States Senate. He was one of the greatest civil libertarians and consumer advocates that served in the U.S. Senate, especially on behalf of American Indians. He now has law offices in Washington, D.C.

Bill Alcalda is a member of the Chemehuevi tribe of Parker, Arizona. He is now Manager of the Colorado River Indian Tribal Farm, which he helped create, and is one of the most recognized and successful tribal enterprises in the country.

Lionel Bordeaux is a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe. He is a distinguished educator and is one of the founders of the Sinte Gleska Community College in South Dakota. Lionel was later made President of the college.

Joan Bordman is a member of the Sioux tribe and is presently living in Newark, California. She excels strongly in community organizing and the use of organizational development techniques to bring about social change. Joan is now in private consultation practice.

Edgan Bowen, from Myrtle Point, Oregon, now serves as Chief of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indian tribes. He has 25 years teaching experience and 17 of those years were spent as a teaching Principal.

Mary Jo Butterfield of Neah Bay, Washington, is a former member of the Makah Tribal Council. She is an advocate for Indian children and families. Mary Jo is also a member of the President's Commission on Mental Health for Indians, the National Indian Lutheran Board, and other distinguished groups.

Ron Cournoyer is a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe. He is presently living in Sarasota, Florida where he owns a consulting firm. Ron is the former Director of the United South Eastern Tribes.

Eugene Crawford, a member of the Sisseton Sioux tribe, is the first American Indian staff member of a Lutheran organization. He serves as Director for Indian Services in the Division of Mission Services of the Lutheran Council in the USA. Gene gives daily and valuable support to American Indian individuals, tribes, and organizations.

Ada E. Deer is a member of the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin. She is a former Chairperson of her tribe and pursues an outstanding career in social work. She was a strong figure in her tribe's regaining federal recognition. She has served on many prominent national boards and commissions and is now a lobbyist for the Native American Rights Fund.

Andrew Ebona is a member of the Tlingit-Haida tribe of Alaska. He has the distinction of being the only former AIO staff member who made it to AIO's Board of Directors. He is the former Director of the United Indian Planners Association and is now the Executive Director of the Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida.

Coy Eklund, a native of Minnesota, is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States based in New York. He is a leading corporate executive in areas of corporate responsibility and is an outstanding advocate on women's rights and human rights.

LaDonna Harris is a member of the Comanche Tribe. She is President and Executive Director of Americans for Indian Opportunity. LaDonna is a noted human rights and political activist and has served on the Boards of many national organizations including Common Cause, National Organization of Women, National Women's Political Caucus, and the National Urban League.

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh is a former Director of the State Commission on Civil Rights. He is a devout human rights activist and now serves as President of the University of Notre Dame.

Minerva Jenkins is originally from the Fort Mojave Reservation in Arizona. She has served on the Tribal Council and has helped on many important decisions. Minerva has given many distinguished services to her tribe and to all Indian people.

Louis LaRose is a member of the Winnebago tribe in Winnebago, Nebraska. He is a nationally recognized Indian leader and philosopher. Louis has served as Chairman of his tribe as well as many other honorable positions.

Charles Lohah is a member of the Osage tribe of Oklahoma. He has served as a judge, a professor at Antioch College and a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund. He helped in establishing and organizing CERT, of which he is now a staff member.

Grace McCullah is a member of the Navajo tribe. She is presently Executive Director of the Indian Development District of Arizona in Phoenix. Grace was selected as one of five American women noted for outstanding contribution to the economic development endeavors of American communities in the United States.

Bette Mele is a member of the Seneca Nation of the Alleghany Reservation in New York State. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She is former President of the Indian Rights Association. Bette is a strong defender of Indian rights and an advocate for women's rights.

Edwin M. Mitchell is a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, Indian Island, Old Town, Maine. At present he is the Lt. Governor of the Penobscot Nation. Edwin has also served on many Tribal Boards and is the present Chairman of the Police and Safety Commission.

Jerry Muskrat, an Oklahoma Cherokee, now living in California, is an Associate Professor of Law. He is also author of outstanding publications in the area of Indian law.

Morgan Otis, Jr. is a member of the Kiowa and Arapaho tribes. At present he is an Associate Professor for the School of Education at California State University, Sacramento. He is an outstanding educator and author of many Indian educational publications.

Ray Paddock is President of the Tlingit-Haida tribe of Alaska. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Goldbelt Corporation located in Juneau, Alaska. Ray is an ex-officio Board member of AIO.

Elma Patterson, of the Tuscarora tribe, presently lives in Lewiston, New York. Her specialty is social work and she now works in the New York State Department of Social Services Office of Indian Services. Elma has received many awards for "Outstanding Work."

Calvin Peters is now the Executive Director of the Squaxin Island tribe of Washington State. He has also been active in the Small Tribes of Western Washington and has been an important facilitator in the struggle to help Indian people attain a higher standard of living while still maintaining their Indian heritage.

Allen Rowland is a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe and presently resides in Lame Deer, Montana. He is Chairman of his tribe and serves on the Executive Board of CERT. Allen is a distinguished leader in the area of Indian natural resources, particularly in the area of environmental control.

Jack Rushing is a member of the Creek Nation and is now residing in New York State. He is currently practicing law and investment banking.

Joe Sando, noted author, lecturer, and teacher, is a native New Mexican, born in Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico. He is a well-known authority on "The Pueblo Indians," which is the title of one of his several important books.

Vicki Santana is a member of the Blackfeet tribe and now lives in Browning, Montana. She is an outstanding young Indian woman lawyer. She served as Senior Staff Attorney at the American Indian Law Center, University of New Mexico, on the Indian Religious Freedom Project.

Eddie Tullis, member of the Alabama Creek tribe, is a strong advocate for non-federally recognized tribes. He is regional Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians and is recognized as a national Indian leader.

Jake Whitecrow is a member of the Seneca, Quapaw, and Cayuga tribes. He is the former Chairman of his tribe and has served on the American Indian Policy Review Commission. He is now the Director of the National Indian Health Board.

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**BALANCE SHEETS,
OCTOBER 31, 1980 and 1979**

Assets	1980	1979
Unrestricted Fund		
Cash (including savings of \$31,627 in 1980 and \$30,077 in 1979)	\$217,550	\$ 52,244
Receivables:		
Grants		1,500
Due from restricted funds	44,083	91,380
Accounts	1,449	6,141
Employee advances	4,890	3,332
Total receivables	50,422	102,353
Other Assets	7,450	5,741
TOTAL	\$275,422	\$160,338
Restricted Funds		
Cash	\$ 91,853	\$ 43,896
Due From Unrestricted Fund	141,750	35,523
Grants Receivable	231,451	429,603
TOTAL	\$465,054	\$509,022
Property Fund		
FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT - At cost less accumulated depreciation: 1980, \$16,049; 1979, \$12,912	\$ 9,362	\$ 10,945
Liabilities and Fund Balances	1980	1979
Unrestricted Fund		
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,170	\$ 7,405
Accrued and Other Liabilities	13,099	21,020
Due to Restricted Funds	141,750	35,523
Total Liabilities	159,019	63,948
Fund Balance	116,403	96,390
TOTAL	\$275,422	\$160,338
Restricted Funds		
Due to Unrestricted Fund	\$ 44,083	\$ 91,380
Deferred Revenue - Designated for Future Periods	420,971	417,642
TOTAL	\$465,054	\$509,022
Property Fund		
FUND BALANCE	\$ 9,362	\$ 10,945

See notes to financial statements.

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1980 WITH
COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1979**

		1980				
	NOTES	UNRESTRICTED FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	PROPERTY FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS 1980	1979
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:						
Public support:						
Grants and contributions		\$130,125	\$259,116		\$389,241	\$315,051
Donated services		17,420			17,420	27,914
Gifts in kind		33,246			33,246	22,212
Other		9,447			9,447	3,296
Total public support		190,238	259,116		449,354	368,473
Interest revenue		1,427			1,427	1,488
Total public support and revenue		191,665	259,116		450,781	369,961
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Community services		16,032		282	16,314	11,211
Education and information dissemination		40,974		722	41,696	19,018
Federal agencies liaison		7,125		125	7,250	13,078
Natural resources		51,663	251,066	910	303,639	257,907
Lobbying		1,783		31	1,814	3,738
Total program services		117,577	251,066	2,070	370,713	304,952
Supporting services:						
Fund raising		7,125		125	7,250	7,474
Administration		53,446		942	54,388	37,368
Total supporting services		60,571		1,067	61,638	44,842
Total expenses		178,148	251,066	3,137	432,351	349,794
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES						
		13,517	8,050	(3,137)	<u>\$ 18,430</u>	<u>\$ 20,167</u>
FUND TRANSFERS:						
Restricted funds 2		8,050	(8,050)			
Property		(1,554)		1,554		
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		96,390		10,945		
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR		\$116,403		\$ 9,362		

See notes to financial statements.

**AMERICANS
FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1980
AND COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1979**

PROGRAM SERVICES						
	Community Services	Education and Information Dissemination	Federal Agencies Liaison	Natural Resources	Lobbying	TOTAL
Salaries and payroll taxes	\$ 4,803	\$12,275	\$2,135	\$157,970	\$ 534	\$177,717
Fringe benefits	1,049	2,680	466	28,220	117	32,532
Total	5,852	14,955	2,601	186,190	651	210,249
Professional fees	6,333	16,185	2,815	21,136	704	47,173
Office supplies, printing and postage	953	2,436	424	20,869	106	24,788
Office rental (See Note 4)	347	889	154	12,529	39	13,958
Equipment rental	275	703	122	11,084	31	12,215
Travel and conferences	1,479	3,780	657	35,080	164	41,160
Telephone	344	879	152	11,206	38	12,619
Miscellaneous	449	1,147	200	4,635	50	6,481
Total expenses before depreciation	16,032	40,974	7,125	302,729	1,783	368,643
Depreciation	282	722	125	910	31	2,070
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,314	\$41,696	\$7,250	\$303,639	\$1,814	\$370,713

See notes to financial statements

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1980**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. (AIO) have been prepared on the accrual basis. The significant accounting policies followed are described below.

Property and Depreciation

Property acquisitions in excess of \$50 are capitalized. Depreciation is provided utilizing the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Grants and Contributions

All grants and contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor.

Those restricted by the donor, grantor, or other outside party for a particular purpose are deemed to be earned and reported as revenues when expenditures are incurred in compliance with the specific restrictions. Such amounts received but not yet earned are reported as deferred revenue.

Donated Materials and Services

Donated materials are recorded at estimated fair market values. Donated services have been recorded at amounts paid individuals in equivalent positions, or at amounts indicated by the donor in the case of professional services.

Other donated services of a substantial number of volunteers who have donated significant portions of time in AIO's program services and fund raising efforts are not shown in the accompanying financial statements inasmuch as no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

2. FUND TRANSFERS

Property Fund

Expenditures during the year from the general fund for property and equipment are treated as a reduction of the general fund balance and recorded as additions to the property fund.

Restricted Fund

An excess or deficiency of revenues over expenses in the restricted funds is transferred to the unrestricted fund balance at the completion of each project.

SUPPORTING SERVICES			TOTAL EXPENSES	
Fund Raising	Administration	TOTAL	1980	1979
\$2,135	\$16,011	\$18,146	\$195,863	\$158,399
466	3,496	3,962	36,494	22,003
2,601	19,507	22,108	232,357	180,402
2,815	21,111	23,926	71,099	55,086
424	3,178	3,602	28,390	19,157
154	1,160	1,314	15,272	13,232
122	917	1,039	13,254	8,349
657	4,930	5,587	46,747	53,375
152	1,146	1,298	13,917	11,399
200	1,497	1,697	8,178	5,859
7,125	53,446	60,571	429,214	346,859
125	942	1,067	3,137	2,935
\$7,250	\$54,388	\$61,638	\$432,351	\$349,794

3. FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities at AIO have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

4. COMMITMENT

AIO leases its office facilities and a copier under non-cancellable operating leases expiring through 1983. The office lease contains a yearly escalation clause based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index. The following is a schedule by years of future minimum rental payments required under the above leases as of October 31, 1980:

Year Ending October 31	Amount
1981	\$19,885
1982	15,205
1983	11,404
Total	<u>\$46,494</u>

Rental expense was \$28,586 for the year ended October 31, 1980.

AUDITORS' OPINION

Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc.:

We have examined the balance sheet of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. as of October 31, 1980 and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. at October 31, 1980 and the results of its operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Albuquerque, New Mexico
January 28, 1981



AMERICANS
FOR
INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY

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Contributions to AIO
are tax deductible

TO GOVERN AND TO BE GOVERNED: AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
AT THE CROSSROADS -- SEMINAR I

AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1983

7-10:00 p.m. Orientation and Introduction

LaDonna Harris, President
Americans for Indian Opportunity

AIO will explain purpose of project and participants will introduce themselves and be asked to briefly describe their expectations of the project.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1983

MODERATOR: James Caplinger
Charles F. Kettering Foundation

9:00-9:30 a.m. PRESENTATION -- CONCEPTS OF WESTERN POLITICAL
 PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Carey McWilliams
Department of Political Science
Rutgers University

9:30-11:00 Discussion: Traditional Tribal Government in
 Contrast to Western Political Thought

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-11:45 PRESENTATION: DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. POLITICAL
 PHILOSOPHY

Arthur Fleming
Director
National Coalition for Quality
Integrated Education

11:45-1:00 Discussion: Impact of U.S. Political Philosophy
 on Traditional Tribal Governing Structures

Suggested Topics: Ideal Concepts of Governance

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:30 PRESENTATION -- HISTORY OF FEDERAL POLICY AND
THE SHAPE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS -- (EARLY) 1776-1900

Veronica Tiller
President
Tiller Research, Inc.

2:30-4:00 Discussion: Which policies impacted the par-
ticipating tribes

4:00-4:30 Break

4:30-6:00 PRESENTATION -- HISTORY OF FEDERAL POLICY AND
THE SHAPE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS -- (MODERN) 1900-82

Dr. Joseph Jorgensen
Program in Comparative Culture
University of California, Irvine

Introduce Constitutional codes, ordinances,
other structures necessary for new responsibility;
OEO programs, We The People(s)..

7:00-8:00 Dinner

8:00-8:30 PRESENTATION: CURRENT FEDERAL POLICY

David Lester
Executive Director
Council of Energy Resource Tribes

8:30-10:00 Discussion: Impact of Current Federal Policy on
Tribal Government

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1983

9:00-12:00 PRESENTATION: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Brad Patterson
Senior Staff
Brookings Institute

Group Discussion: Comparisons Between Ideal
Concepts of Government and Reality. The Impact
of Federal Policy

AMERICANS FOR INDIAN OPPORTUNITY

TO GOVERN AND TO BE GOVERNED: AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
AT THE CROSSROADS -- SEMINAR I

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Americans for Indian Opportunity wishes to thank the following individuals for their invaluable cooperation and participation in preparing this seminar. These exceptional people have made this conference possible.

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Chairman Bernard Kahrahrhah - Comanche Tribal Council
Vice Chairman Joe Red Thunder - Fort Peck Tribal Council
Governor Edwin Martinez - Laguna Pueblo
Chairperson Lucille Chapman - Menominee Tribal Council
Chief Philip Martin - Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Council
Vice Chairman Jim Hill - Spokane Tribal Council
Chairman Reuben A. Snake, Jr. - Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

SPEAKERS

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Arthur Fleming - National Coalition for Quality Integrated Education, Washington, DC
Dr. Joseph G. Jorgensen - Program in Comparative Culture, University of California, Irvine
David Lester - Council of Energy Resource Tribes, Washington, DC
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Special thanks to the Johnson Foundation for the use of their Wingspread facilities.