



BEAR DANCE between proud braves and admiring maidens at annual Fort Duchesne festival is joined by a little girl who could not resist persistent rhythm of tribal drum.



LAWYER WILKINSON argued Utes' claim for 12 years. Here he talks to two tribal elders on parade ground of Fort Duchesne, built as a protection against Utes in 1879.



AT MEETING TO CONSIDER U.S. OFFER, A SHOW OF HANDS IDENTIFIES

THEY DANCE AND THINK BEFORE THEY TAKE GOVERNMENT OFFER

Along the road from their reservation to Fort Duchesne, Colo., the Utes recently headed for their annual festival. Some rode ponies, but most had Model Ts and trucks. At the fort the squaws prepared the buffalo meat and slyly told daughters how in years past the Bear Dance was the time for a maiden to win a brave. But before the feast could begin, there was the old matter of money to settle. In a tiny schoolhouse they crowded together and heard their lawyer, Ernest L. Wilkinson, tell them that the U.S. was ready to pay \$31.7 million for six million acres of their land. It contains at least 15 billion barrels of oil, five billion tons of coal and an undetermined amount of uranium ore. Silence greeted his announcement until he said it was the largest Indian judgment ever won. An aged Ute grunted, "*Hou,*" the Ute equivalent of "Hear." Then silence fell back on the close room. Though the lawyer insisted they approve the same day, the Utes would not be hurried. For two days and two nights, in between card games, buffalo feasts and the Bear Dance, they gathered in small circles to discuss the settlement. On the third afternoon they told their lawyer that they approved. He flew to Washington, where Congress must still vote the money to pay the claim, and the Utes returned to the reservation and planned how they would spend the money. It will not go to individuals but will be spent through the Bureau of Indian Affairs on schools, livestock and hospitals.