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To the Editor:

I was so happy to see the editorial last week entitled "Let Us Help Our Own First". The 1.5 million surviving American Indians are the most disadvantaged of all minority groups in the nation.

People from countries all over the world are given protection against discrimination in America so they will have good jobs and an American lifestyle so coveted in foreign countries. And yet, the American Indians who owned this great land before any of us and who should have this protection first, are the forgotten ones.

I am ashamed that we have treated them so terribly.

In the editorial the question was asked "How do we preserve the Stone Age culture and tradition of a people while integrating into the civilization of the nuclear age?" It was answered "With difficulty but with great care and great respect."

That's easy enough to say but how and what can we do to alleviate the problems and suffering of these people who were here before us?

We are responsible for their plight...we put them on reservations... we made them dependent on government handouts...and now we must take a stand to help them!

The only problem is how do we go about it? Who do we contact (our legislators?) to get the ball rolling to help these people before it is entirely too late? I would appreciate hearing from someone who knows these answers. Surely, if enough of us unite, we can help in some small way.



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