

You might wonder how Native Americans could suffer such poverty when Congress votes about \$3 billion dollars every year for the U.S. Government's obligations under treaties with the Indian tribes.

The sorry explanation is that the government's own bureaucracy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, siphons off 90¢ out of every dollar into bureaucratic waste, fraud and kickbacks before the money ever reaches the tribes!

Even former BIA Director Ross Swimmer says, "the Bureau keeps [Indians] poor."

Let me just mention a few of the government's crimes and blunders at the expense of Native Americans...scandals you probably haven't heard about before, because they're the Forgotten Minority —

- The BIA has spent most of this century and billions of dollars allegedly developing the economies of the Indian reservations. The result: 80% unemployment on the reservations nationwide.
- The Indian Health Service has a dismal record, treating Indian patients like animals. One I.H.S. doctor on the Rosebud Sioux reservation became known as the "Belly Button Packer" when he treated an Indian suffering from a bleeding ulcer by stuffing his navel with cotton!
- The BIA has allowed oil companies to loot billions of dollars of oil and gas from Indian lands. Some Indians who own lucrative shares in producing wells are on welfare because the BIA lets the oil companies get away with not paying them! Two recent federal reports said oil and gas companies have failed to pay Indians more than \$11 billion owed to them in just the last few years.
- Indians own rights to about 15% of the coal in America — billions of dollars worth, enough to lift many tribes out of poverty and off the federal dole. But the Arizona Republic newspaper found that the BIA has approved contracts where mining companies paid Indians less than the cost of a can of soda for each ton of coal they took.

No wonder the Native Americans are impoverished!

The American Indian Relief Council was started about seven years ago after a visit to a Sioux Reservation for the first time. The unbelievable poverty encountered made this organization a reality dedicated to helping the Sioux and all Native Americans.

This is the reason I am asking you to use the stamps I've sent you.

They do such a good job of reminding generous and fair people — people just like you — of "America's Forgotten Minority."

And when generous and fair people learn of the horrible injustices suffered by our

(over, please)