



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release March 8, 1976

Lovett 202-343-7445

BIA BICENTENNIAL COORDINATOR ANNOUNCED

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson has announced the appointment of Clydia Nahwooksy as a Special Assistant in his office.

A Cherokee from Oklahoma, one of Nahwooksy's first projects is to serve as Commissioner Thompson's Liaison for the Bureau's Bicentennial program. She will coordinate the Bureau's three national Bicentennial projects: an exhibition of contemporary Indian art, a videotape project and a literature and oratory project.

"We are fortunate to have Mrs. Nahwooksy to spearhead our Bicentennial efforts," said Commissioner Thompson. "She has worked for many years with Indian cultural programs, and her knowledge will be useful in implementing an effective Bicentennial program in cooperation with Indian tribes."

Commissioner Thompson's appointment of Nahwooksy to the position of Special Assistant continues his interest in bringing on staff qualified women for top staff positions. Currently, six other Central Office programs, primarily in the Administrative area, are currently headed by women.

Nahwooksy was formerly an executive in the Division of Special Projects and Programs of the Office of Indian Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

She is perhaps best known throughout Indian country for her work, prior to joining OIE, as developer and Director of the Indian Awareness Program at the Smithsonian Institution. One of her responsibilities during her years at the Smithsonian was to coordinate Indian participation in its annual Festival of American Folklife.

She has also served as a consultant in Indian affairs to various tribes and organizations and has worked as an Administrative Assistant with the Indian Health Service and in the BIA Education Office at the Fort Hall Agency, Idaho.

A graduate of Bacone College, Bacone, Oklahoma, Nahwooksy has also studied at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and at Idaho State University, Pocatello. She is a graduate of the Department of the Interior's Management Training Program.

She is a member of the American Folklore Society and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). She is also on the board of Project Forward '76,



Save Energy and You Serve America!

Futures for Children, and is on advisory panels for the Anthropological Archives and the Division of Performing Arts of the Smithsonian Institution. She is also a panel member of the Artists in the Schools Program of the National Endowment on the Arts.

She is the wife of Reaves Nahwooksy, Coordinator of Indian Programs for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Nahwooksy's have three children, Katheryn, Reaves, Jr., and Susan.

#