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Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson today announced the appointment of Robert P. St. Arnold, 42, an enrolled member of the L'Anse Band of Chippewa Indians, to head the New York Liaison Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Syracuse, New York.

Although Indians on reservations in New York State are the responsibility of that State's government, the Indians' lands cannot be alienated and therefore BIA maintains a liaison office.

St. Arnold has already assumed the post.

"I am pleased we have a man of St. Arnold's proven ability to undertake the duties of the New York Liaison Office," Thompson said.

St. Arnold moved to New York from the job of Employment Assistance Officer of the Bureau in Cleveland, Ohio. He had been in Cleveland since May 1970. Prior to that time, he was Field Representative in the Great Lakes Agency of the Bureau with headquarters in Ashland, Wisc. He assumed that position in 1965.

He became business management advisor and property and supply assistant with the Seminole Agency, headquarters in Dania, Fla. in 1963 and has held a variety of jobs, including that of procurement assistant with the Washington, D.C. office of the Bureau. He began his Bureau career in 1954.

A graduate of Haskell Institute, now Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, Kans., he served in the United States Army for two years beginning in September 1952.

He is married to the former Shirley Adams. They have three sons and one daughter.