Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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Richmond, Virginia's Junior ROTC Unit of John F. Kennedy High School presented $200 to the Navajo Indians at the U.S. Department of the Interior Building in Washington, D.C. December 27. Accepting the cheek was Interior's Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget Richard S. Bodman. He presently has administrative control of all Indian operations for the Department of the Interior.

In accepting the donation Assistant Secretary Bodman commended the ROTC Unit for their deep interest in helping their fellow Americans who may be less fortunate.

"I know I speak for the Navajo people when I say 'Thank you' and that it will be used in a worthwhile manner indicative of the spirit in which you give it. I am particularly touched by the fact that you went out and
earned this money on your own and then decided to contribute it to such a 'Worthy cause."

Six John F. Kennedy High School ROTC cadets ranging in age from 14 to 17 years-of-age made the presentation. They were led by Sgt. Gerald Clemons, Jr., Junior ROTC Instructor. 'Members of the unit present were Cadet Col. Jerome Ford: Cadet Lt. Col. Melvin Bullock: Cadet Maj. Arthur Gathers, Jr.; Cadet Maj. Thomas Nobles; Cadet Capt. Jerry Owens, and Cadet Capt. Donald Bullock.

In making arrangements for the presentation Clemons pointed out that the decision to raise money for the Indians came after the young people of the ROTC group saw a television documentary that indicated the needs of the Indians. The group held candy sales, cake sales, and other benefits to raise the money they presented to Assistant Secretary Bodman.