Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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The first meeting of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies will be held 1n Washington, D. C. October 19-20, Co- Chairmen Robert Robertson and Ross Swimmer announce d today.

President Reagan established the Commission in January “to advise the President on what actions should be taken to develop a stronger private sector on federally recognized Indian reservations, lessen tribal dependence on federal monies and program s, and re duce the stifling federal presence in Indian affairs.” The President appointed Robertson, Vice President of the Occidental International Corporation in Washington, D. C., and Swimmer, Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a bank president in Tahlequah, Oklahoma as Co-Chairmen.

The nine members of the Commission, five of them Indians, will be sworn in October 19 at 10 a.m. at the beginning of the meeting in the Columbia Ball Room of the Capitol Holiday Inn, at 6th and C Streets, S. W. The agenda will include a review of studies and information already available, discussion of a work plan for the next few months and initial planning for a series of hearings in the field. The Commission is expected to complete its work by November 30, 1984. Roy Sampsel, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian affairs in the Department of the Interior, has been appointed Executive Director for the Commission.

For additional information call Roy Sampsel at 202/343-3107.