Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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Mounting interest in the leasing of lands on the 475-acre Dania Indian Reservation about 25 miles north of Miami, Florida, for commercial and industrial development was reported today by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

"Increased housing and business development activity has been taking place recently on lands around the undeveloped Dania Reservation," Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons pointed out. "And this has stimulated a considerable number of inquiries from business firms and individuals about the possibilities of leasing the reservation lands. About 365 acres will probably be available for leasing. Under existing law they can be leased for 25 years with a possibility of a 25-year renewal."

The lands are located immediately west of Dania, Florida, and are bisected by the four-lane State Highway No. 7 with about a mile and a quarter of frontage directly on the highway. Thus they would make, said Mr. Emmons, an excellent location for a shopping center or for various other types of business or light industry developments.

One proposal that has been received and is now being considered calls for the development of an amusement center featuring a "western frontier town" on a 60-acre tract.

Like other Indian tribal lands, those on the Dania Reservation are held in trust by the Federal Government with the Bureau of Indian Affairs functioning as trustee. The interests of the Indian owners are directly represented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., a corporation charted under Federal law.

Interested parties are invited to submit lease proposals or inquiries to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ina., care of Superintendent Virgil Harrington, Box 157, Dania, Fla.