

KENNEDY URGES MAJOR REFORMS IN POLICIES DEALING WITH INDIANS

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# Kennedy Urges Major Reforms in Policies Dealing

By EARL CALDWELL

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ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Oct. 7—After delivering some unusually harsh criticism of the Federal Government's policies dealing with Indian affairs, Senator Edward M. Kennedy called today for major reforms.

He suggested that as a start the President convene a White House conference on Indian affairs.

"This is more than a serious problem," the Massachusetts Democrat, said. "It is what Robert Kennedy called a national disgrace."

Senator Kennedy made his criticism and offered suggestions for reform here this morning during an address at the annual meeting of the National Congress of American Indians.

Senator Kennedy's criticism was sharp. He said that the Federal Government's Indian policies had been a "continuing national failure of major proportions."

The Government has alternated between "harsh policies of starving Indians into submission or kinder policies of helping them become non-Indians," he said.

"The underlying motive for both of these policies has been



Associated Press

Senator Edward M. Kennedy speaking to newsmen in Albuquerque, N. M., yesterday.

a continuing greed—a desire to exploit Indian land and physical resources," he observed.

The dominant Indian policy of the Federal Government has brought destruction to Indian

families, a continuing life of poverty for most Indians and has left the public both uninformed and misinformed, he went on.

Such a policy has also "permitted and encouraged prejudice, racial intolerance and discrimination toward Indians," the Senator said.

In addition to a White House conference, the Senator also suggested that a select committee on the human needs of the American Indian be established in the Senate.

More than 1,000 Indians from at least 107 tribes from across the country are here attending this conference at the Hilton Hotel. The parley will end Friday night.

During Senator Kennedy's appearance this morning the hotel's main ballroom was filled far beyond its capacity, and hundreds more listened to the speech on loud speakers in anterooms.

Senator Kennedy offered to introduce legislation for funding the proposed White House conference and promised to lead an effort in the Senate to bring about creation of the select committee.

He also called for reorganization of the Federal Govern-

ment's Bureau of Indian Affairs and proposed the creation of an Indian development corporation.

In another address before the convention today, Senator Joseph M. Montoya, Democrat of New Mexico, said that Indians

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should have a major voice in the drawing up of any new programs.

"The Indian people have been neglected too long," he said. "It is about the time that the Indians should tell us in the Congress what they want."