INDIANS IN CLASH WITH U.S. GUARDS

24 Arrested, Then Set Free, in Protest on Rights

> By WILLIAM M. BLAIR Special to The New York Time

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 -A band of militant young Indians sought to make a citizens' arrest of Federal official today and wound up in a noisy clash with Government guards at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Twenty-four Indians, including eight women, were arrested by the District of Columbia police on charges of unlawful entry as they sought a conference with bureau officials on their

with bureau officials on their contention that Indians were by the denied basic rights.

The charges filed by the Department of the Interior were dropped tonight at the request of the department and the militants were released. A meeting with Indian Commissioner Louis R. Bruce was then scheduled.

The major target of the mili-tants was John O. Crow, De-puty Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose appointment has drawn protests from activists within the bureau and from tribal council chiefs drowned

the country.

The clash took place as rep resentatives of the moderate Na tional Tribal Chairmen's Asso-ciation met with various Gov-ernment officials about problem with the bureau. These included allegations that reforms to give Indians more voice in their own affairs were being stifled by Mr. Crow and old-line bu-

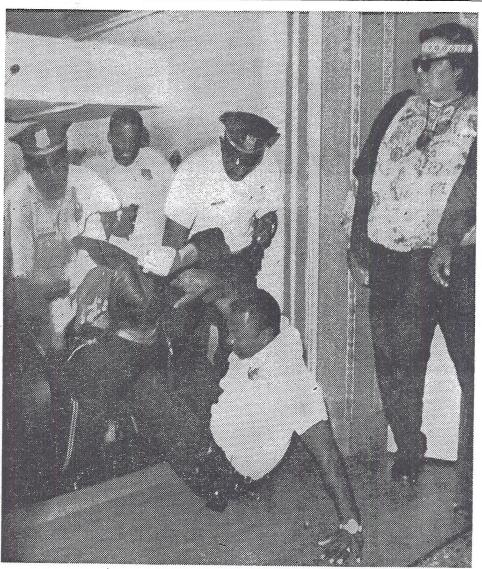
Seek Talks With Nixon

Indians leaders have also sought conferences with President Nxon to put before him their contention that his policy their contention that his policy of greater self-determination for Indians's being subverted by the bureaucracy. The tribal chairmen have called for removing the bureau from the Department of the Interior and making it as independent agency under

ment of the Interior and making it an independent agency under the White House.

This proposal was initiated by Peter McDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council and head of the chairmen's association. Mr. McDonald conferred today with Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton after the clash at the Indian Bureau. Bureau.

The invasion of the bureau The invasion of the bureau was directed by the American Indian Movement and the National Indian Youth Council. In a letter to Mr. Nixon, the two militant groups accused Mr. Crow of "gross misconduct and criminal injustice against the native American people."



United Press International

Policemen ejecting an Indian from Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington yesterday

Dispute Over Contracts

They said that avenues of discussion and negotiation were "now closed by political maneuvering within the Interior Department." They further contended that Mr. Crow's decisions were jeopardizing the existence of Indians "through his dismonthing of a unique. dismantling of a unique his dismantling of a unique— and Indian—economic develop-ment group committed to the creation of Indian opportunity on Indian land."
"Most tragically," the letter said, "Mr. Crow has in his brief tenure suspended the granting of contracts by which Indian

of contracts by which Indian people might administer those public institutions such as schools and other vital areas which touch on the very center of their tribal and communal life."

The reference was to con-

tracts through wihch the bureau turns Federal programs over to Indians and expands aid to urban Indians. New contracts have been held up pending a review of procedures after some members of Congress questioned contracts that were drawn up by young activist Indians brought in to the bureau by Commissioner Bruce.

The militant Indians also

protested the "subordination recent days because of word and demotion" of aides to Mr. that the militants wouldappear.

Bruce. These actions were "ex-

Bruce. These actions were "executed without the consent of the native leadership," they said.

The letter to Mr. Nixon concluded:

"The American Indian movement and the National Indian Youth Council hereby arrest the new Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, John O. Crow, because of the rimes he has committed against the Native Americans of this continent, ancestrally theirs."

A group of from 30 to 40 militants gathered outside the Indian Bureau Building this morning but were blocked by guards of the General Services Administration. The guard orce was been enlarged in shouting and war-whopping.

Some were wrestled to the land ing on a stairway leading to the second floor.

Those arrested were taken jail in District of Columbia police vans.