

Major Change

The President's New Deal for The Indians

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President Nixon denounced "centuries of injustice" to the American Indians yesterday and proposed a comprehensive program to give them control over their destiny.

The President said that he would send to the Congress legislation to enable tribal groups to assume operational control of many existing Indian-aid programs.

Mr. Nixon also formally renounced a 17-year-old national policy under which the government has sought to terminate Indians from their dependence on the national administration.

Mr. Nixon charted, at the same time, a course that would avoid continuation of federal paternalism toward Indians, assuring them instead of assistance while granting them authority to decide how it should be used.

The President also endorsed a pending House resolution that would return 48,000 acres of sacred land in New Mexico to the Taos Pueblo Tribe.

Mr. Nixon expressed his abhorrence, in a lengthy message to the Congress, of what he says is a history of white "aggression, broken agreements, intermittent remorse and prolonged failure" in treatment of the Indians.

He said that "as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy" it is time for an era in which the 462,000 Indians living on reservations and perhaps as many more in urban slums may determine how best to use the federal help made available to them.

The President said he would send legislation to the Congress giving Indian groups authority to assume control over federally-administered programs — such as schools, housing, medical services, economic development, and public works — on which the government spends \$1 billion a year.

Mr. Nixon