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SHAKE-UP IS MADE IN INDIAN BUREAU

New Assignments Designed
to Strengthen Activists

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RENO, Nov. 17 — Another shake-up in the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has been torn by strife between young activist Indians and old-line officials, most of them white, was announced here today by Indian Commissioner Louis Rooks Bruce Jr.

The new assignments, he said, are designed to strengthen the Indian activists, whom he brought into the bureau more than a year ago.

Commissioner Bruce, who is an Indian, made his announcement at the annual convention of the National Congress of American Indians, where many delegates have privately expressed doubt about his ability to survive the bitter in-fighting at "the concrete tepee in Washington."

"I'm running the bureau," Mr. Bruce said, "and these are my selections."

He said that he had the full backing of President Nixon and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton.

The shake-up elevates two activist "insurgents," Ernest Stevens, an Oneida from Wisconsin, who becomes Assistant Commissioner for economic development, and Alexander MacNabb, a Micmac from Maine, who becomes Assistant Commissioner for engineering and construction.

Mr. Stevens recently tried to resign as Director of Community Services but was persuaded to stay.

Another activist, James Hena, a Tesque Pueblo, becomes executive assistant to Mr. Bruce.

Two white officials have been shifted from powerful positions to the planning board. They are Philip Acker, who headed the bureau's employment assistance program, and William B. Freeman, who has been director of economic development.

Commissioner Bruce said that the bureau would push for a "total reservation economy" for the Indians.

This means something more than bringing to the reservation industries seeking cheap labor, he said. What is needed is the development of Indian services on the reservation so that the Indian payroll will be spent among Indians rather than in the white satellite towns of the reservation, he added.

"I want to see Indians buying cars from Indians on reservations and buying food in Indian-owned food stores and driving on Indian-planned, Indian-built roads, talking on Indian-owned telephone systems and living on an Indian-managed economy," he said.