



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Release July 17, 1978

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BIA WILL POLL OSAGE INDIANS ON TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Bureau of Indian Affairs plans to poll Osage Indian descendants to obtain their views on the future form of the Osage tribal government.

Under existing legislation, the present system of tribal government will expire January 1, 1984 if not extended. The extent of authority of the present Osage tribal government is also being questioned in litigation by some tribal members.

In a July 10 letter to Osage tribal members, the BIA announced that, in its role as trustee, it will "involve itself directly in efforts to assure for the Osage a continuing tribal government in a form of their choice."

The July 10 letter asked for information to complete mailing lists for the survey and requested suggestions on topics or questions to be included in the poll.

Bureau expects to complete the survey by October, 1978.

Osage descendants, who may not have received the July 10 letter, are invited to send their mailing address to the BIA, Washington, D.C. 20245 not later than July 28. They may also suggest material for inclusion on the questionnaire.

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