

FROM THE EDITORS

In this issue the *Review* presents a Symposium on Indian Law. Students, in undertaking such a project, hope the finished product will serve as the stimulus for response to the problems presented. Our experiences over the past year have indicated to us the naivete of such hope. Not that we feel this symposium is lacking in the requisite materials for a meaningful response to contemporary Indian problems; rather, present day problems have been long in developing and, given the minority status and weak economic position of American Indians, along with our society's less than admirable record in dealing with the problems of minority groups, in all probability a response will be unreasonably long in coming.

Space does not permit a capsulization of each piece contained in the symposium. We would like, however, to call to your attention two articles which we find particularly helpful. The first, by Dr. William H. Kelly, is entitled "Indian Adjustment and the History of Indian Affairs." Dr. Kelly, by tracing the history of federal Indian policy, effectively illustrates the whys and hows of the breakdown of tribal society and the resulting Indian poverty and sickness of spirit. The second, by Dr. Benjamin Taylor, "Indian Manpower Resources: The Experiences of Five Southwestern Reservations," is the result of a study undertaken by Dr. Taylor for the Department of Labor which will be published in book form. This article reveals some shocking facts on Indian education, employment and their standard of living which only the very callous can ignore. These articles represent the nucleus of the symposium. Everything that follows explores the central question they pose: What must be done to ensure that American Indians realize their *right* to a healthy, satisfying cultural and physical environment?

The symposium at least should instill in our readers an awareness of the desperate plight of a substantial minority of American citizens, and in so doing should encourage discussion concerning measures that can be taken to rectify a disgraceful situation. But discussion alone is never enough. As a prelude to thoughtful action it is essential; as a facade used to give an impression of action, it is hypocritical. If this symposium stimulates discussion which results in thoughtful action, then our efforts will have been worthwhile.

