



# INDIAN COUNTRY UPDATE

## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

July 07, 2003

### **No American Indian Child Left Behind**

On June 9, 2003, the first meeting of the No Child Left Behind Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The committee has the important task of recommending proposed rules to Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, for the implementation of The No Child Left Behind Act in the 185 BIA-funded schools. The committee is comprised of 19 representatives from tribes across the country, four representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' central office in Washington, DC and two representatives from BIA-operated schools. The next meetings are scheduled to take place July 14 -18 in Bloomington, Minnesota; Aug 21-24 in Seattle, Washington; and Sept 15-19 in Nashville, Tennessee. Meetings are open to the public and tribal input is encouraged. Call The No Child Left Behind Act Project Management Office at 505-248-7241 for more information on participating in these meetings.

### **President signs Zuni Heaven Water Rights Bill**

On June 23, 2003, President Bush signed legislation to settle claims by the Zuni Indian Tribe over water rights in its religious lands in northeastern Arizona. On June 27, 2003, Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, traveled to Phoenix to present Governor Arlen Quetawki with an official print of the legislation and the pen used by President George W. Bush to sign the bill.

The bill was introduced by Congressman Rick Renzi and Senator John Kyl.

### **Navajo Nation Student meets President Bush**

On June 19 2003, Ganado High School Student Body President Alray Nelson greeted President Bush at the White House. The President congratulated Nelson on his academic achievement and his leadership among students in the Navajo Nation. Nelson was in Washington DC to attend the 15th Annual Congressional Student Leadership Conference. He also met with his representative, Congressman Rick Renzi.