

The Community Development aides' training began in May when they attended a three-week course conducted by the Indian Community Action Center at Ganado on the Navajo Reservation. An eight-week course, also under the direction of ICAC, was held for the Pre-School teachers and teacher-aides during June at Fort Apache.

On 1 June 1966 the CAP Director received a telegram from Sargent Shriver informing him that all but the legal services component had been funded. This latter component was subsequently approved, but operating funds had not arrived as of 10 July.

*d. CAP Administration and Tribal Government*

The constitution of the Gila River Indian Community allows for formation of an elected Gila River Community Council (Tribal Council) and creates the positions of an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and an appointed Tribal Advisory Board.

Ultimate authority is vested in the Gila River Indian Community Council whose membership is elected from the reservation's seven districts. The meetings of the Tribal Council are chaired by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor. The Advisory Board was designated as having "such powers and duties as the Governor of the Council may direct." The constitution also allows for district councils, chaired by the district's senior council member. The district councils may discuss local issues and make recommendations to the Tribal Council.

The Tribal Council is organized as a democratic institution, but informants have expressed doubts about the membership being representative of the people. One informant said that people do not believe the Tribal Council functions as anything more than a "rubber stamp" for the decisions of the BIA. Two persons interviewed said, "The Council does not represent all the people but it could come up with a list of needs most people would agree with." There is little interest in the functioning of the tribal government, except by a few politically oriented people.

One Tribal Councilman said that the people elect Councilmen who they think are good; but once the individual takes office he becomes the recipient of the community's scorn for the tribal government. He described Tribal Councilmen as caught in a situation that limits their ability to communicate with the people. The Tribal Treasurer used the following analogy to describe Pima feeling: "It's like crabs in a bucket—when one tries to climb out the others grab him and pull him back."

The younger members of the Tribal Council from the west end of the reservation have stated that they are trying slowly to unseat the older generation through actively soliciting votes from other young members of the communities. The young people feel that the older members of the Tribal Council do not take them seriously.

The membership of the Advisory Board, which may or may not include members of the Tribal Council, at present consists of two non-Council members and one Council member. Officially, Advisory Board meetings are to be chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, but this is infrequently the case. Often the meeting is directed by whichever member feels like being chairman.

The Advisory Board was designed to function as an adjunct of the Governor—a fact-finding organization which could make recommendations. The Advisory Board was not given authority to make executive or legislative decisions. The Tribal Council itself is described as the only body with power to make policy decisions.

Observations have shown that the Advisory Board has acted with considerably more power than specifically authorized. One example was observed at a Council meeting when a resolution was introduced concerning tribal lands. At the end of the vote, a Board member expressed dissatisfaction with the decision. The Council rescinded the resolution.

Other observations confirm that the Advisory Board has been able to assume considerable power. A reaction was seen in a statement made by a former tribal governor at a local community meeting. He commented that the Advisory Board had been "acting with executive powers for which it was not authorized." On 23 June the Governor informed the Board that it would not be treated as an executive body. This was done in response to hostile actions of the Board toward the CAP Director.

The power exercised by the Advisory Board might indicate that it is an expression of the people's wishes, but evidence shows that while it is a major power bloc, it has no base at the grass-roots level. Members of the Board are