BASKETS WERE A NECESSITY for some Indian tribes a few years ago. Today, they are collectors items or museum pieces. Although there is a great demand for baskets there are very few basket weavers today. The slump in basket weaving became apparent when the young people were carted off to boarding schools. Weaving was taught in the home as soon as children were able to handle the tools and unless you continue to work at it day after day the technique is soon lost. At the boarding schools students were taught other methods of earning a living that was less time consuming than basket weaving. We are trying to pick up the threads now but we find it very difficult to find materials with so much of the land occupied as private property, public parks, national forests and huge constructions destroying so much of the materials. The natives are becoming aware of the great loss of an art that was so beautiful and are trying to revamp the art. Basket weaving is not an easy art. Gathering material at the right time and the right place and preparing the material is a technique not easy to master so it will be some time before baskets are on the market. A few weavers take orders and demand some down payment because so often the costumer will not accept the item when it is finished. They yell "too much." The weaver averages only a few cents an hour for her work.

WHEN DO WE GET OUR INDIAN MONEY? Sounds like a "VAR CRIY" of many mad Indians. It would sound better if they would ask "When will we get our ancestors money?" And it's the people who put in the least effort that are doing the most clamoring. The Indians who used their efforts to help promote sit back and wait patiently. They know that it is time consuming to review and process all the applications and that interruptions causes more delays.

Most all the letters written to your congressmen or the Indian Bureau, complaining comes back to the enrollment office where they have to take time away from their processing to answer your letter and you complain about why they are so slow in completing the roll. The more interruptions you cause the longer it will take, but be happy, the longer it takes the more you will be getting as it is drawing interest all the time, providing no one takes a chunk out for some other purpose. (Remember way back when couple southern counties obtained three hundred dollars from the fund. Are those people who benefited from the three hundred still get a full share of the funds that will be distributed? Just asking!)

The roll is being made as fast as possible. It could be faster if letters were answered correctly and if the Bureau was kept informed of changes of address and names, old and new.

There are still several thousand applications to be processed. Remember, there has been a population explosion since the last roll was made. Applications of children born since September 21, 1968 are not acceptable. They still have to be reviewed and processed. That takes up unnecessary time.

Regardless of rumors, no individual Indian has been paid out of the Land Claims Case fund. Hang on to your old TV and your old car. I'm getting my old car painted, it's like getting my face lifted. There's hopes for my car but not for my face.

The editor.