Regional BIA office may be in Rapid City

ABERDEEN (AP) — Consolidation plans for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs could include moving the Aberdeen regional office to Rapid City, an official said.

The BIA is under orders to shrink by 50 percent by 1996, said acting area director Don Whitten.

That means job cuts for some of the region's 250 BIA employees, he said.

The Aberdeen BIA office oversees 16 tribes in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa.

Part of the consolidation could include moving the Aberdeen office to Rapid City, Whitten said. The idea has been around for years, but federal officials have never given final approval to the move.

Another possibility is merging the current regional offices in Ab-

BIA officials will meet with tribal leaders Jan. 25 to discuss consolidation plans, Whitten said.

Pressler to head major committee

Preston Pressler was elected the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, as well as several other federal agencies.

Issues under the jurisdiction of the committee include:

- Communications; aviation; highway safety; labor; women's interests; commerce; aeronautical and space sciences; oceanography; defense activities; foreign tourism; regulation of consumer products; railroads, buses, trucks, vessels and pipelines; science, engineering and technology research and development; sports; the Coast Guard; merchant marine and navigation; maritime safety; and fisheries.

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