

# Colvilles assail sheriff's actions

**NESPELEM, Wash. (AP)** — The Okanogan County sheriff has been accused by Colville Indians of "almost criminal" failure to cooperate with tribal law enforcement efforts.

Tribal Chairwoman Lucy Covington, in a letter to Atty. Gen. Slade Gorton, asks for state intervention in the matter and an investigation of Sheriff Jerry Beck.

Beck refuses to comment until he can review the allegations.

Mrs. Covington said Beck has interfered with tribal law enforcement efforts and refused to cooperate. She cited five recent incidents as examples of Beck activities leading to "grave concerns" by the Colville tribe.

The list includes alleged release of a felon by Beck because the arrest was made by a tribal officer; an investigation by Beck of the disarm-

ing of a man by tribal officers, state troopers and Grand Coulee police; refusal by Beck to honor a tribal arrest warrant for a man wanted for theft and property damage; failure by Beck to inform the tribe that a man was missing on the reservation; and failure to credit tribal police for their part in a death investigation.

Relations between the tribe and Beck have deteriorated since May, when the sheriff revoked special deputy sheriff commissions his office had issued to Colville policemen. He said tribal police have the authority to enforce tribal ordinances.

"In the past six months we haven't received anything from them, much less cooperation. All we've been getting is a continuous barrage of name calling and things like that," Beck said.