



John White, conference head, listen to statistics on Indian education.

State Indian Meet

The BIA has only been active in New York since 1969, Gay noted, and the goal of its programs is to give the technical assistance that will "increase Iroquois group participation in federal and state programs."

Gay also congratulated the conference that a total of 80 per cent of the 130 Iroquois high school graduates this year would go on to further education; workshop participants later in the day pointed out repeatedly, however, that the real education problem lay in the low number of Iroquois students who finally receive their high school diplomas.

At the workshop reports ending formal sessions Saturday afternoon, several concerns became apparent. Mrs. Joseph Corcoran, panel moderator on urban Indian problems in education, expressed the conference's interest in off-reservation Indians when she reported her group felt the state should implement equal educational assistance for all Indians.

Mrs. Elma Patterson, the panel moderator on fin-



Mrs. Amanda Tomlinson from Onondaga reservation near Syracuse is seated behind wares for sale, many of which are hand made traditional craft objects.

ancing Indian education, claimed that "Indian students are not getting their fair share of special funds appropriated for minority group students." This viewpoint was echoed by Millie Cook, reporting on the panel called "College Rap: Native Americans in Higher Education."

Miss Cook pointed out that while New York Indian students in college went from 73 last year to 140 this year, state aid has only increased 5 per cent. "We don't like to see those doors closed to us," said Miss Cook, who also called for the creation of a directory of Indian students.

The conference, which gathered delegates from the Seneca, Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, Tuscarora and Onondaga nations, was made possible by a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and by the contribution of personnel services by Nazareth College.

A banquet and special award ceremony followed the workshop sessions, and the conference honored painter Ernest Smith, a Tonawanda Seneca whose paintings of Iroquois life and legend were exhibited in the Arts Center lobby.

A Saturday evening talent show combined traditional Indian story telling and dancing with contemporary exhibitions of country-rock music and ballet.



bell does ballet dancing while Albert Abrams does a more traditional Indian war dance.

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Native artist Ernest Smith gets an admiring look for his drawing of bear.

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