

Meeting for JOM committee

Representatives from 11 of the 12 Alaska Native Regions recently attended the years first Johnson O'Malley Review Committee meeting. Much work had accumulated in the 6 months since their last session.

Primary topics discussed during the two day session included: prioritizing the uses of excess and/or supplemental funds; the future role of AFN in relation to the JOM program; the method of handling the FY'77 JOM program; and the definition of "tribe".

Overall few specific dollar amounts were obligated but a definite decision was made stipulating that no new programs would be funded for the remainder of FY'76.

As it was felt that AFN/JOM, as presently constituted, would eventually cease to exist, some other structure needed to be devised. In keeping with AFN's position promoting decentralization, it would be through the development of regional contracts.

However, considering that this is a new approach a few details remain to be worked out. It is understood that the Bureau is to

dispatch a letter of explanation to the regional non-profit associations explaining that the majority of the funds for FY'77 will be distributed on a per capita basis.

Additionally, it is assumed that each association is to provide the Bureau as accurate count of eligible students within their respective regions.

Each of these organizations will most likely receive the responsibility for reaching all eligible villages to determine the desirable means for administering their JOM projects.

Funds to alleviate any burdens encumbered by the

establishment of the new procedures are to be provided out of presently unobligated JOM funds.

Plans are being made for another meeting on March 24, 25, and 26 to develop specific plans for each region. It is expected that in addition to the JOM Committee, two representatives of each region will be present to determine the exact costs and procedures.

Due to the changeover the JOMRC will henceforth be known as the Johnson O'Malley Native Education Committee whose primary purpose will be to give advice to the Area Director on JOM related issues.