

Editorial—

The Alaska Plan

The Alaska Plan when completed and ratified by the building and construction unions, contractor associations and various minority group organizations, will be designed to provide equal employment opportunities in the construction industry in the state. Ever since its inception months ago, we have observed the activity in this area with a special interest because the plan will have a direct bearing upon the natives, rural or urban.

For many years in the past, the natives have been apprehensive of unionism because many of them found it difficult—if not impossible—to break into the unions. Not all of the unions have been bad, however, as in some cases a near majority, or even a majority are indeed, natives.

The Alaska Plan is steadily gaining a following with endorsements coming in from different areas in the state. It is becoming a demonstration of what could be done if the groups work together. Working in this manner, the 33-page document seeks to establish the manner in which a Native, a Black or other minority group person can enter the union of his or her choice. The plan is a commitment on the part of the unions and contractors that efforts will be made to bring more minority workers into the industry. This is commendable indeed.

The plan is impressive also that it is designed to function on a statewide basis. Its intentions go beyond the non-discriminatory clauses found in all government contracts. It is an action plan.

The Alaska Plan is obviously a new, bold approach to solve an old problem. It looks to the future to better the lives of everyone. We hope that its implementation will be expeditiously handled by the appropriate authorities so the benefits it can bring can be realized as quickly as possible.