

U.S. Office of Education Policy—

Decision Can Seriously Affect Native College Students

Speaking before the Rural CAP regional Director's Association Meeting in Anchorage, Laura Bernhart from the BIA Education Office in Anchorage informed the Directors of the recent policy decision by the U. S. Office of Education which could seriously affect Alaska Native college students.

According to Ms. Bernhart the Office of Education has recently decided that a supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants will no longer be available to students receiving grant in aid monies from BIA.

In affect, this will mean that there are far fewer funds available for Native students at-

tending Institutions of higher learning. There are presently over 250 potential students on a waiting list who want to go to college.

However, the BIA has not received a supplemental appropriation for higher education and, according to Ms. Bernhart, the decision by the Office of Education will make it even more difficult for the students.

Information recently received indicates that the decision is being challenged on the basis of unlawful and discrimination; however, the outcome of the challenge is not yet known.

Individuals who wish to make their views known to the ap-

propriate public officials may write to the Secretary of Health Education & Welfare, Mr. Casper Weinburger in Washington D. C.

Further information on the issue can be obtained from Laura Bernhart, AFN counselor assigned to the BIA Education Department (Box 120, Anchorage 99501).