

Lang: Manpower Prog. to Go on

Before departing as President of AFN, Inc., Roger Lang stated that the AFN's Manpower Program, which operates under contract from Alyeska Pipeline Company, would continue to operate for an additional year.

The program was established in April 1974 and was designed to supplement existing State of Alaska Manpower services in the areas of recruitment and referral services. In connection with this effort, approximately 4,700 persons and applications were screened, processed and referred to the State Manpower System.

Shortly after our program began, it became apparant to the AFN Manpower Offices that the system had shortcomings which if continued, could preclude many qualified Alaskan Natives in ultimately getting pipeline work.

Associated with this discovery, AFN identified three major requirements which could facilitate entry into pipeline related employment.

First — detailed and close classification work would be required on all our clients so that the right craft (union) and skills could be identified.

Secondly — a system was needed to associate and connect our qualified clients with several unions.

Finally — an arrangement should be found to call-in and expose qualified rural clients to the job calls being made at Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Beginning with the 1975 construction year, AFN was able to correct these major shortcomings by first, cataloging all our clients into job ready listings or training lists.

These job ready lists are used daily in alerting contractors and unions of our people wanting and who are ready for pipeline connected employment. For those who must be trained before employment, they are referred on a weekly basis to the State

Employment System:

Secondly, placing our people with unions for dispatch involves our most critical and time consuming phase of our operations. This is done by establishing a daily and continuous liaison with most of the impacted unions. Daily contact is also maintained with major contractors to determine manpower needs etc:

Thirdly, AFN, working with the State and private contractors was successful in establishing staging areas at Anchorage and Fairbanks where rural job ready and job seeking people are called and held until we can place them thru the unions and into pipeline related jobs.

Because of the importance and the great effort that is required at the hiring points which are Anchorage and Fairbanks, the AFN Manpower effort will concentrate its activities at these two locations during our second years' operations.

We have notified the State, BIA and CETA Title III Employment Systems throughout Alaska to refer Alaskan Natives who wish pipeline employment to our offices at Anchorage and Fairbanks.

As of the end of March 1975, 2,834 Alaskan Natives had been employed by Alyeska Contractors. A major portion of this number were assisted by the AFN Manpower effort.

It is only fair to report that any successes that were achieved during this first construction year must give credit to not only AFN and its subcontractors but also to Alyeska and its contractors, to the unions, to the State Department of Labor, to the BIA and to all our Native Regions.

It is only through the help and honest cooperation of all these agencies will the program continue to be successful in the future.