

Harry Carter

On Education

Harry Carter, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, affirmed that "education has the highest priority" within that organization.

Last June, the AFN offered itself as the contracting agency for several special educational programs: Talent Search, Upward Bound, and On Campus Special Services.

In securing responsibility for these programs, the AFN became the first location in the United States where all three programs are combined. In addition, it is now the headquarters for ASHES, Alaska Student Higher Education Service.

"It is hoped," Mr. Carter said, "that we can eventually devote some time to broad areas

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of education, to getting that particular concept of education moving. Up to now, we have not had time to look at the broad spectrum of education."

At AFN, Gene Murry Larsen heads up a staff on education with nine field people who travel throughout rural Alaska.

"We are hoping," said Carter, "to use these same people to outreach at all levels of education in Alaska from Head Start to high school."

"If we could have utilized this board for broad purposes of education, we would have taken over all Head Start training in rural Alaska."

On the subject of Mr. Friese and the State Operated Schools, Mr. Carter said: "Stan Friese is relatively new and I don't think he has his hand on the pulse yet."

"The AFN attempts to work politically to get the right people on the boards."

Mr. Carter then discussed the

flow of funds that would be incoming from the Land Claims Settlement.

"The majority of our working capital will be coming in the first five years of the Act."

The AFN expended a great deal of careful planning on an analysis of the scheduling of manpower resources to protect the integrity of the fund, so that at the point where the flow slows down, proper business investments will have been made to maintain the economic level.

"You have to have viable business enterprises," said Carter, "and in order to run a business, you have to have trained people."

He drew a large square underlying all the notations he had made on the page as he talked. In this square, he wrote one word in very large letters: EDUCATION.

"And that's where you have to begin," he said.