

# Human Resources group votes to stay with AFN

BY NANCY HARVEY

Unity prevailed last week at AFN when the Human Resources Committee announced their decision not to form a separate statewide corporation.

The decision came nearly a year after the Human Resources Committee originally approached the AFN, Inc. Board of Directors asking for a stronger voice in program management and making policies. Out of the initial meetings came the AFN Reorganization Committee composed of several AFN, Inc. board members Human Resource Committee members and AFN President Byron Malloff.

The Reorganization Committee was charged with the task of finding a way for the land claims and human resource divisions of AFN to effectively work together in operating the statewide corporation. The Committee met throughout the year and made periodic reports to both AFN boards.

In late summer of 1977 the Human Resources Committee voted to form a separate statewide non-profit corporation which would assume all AFN's social service programs, leaving AFN, Inc. free of program liabilities to advocate on a statewide and national level for both land claims and human resource issues.

The committee hired Clifford Black in September as its executive vice president, with his first assignment being the development of articles and by-laws for the new human services corporation.

Also at issue has been the question of non-profit corporation representation at the AFN annual meeting. The Reorganization Committee has addressed this question and recommended that delegate representation be decided at the regional level between the profit and non-profit corporations.

"I think it would be wrong for AFN to lay down in stone

what delegate structure should be," commented one Reorganization Committee member.

Now, after what Executive Vice President Black calls "months of soul searching deliberations," the Human Resources Committee feels any split in the statewide organization may cause disunity that neither board wants to contend with.

"The feelings that have surfaced show that the total of AFN is too strong to be weakened by division and too unified to be divided by weakness," Black said. -

"The direction of AFN will, of necessity, change to meet the needs of the regions. A few years ago AFN was in the business of delivering a services and programs, along with their inherent advocacy role," Black continued.

"Today AFN is mainly in the delivery of technical assistance to the regions, but still there is that need for advocacy. Advo-

cacy not in the sense of dealing with federal and state agencies, but advocacy in the sense of keeping the Alaska Native people together."

The decision not to spin off from AFN was a popular one, judging from the response of the AFN Board of Directors. Black and HRC Chairman Carl Jack jointly made the announcement during last week's AFN board meeting. The two boards met simultaneously in Juneau April 3 and 4.

The ball now rolls back to

the Reorganization Committee to develop an acceptable method of having the non-profit corporations represented within the current AFN structure. One idea being considered is the possibility of a 24-person board for the statewide corporation along with allocating a share of membership dues to the regional non-profits.

The next meeting of the Reorganization Committee is expected to be scheduled in the near future.