

# Joint federal-state group seeks 14 members

WASHINGTON D.C. — The White House is seeking the names of Alaskans qualified to serve on the new Federal-State Commission on Alaska Native Policies and Programs, Senator Frank Murkowski said recently.

According to Murkowski, Congress established the commission earlier this year to explore the current circumstances of Alaska Natives and make recommendations to the State and Federal governments on both legislative and administrative action

that would improve Native opportunities.

"The commission will play a critical role in shaping state and federal Alaska Native policy in the 1990's and beyond," said Murkowski. "The President is looking for Alaskans who can make a real contribution to this process."

Of the 14 appointed members of the commission, the Governor of Alaska is to appoint seven members and the

President seven members. At least six of these members must be Alaska Natives.

"While the commission is concerned with Alaska Native policy, it is designed to be broadly representative of Alaskans in its membership," said Murkowski. "I have urged the White House to have the commission up and running as close to the beginning of the new year as possible, so now is the time for Alaskans to make their

recommendations to the President."

According to Murkowski, the Joint Commission is expected to meet four to six times a year. Members will be paid for the time they spend working on the commission unless they are federal employees.

The Commission has a life of two years and is required to submit a formal report to the Alaska Governor and the President within 18 months after its first meeting.