

Rights Comm. On Bilingual Education

ANCHORAGE — The State's chief civil rights official has just returned to his Anchorage office from an eight-day convention of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

Robert Willard, Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission was in San Francisco and then on to Portland to meet with officials of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory on bi-lingual education.

Willard said the exchange of information on the techniques of handling cases of discrimination was very helpful.

The conclave was attended by over 400 delegates from member state and local government human rights commissions from all across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The delegates heard from the Nation's top civil rights official, William H. Brown III, the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission who warned that those states that have inadequate enforcement powers may not receive future contracts from EEOC.

"The State of Alaska has substantial powers in that respect," Willard said today. He did not foresee any problems with an EEOC \$25,000 grant the Alaska Commission has already received.

Brown also outlined the implications of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Griggs vs. Duke Power* and the new Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 as it applies to jurisdiction over state and local government.

Overall, Willard said his two-week trip to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle was successful and informative.