

Federal Plan on Minority Hire May Be Imposed—

Deadline on Alaska Unions, Contractors, Native Groups on 'Alaska Plan' Work

ANCHORAGE—It appears that the much heralded "Alaska Plan" to provide building and construction job opportunity for minority group persons "is going down to the wire—or going down the drain" according to Robert Willard, the Plan's Committee Chairman.

The federal government has given Alaska's unions, contractor associations and minority group organizations until February 18

to complete all work on the Alaska Plan before imposing a mandatory federal plan.

"I am informed that federal officials have begun drafting a plan," Willard said, "and, quite frankly, I'm worried that we may not meet the deadline."

"The problem is that not all signature sheets have been returned," the Chairman said this morning. Willard said he mailed signature sheets to all unions, contractor associations and minority group organizations on January 11 to be returned by January 31.

The (signature) sheets were to be signed by an authorized official and returned and then forwarded to Washington, D. C.

Of the 23 Native Associations, 5 Black organizations, 3 Filipino Community groups, 31 Union Locals, the Associated General Contractors and other specialty contractor associations, only two unions and one contractor group have signed to date.

He said he has 13 minority group signatures on file. A letter appealing to those groups which have not yet signed is being prepared for mailing.

The Alaska Plan is a 35-page document that took 18 months

to complete. It details the manner in which minority group persons will enter the building and construction unions in projects which are federal or federally-assisted.

A 21-member committee began drafting the "voluntary" plan on September 21, 1970 in efforts to stave off the imposition of a federal plan.

"If the (federal) government invokes a plan on the State—there will be no input by Alaskans," Willard said, "as the federal plan will be drawn and administered by federal officials from Washington, D. C.

On the other hand, if the Alaska Plan survives it will be administered by a nine-member Construction Opportunity Policy Committee to be established after the Plan is put into effect.

State (of Alaska) projects would be affected if the Alaska Plan fails as Governor William A. Egan has indicated that he may issue an Executive Order to require that all State, local government and private projects to fall into line with the Alaska plan.

If a federal plan is imposed an executive order is not likely to be issued.

"The federal government has

already approved the Plan as it is now written," Willard added. "all that needs to be done is for all signatories to sign and we're on our way."

Willard expressed cautious optimism that the deadline may be met however, stating he would work hard to get the plan to Washington with the necessary signatures by the deadline date.