

ANCSA LEADER. Robert Arnold, executive director of the Alaska Native Foundation, has been named special assistant to the Bureau of Land Management's State Director for Native Claim conveyance matters. His appointment will be effective Nov. 1.

Arnold assumes ANCSA post

The executive director of the Alaska Native, Foundation, Robert Arnold, has been selected to lead the Bureau of Land Management's efforts to convey federal lands to Alaska Natives under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

His appointment as assistant to the state director for Native claim matters effective Nov. 1, was announced by BLM State Director Curt McVee who explained that Arnold's principal job will be to oversee the conveyance process being performed by the BLM's 80-person ANCSA division and to solve impediments to the program as they occur.

"The appointment of Arnold, who has a wealth of experience in areas related to Native land conveyances, is an indication of the program's high priority within the department and the BLM," McVee said. "We had dozens of qualified applicants for the position; therefore, his background and accomplishments received thorough scrutiny."

McVee explained that Guy Martin, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for land and water resources and a former commissioner of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources, took a personal interest in Arnold's selection.

Arnold, 46, has lived in Alaska for 17 years. He is the principal author and editor of ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS, a textbook on the historic and legislative background to the Native Claims Act passed by Congress in 1971.

The Guthrie, Okla., native was a senior member of the publication staff for ALASKA NA-TIVES AND THE LAND, produced by the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska of which he was an employee from 1967 to 1970.

Arnold has been special assistant to former Alaska Cong Ralph Rivers and former Sen. E. L. 'Bob' Bartlett. He was executive director of the Alaska Centennial Commission of 1964 and, from 1971 to 1974, was executive director of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. At present, he is secretary of the board for the "Tundra Times."

In 1977, the Alaska Humanities Forum named Arnold "Outstanding Humanist of the Year, and the Anchorage Federal Executive Association voted him the "Outstanding Male Government Employee of the Year' for 1969. Arnold is a 1956 graduate of Wichita State University where he majored in political science and history. He also was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar in political science and government at the University of Washington.

He and his wife, Ann, reside in Anchorage with five of their six children.