

ICAS won't get BIA contract

Jake Lestenkof, Area Director in Alaska for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, today announced that he will not authorize a recontracting of Bureau services by the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope for Fiscal Year 1984. The BIA's Fairbanks Agency has been providing services to North Slope Natives since May 1983 when ICAS asked the Bureau to resume providing the services.

"An auditor has been in Barrow for more than two weeks in an attempt to find some means of accounting for Federal funds advanced to ICAS in 1982 and 1983," Lestenkof explained.

"All he found were considerably more financial problems, some of them very serious." This has been a principal consideration in his decision, Lestenkof continued. "The Bureau has spent many thousands of dollars and many hundreds of work days in trying to help ICAS out of its predicament. That help even included the salaries of two ICAS executives who appear to have only exacerbated the problems."

During the next year the Bureau will be helping ICAS to develop management systems which would allow ICAS to re-apply for the contract in Fiscal Year 1985.