

Wm. Demmert at NEA Meeting

WARM SPRINGS, Oregon—William G. Demmert, Jr., representing Klawock Public School participated in a three-day Exploratory Conference on Equal Educational Opportunity for Indian Americans held here September 27-29 at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

The conference, sponsored by the National Education Association's Center for Human Relations, invited approximately 80 leaders from state education associations, federal agencies, state departments of education; colleges and numerous Indian councils and associations.

Sixty of these participants represented the following states: Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, California,

Wisconsin, and North Carolina.

The Center for Human Relations, under the direction of Assistant Executive Secretary Samuel B. Tehridge, has been focusing its attention on education for the minorities since its establishment a year ago.

This conference dealt with such tragic statistics as the fact that 10 per cent of American Indians over age 14 have had no schooling at all, and nearly 60 per cent have had less than an eighth grade education.

The purpose of the conference was to gather together leaders from the Indian communities and related associations and agencies in order to plan a national Indian education conference in early spring.

In addition to the 60 state representatives, participants from the Universities of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Minnesota, UCLA, and South Dakota joined representatives from the Ford and Carnegie Foundations, and the United Scholarship Service.

Other organizations represent-

ed included:

Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Council of BIA Educators, National Congress of American Indians, Arrow, Inc., American Indians United (Urban Indians), Association of American Indian Affairs,

American Indian Historical Society, National Indian Youth Council, Indian Rights Association, National Council on Indian Indian Opportunity, Indian Education Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Education, Alaska Native Brotherhood;

National Education Association, West Coast Regional Office, North West Regional Office, Council on Human Relations, Center for Human Relations, State and Federal Relations, Field Services, Division of Adult Education;

Student NEA, U.S. Office of Education, Association of Classroom Teachers, ACT Forum, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Delta Kappa Gamma, Regional Educational Laboratories, Selected Individuals, Bureau of Catholic Missions, and National Council of Churches.