

# TANANA CHIEFS PLANS AHEAD

## Population Movements Of Interior Indians Among Planned Studies

With most of its work currently oriented to land use planning, the Tanana Chiefs Conference is looking forward with its goals and ambitions. John Sackett, TCC president, discussed these goals in a recent interview.

Meeting with the TCC and Doyon, Ltd. boards of directors, Sackett says that one project they are working on involves a study of future population movements. When all data are gathered, the study will anticipate where the people are going to be over the next 20 years.

"Hiring consultants that have specialized knowledge in specialized fields" is part of the plan outlined by Sackett. The consultants, he says, will do work with exploration of minerals and petroleum. Timber resources, gravel and biological data on fish and game will also be studied and explained.

To select land for their claims, each village must have a working knowledge of what is happening. To insure that they do, land selection committees will be put through an intensive training program.

Work is also progressing on

incorporating the villages into profit or non-profit entities, according to Sackett. He calls this a Doyon responsibility.

The villages have two more years to complete their land selection and the regions have three. In addition, the reservations have until December 18, 1973 to choose their lands.

Within the next two months, the TCC will have hired a land assistant and a petroleum and mining geologist. Also by this time, it will have created a system of delivering information through four sub-regional offices. The offices will be located in Tok, Fort Yukon, Galena and McGrath.

The sub-regional offices will bring the governing process down to the people. Rather than one large, remote office building, the smaller ones will be closer and more personal, Sackett says.

A computerized system of land titles, transfers and leases will increase the capabilities of the land department, Sackett says. A recording system is to be employed, as well as exten-

(Continued on page 6)

# Tanana Chiefs Plans ...

(Continued from page 1)

sive mapping.

Many of these projects are Doyon's responsibility. Some that the TCC is working on are not. Completing the early childhood development phase is one such. A delivery system for health and social services in the region should see completion before much more time has passed.

The TCC is an enormous organization. About 8,500 Natives are currently enrolled, with at least another 500 expected before the March 30, 1973 deadline. With this number of people scattered over the approximately 13 million acres they are due to acquire, the problems are as enormous as the corporation itself.

"The ability to communicate

with 40 different villages is not an easy job. One method we're using is to get the office closer. In addition, the conference will use letters, newspapers and a newsletter to explain the aspects and progress" of the Claims Settlement Act, Sackett notes.

The care and feeding of a huge corporation is more complex than it might appear to an outsider. But if all of them had an organization like the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and a president like John Sackett, their work would be simpler.

Because they quite obviously care for the people they are working to help, both Sackett and the conference can be used as an example of how things should be done.