

Out of Court Settlement at Nenana?

A seven member committee to study education in the Nenana Valley may prove the key to settlement of that area's widely publicized school controversy.

The committee will hold hearings in Cantwell, Healy, Brown's Court, Anderson Village and Nenana to prepare a report on educational needs in the area to be submitted by January 15, 1972.

Settlement of the dispute between Nenana and the State Operated School system came after a State Superior Court judge ordered pupils transferred from Nenana to State schools returned to the Nenana school system immediately.

Both parties agreed to a delay in execution of the order in order to negotiate an out of

court settlement. Last month, a delegation from Nenana led by Mayor Jack Coghill and School Superintendent Richard Leath went to Anchorage to discuss the situation with S.O.S. representatives.

According to the compromise agreement, the Nenana City School District dropped their court case and the students involved will continue to attend their present S.O.S. schools.

In return, S.O.S. will make up any loss in revenue suffered by Nenana in 1971-72 through loss of the students, preferably by payment for contractual services. S.O.S. will also pay "reasonable costs and attorney fees" to Nenana in the amount of \$3,000.

A joint study group of 3

members selected by Nenana, 3 selected by S.O.S. administrators and one mutually acceptable member will study the educational problems of the Nenana Valley area.

The study group will consider establishment of a cottage boarding home program in Nenana. The final report of the study group, after hearings, shall be binding on the S.O.S. administration.

S.O.S. has agreed not to establish a 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at Anderson till the S.O.S. board has acted on the recommendations of the committee.

Nenana shall accept as members on its School Board persons living in Anderson and along the highway. They shall not have the right to vote but the question of their voting shall be put to the State Attorney General as soon as possible. Nenana has agreed to abide by his decision.

Members of the study committee shall include Howard Holbert, Richard Leath and Father William Dibb, S.J. of Nenana.

S.O.S. appointees include Don Breimo, James Clymer and Jeff Jeffers. A seventh member of the committee will be selected jointly.