

LOST 'PAPERWORK' PUTS POVERTY WORKERS IN BIND

Mail Snarl Causes No Pay for Kotzebue Head Start Teachers

With their pay from ASCAP
overdue since February 10,
the staff of the Kotzebue
Head Start Program has sent

telegrams of complaint to
Sargent Shriver, national
director of the Office of
Economic Opportunity, and to
Alaska Congressional Dele-
gation.

ASCAP reports that the
delay is caused by lost
paperwork.

The Kotzebue staff was
supposed to be paid on
Feb. 10. When they con-
tacted the regional ASCAP
office in Nome, they were
told to wait for a few days
until the matter could be
straightened out by the
ASCAP headquarters in
Anchorage.

After a week, the staff
contacted the Anchorage
office and were told by Emil
Notti, acting director in the
absence of Flore Lekanof, to
wait some more and that he

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'Paperwork' . . .

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would do his best to help.

The staff answered that they would wait only until quitting time, 2 p.m. Bering Sea Time, because they had already waited a week. When they received no further word, they sent the following telegram to Shriver, Bartlett, Gruening, and Pollock:

"We, the staff of Kotzebue Head Start Program, have not been paid for the working period of January 30 through February 10. We need money to buy food, fuel and electricity.

"The ASCAP regional office in Nome and the ASCAP headquarters in Anchorage have been contacted without results. It is a week that we have not been paid. Money is urgently needed and we would appreciate your help."

ASCAP's executive director, Flore Lekanof, said that the staff had not been paid because the necessary form had not been received by his office. He said that, by regulation, he could not write out a check until he had this Form 102 to show where the money was going.

Lekanof said that he was trying to track down the form. He added that Don Perkins of the Nome office was on a trip to the villages and Perkins' secretary was on leave, so there was some problem in thoroughly checking through the Nome office for the form.

In addition, Lekanof said, the form could be lost in the mail - it had once taken six weeks for a letter from Kotzebue to reach him in Fairbanks.

At press time, the Kotzebue staff had not yet been paid. The missing pay totals \$1,118.40.

The Kotzebue Head-Start staff consists of three teachers, three teacher aids, a cook, her aid, a janitor, and a bookkeeper. All are Native people of Kotzebue.

They report that everybody is in need of the money, but one woman with a family of seven children is in need more than the rest.

"This is the reason why the staff reluctantly took the step of going higher and asking help from the congressmen," reported the staff.