

Dropouts Targets— Craig, Klawock Culture Centers May Be Funded

Commissioner of Education Cliff R. Hartman has announced that two proposals for native culture education centers have been tentatively approved for funding under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Proposals were submitted by the Craig and Klawock City School Districts and by the Juneau Borough School District. A joint planning grant will be made available to the three school districts so they may cooperatively develop their two similar projects.

Craig and Klawock administrators plan to develop a Southeast Alaska Native Culture Center to help alleviate existing problems in the public school system.

Administrators in the Craig-Klawock area stated that present education systems are not fully meeting the needs and desires of Southeast Alaska's native students. Few schools, they reported, have adapted their curriculum to meet the needs of native students and only a fraction have been innovative in the programs they offer.

The Craig-Klawock center will be designed to research problem areas and discover concrete evidence, information, and proposals that will shed light on those areas where schools are failing the native population and what is necessary to minimize the failure.

When the information and material is gathered, digested, and cataloged, the center will be available to disseminate its information to communities, other educational centers, teachers, and students who are directly concerned.

The Juneau Borough School District is planning a Tlingit-Haida Media Center to develop and initiate Tlingit-Haida culture units in the regular elemen-

tary school social studies program, grades K-6.

Plans for the Juneau center were made in conjunction with the Juneau Model Cities program and the local Alaska Native Brotherhood. The Tlingit-Haida social studies program is designed in part to alleviate the high native dropout rate as opposed to the white student dropout rate noted by the Model Cities Education Task Force.

Development of a native social studies curriculum was considered of high priority by the Juneau A.N.B.

The project director will work with a Juneau citizens advisory committee which will include representation from the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Model Cities Education Task Force.

Working with the Juneau teaching staff, the director will hold workshops and training sessions to give a better orientation to the staff regarding the Tlingit and Haida people.

Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act grant funds to local school districts to develop exemplary and innovative solutions to education problems.

Other proposals which have been tentatively approved are: Southeastern Alaska Maritime Fisheries Education (SEA-ED), Ketchikan; Year Round Laboratory Approach to Environmental Education, Kenai; and Special Learning Center, Kodiak.