

Norwood Working to Enlarge Native Employment in Alaska

Under the urging of the Department of the Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce, J. Leonard Norwood, assistant commissioner, administration, BIA, is currently in Alaska on assignment.

"With the coming of the oil industry and economic development of the state, our new Commissioner recognizes the immediacy of the situation and assigned me up here to direct development and enlargement of the employment and training programs of the BIA as it relates to the Alaska natives," stated Norwood this week in Fairbanks.

"I've been here," Norwood added, "for better than a month now and I find no lack of enthusiasm at all among all federal agencies, state officials and industry representatives in the training and hiring of natives."

Norwood said his contacts with the native organizations have revealed that they also are very much interested.

it appears our job is to make sure the BIA resources are routed into the areas that will do the most lasting good for most natives,"

Norwood said.

He said the BIA was enlarging its staffs to meet the needs of

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J. LEONARD NORWOOD, assistant commissioner for administration, BIA, Wash., D.C., is presenting a cash award to Melvin Posey for his outstanding services as acting plant manager, and for his work during the 1967 Fairbanks flood. The award event took place in Fairbanks. Wright Noel, not shown in the picture, was also given a cash award for meritorious service. Norwood is currently to enlarge native employment in Alaska.

BIA's Norwood

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the native communities in becoming acquainted with the opportunities that are available to the natives and are inventorying the jobs that will be available.

This is all being done with the incorporating of the state and and native organizations.

"There possibly could be some adverse effects on the natives of the economic development in Alaska, particularly where the natives move into the wage economy for which he had heretofore not been prepared," Norwood stated.

"We therefore," he continued, "must plan for such adverse situations as might occur and plan to work with the family, hopefully to train them where necessary to cope with some modern living with which they might not have been familiar."

During the past month, Norwood said he has been in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and this week to Barrow, then to Prudhoe Bay, Kotzebue, Nome and Unalakleet. He is also planning to go to Seward where the state has started a skill center.

"We are in a position to train in state and out of state," Norwood said. "Our program is going to remain one of voluntary participation with Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos."

J. Leonard Norwood has a background of 30 years service with the bureau. He is of Chock-taw and Cherokee descent.

He will remain in Alaska until the middle of January.