

State Welfare Office Moves to Northward Building Basement

The district office of the state division of family and children services (welfare office) announces that the social services section of that agency will now be located in the basement of the Northward Building. If you wish to contact a social worker, please go to the new offices through the 4th Avenue entrance in the southeast corner of the Northward basement,

next to 4th and Noble. There will be signs located throughout the building to assist you.

All questions concerning monthly grants, emergency assistance, and food stamps should be directed to the old location, 510 2nd Ave., 3rd floor of the Chena Bldg.

Please call 452-1637 for further information and clarification.

Mental Institute Recruiting Indians

The Consortium of Texas Graduate Schools of Social Work is currently involved in a program funded by the National Institute of Mental Health that involves the recruitment of economically disadvantaged students, including Mexican Americans, American Indians, and Blacks, into graduate social work education.

Stipends of \$200 per month including tuition and depend-

ence allowances of \$50 per month are provided through this program.

In addition, applicants are eligible for other stipends provided by the schools.

Interested applicants should contact:

Juan Armendariz,
Assistant Professor,
Project Director,
Social Work Education
For Economically

Disadvantaged
Groups,
School of Social Work,
The University of
Texas at Austin,
Austin, Texas 78712

Resident Law Not Opposed To Rights Laws

ANCHORAGE The Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission said today that the one-year residency requirement for state employment does not contravene Alaska human rights laws, and should therefore be defended.

In a release from his Anchorage office, Robert Willard said, "If the Court invalidates the residency rule, it will do irreparable harm to Alaska Natives and other minorities." The Director said for his agency to hold otherwise it would be a disservice to those persons affected by the purview of this Commission.

"I strongly believe if the rule fails the test in the Superior Court case, challenging the residency rule, it will cause an economic slump in terms of welfare and food-stamps," he said. "Because, in the absence of a residency rule, bonafide residents, particularly Alaska Natives, would take a second seat to the anticipated influx of out-of-state job seekers."

"I have great admiration for Governor Egan's administration's fight in this issue," the Director said, "and, I believe that the sovereign (state) should have a right to govern its economic and social programs to accommodate the socio-economic circumstances of the State."

The Human Rights head said that Alaska is plagued with a constant unemployment problem in at least two levels. One in urban areas and another more perplexing areas, that of Bush Alaska.

"The average urban unemployment rate is about 11-17 per cent while in the 'Bush', it approaches 70-80 per cent," he said, "which, in percentages figures to two to three times the national average in urban centers and more than ten times in Rural Alaska."

Willard is a member of the Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, a ten-member group that is working to devise a plan of action to improve the state's minority posture.

He said if the residency rule is struck down, there would be little chance to accomplish the objective.

"I see little chance to improve if the rule is struck," he said.

The Rights director pointed to a recent court of appeals decision which rules that U.S. citizenship requirement for work does not violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, when the complaint is based on national origin.

"That decision could be applied to Alaska's one year residency rule also," Willard said.

"I'm surprised that in this campaign year, no one has mentioned this and it should be a number one issue," Willard continued, "Politicians always make promises to solve the unemployment problem and this issue certainly qualifies."

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