

Primary Place of Residence

Last July, John Sackett sent a memorandum to every village council and village land selection committee on the subject of Allotments and Primary Place of Residence Option. In that memorandum it was stated, "We think it advisable at this time for individuals with allotment applications who may qualify for primary place of residence option conveyance, to wait a few months before making the the choice between the two, until certain answers to questions are received from the Interior Department. We will make recommendations at that time."

We wish to continue this advice, since the rules concerning primary place of residence option have not yet been issued by the Department of the Interior.

The Bureau of Land Management has been contacting every applicant for Native Allotment by mail, telling them they may, if they qualify, withdraw their allotment application and substitute a primary place of resi-

dence option in its place.

It is our recommendation that no action be taken to exercise the primary place of residence option at this time. We suggest that you save the papers sent to you by the Bureau of Land Management and not return them at this time. If this option form is not returned to the Bureau of Land Management, the allotment application will be continued to be processed as an allotment.

It will be probably three months before the rules about the primary place of residence option will be known. At that time, we will recommend whether this option should be considered or not. If you decide later to use this option, you may do so up until December 18, 1973. We suspect that this option will be valuable and legally available for only 15 or 20 people within the Tanana Chief Region.

There has been some extra confusion created by the letter sent by the Bureau of Land

Management, in which some people have thought they would not get title to their homes located in villages if they go with their allotments. This is wrong. The letter from BLM about allotments and primary place of residence option will not affect the granting of titles to village homes; these village titles will be granted in the normal way in those cases where title has not already been granted. Homes of villagers and the land on which these homes are located generally will be granted under the townsite laws or a special provision of the Land Claims Act not related to either allotments or primary place of residence option.

We will provide further information and advice to every family in the region through this newsletter about the primary place of residence option as soon as more information is available. Meanwhile, we recommend that everyone "sit tight" on this matter until the option rules are known.