

# U.S. LABOR DEPT. SHOWS INTENT



## If Industry Does Not, Govt. May Prescribe Minority Hiring Policy

"I hope the industry will develop an acceptable one of its own. If not, the federal government will have to prescribe a program which will do the job whichever way it must be done."

Last week in Anchorage, Vincent G. Macaluso so declared during an interview with Tundra Times.

Macaluso is the Assistant Director for Construction, Office of Federal Contract Compliance, U. S. Department of Labor and in that capacity, he is second in command in the department.

The Labor Department official is working in Alaska to implement President Lyndon Johnson's executive order that the Affirmative Action Program must be practiced within government agencies as well as in industry handling government contracts.

The program is an aim to employ more people among minority groups in the agencies and industry which means

that the employers must make certain that their employment practices are not only non-discriminatory but are reflected by the composition of their work forces.

Macaluso has been in Alaska for two weeks and has traveled to Fairbanks, Nome, several villages in the Seward Peninsula including Little Diomedé three miles from Big Diomedé, a possession of the Soviet Union. He then traveled to Anchorage.

During his swing through Alaska, he talked with individual native people, native organizations and both management and labor familiarizing himself with special problems of construction in Alaska.

"I have had a great deal

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U.S. LABOR DEPT. OFFICIAL—Vincent G. Macaluso, center, Assistant Director for Construction, Office of Federal Contract Compliance, U.S. Department of Labor, is conversing with Patricia Mayo, Equal Employment Officer, Alaska Region, FAA, left, and Willard Bowman, right, Director of

Alaska State Commission for Human Rights. The trio is enjoying the reception for the senators who conducted land hearings in Anchorage last week (pictures on page 5). Macaluso traveled through Alaska looking into minority employment conditions.

—Photo by TIMES EDITOR

# Macaluso . .

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of discussion and talks with management and labor," said Macaluso in Anchorage. "I told both that very soon there must be effective statewide Affirmative Action Programs.

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One of the prime reasons for Macaluso's trip was to gain a firsthand knowledge of the unemployment problems of the Alaska native peoples.

The dire unemployment situation among the native people was pinpointed last fall when Robert D. Arnold and Esther G. Wunnicke authored a Staff Study for the Federal Field Committee for Development and Planning in Alaska entitled, Alaska Natives and Federal Hire.

"Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts," the Study pointed out, "make up more than one-fifth of Alaska's civilian population, but they hold fewer than one-tenth of the jobs in the state. Their unemployment rate—based upon a labor force estimated at about 16,500—is a staggering 60 per cent. Being jobless, these Alaska natives live in poverty and suffer its consequences."

The situation was brought to the attention of top federal officials recently in testimony presented by Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett; Robert D. Arnold of the Federal Field Committee; and Willard Bowman, director of the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights.

Vincent Macaluso also held a series of meetings with representatives of federal agencies and discussed programs of affirmative action "to assure meaningful employment opportunity for all minority groups in Alaska."