

# New On-the-Job Training for Jobless

The approval of an on-the-job training program which will prepare 200 Alaskans, principally Natives, for a wide variety of jobs in Alaska has been announced by U.S. Senator Ernest Gruening.

The \$282,792 federal grant, conducted by the Alaska Federation of Natives and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, will make it possible for 200 trainees to enroll for training in skills which will equip them to work for airlines, cold storage companies, retail establishments, barge companies, logging operations, and many other businesses. will refer unemployed, quali-

There are approximately 9,000 unemployed Natives in Alaska. The Alaska Federation of Natives has been selected to recruit trainees and make contacts with interested employers.

If the employees indicates willingness to participate, the AFN will obtain information as to the occupations in which training will be conducted, number of trainees in each, and wages to be paid.

Local Employment Service offices will be notified of the time schedule for placement of trainees. The Employment Service offices

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fied applicants to the employers for interview and possible employment.

The AFN will see that the trainees are enrolled in the proper local office, and, in the event there is no Employment Office in the town or village where the training takes place or that the Employment Office is unable to send a representative, the AFN will be responsible for completing the paperwork.

An average on-the-job training time for each individual will be 20 weeks, although some trainees may spend as little as four weeks or as many as 52 weeks, depending on the job.

The Alaska Federation of Natives will maintain an office with a project director, two field coordinators, and one secretary-bookkeeper, all funded under the grant. The program will last 18 months. It is not known at this time just when the program will begin. Presumably, the main office will be located in Anchorage.

Senator Gruening has termed this new training program a "major breakthrough in preparing unemployed Natives throughout the state to take their places in Alaska's fast-developing modern economy."

Persons interested in this program may contact Mr. Emil Notti, Alaska Federation of Natives, P.O. Box 515, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.