

Nationwide Arts, Craft Marketing Cooperative

A nation-wide marketing cooperative for Indian and Alaskan Native arts and crafts products is being set up next month with a \$1 million grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The National Marketing Organization Cooperative will be owned and operated by Native peoples. An interim board of 30 directors are being selected by tribal and Native groups across the country.

Among the two directors nominated so far from Alaska are Amos Wallace of Juneau and Howard Rock, editor of the Tundra Times. Another Alaskan director is yet to be named.

The interim board will meet in Reno, the first week in February, to set up the structure for the marketing cooperative.

"In the long run, this will be a boon to us as far as arts and crafts," commented BIA Industrial Specialist Ross Miller in Juneau. Miller attended a preliminary meeting in Denver last December which set up plans for the new cooperative.

The interim board will probably serve six to nine months, till machinery can be set up for electing board members. The OEO Indian desk is expected to fund the project for 2 years.

The cooperative will set up headquarters in Denver and an office in New York. Funds will be used to pay agents to purchase Native arts and crafts.

Dr. Jim Wilson, the OEO Indian desk head, has requested a meeting with the board of the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, a former adjunct of the BIA set up to market native art in the 1930's.

The new cooperative is report-

edly taking a hard look at ANAC, with a view toward buying the Alaska Cooperative or funding it for reorganization.

As of now, not enough Alaskan art and crafts items are being produced for sale in Alaska, and almost none are available for markets in the lower 48.