

Indian Child Welfare Act acted out at AFN Confab

By Jennifer Evans

During the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention on November 2, 1979, the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force presented a three act play "Alaska Native Child Welfare Act". Act one and two presented child custody proceedings as they were before passage of the Act. Act three presented how the Task Force would like to see the Act implemented in the future using tribal councils heading the proceedings and usage of Native foster homes, extended family and supportive services within the village setting.

The purpose of the Task Force is to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Act. One of their major tasks will be to work with Regional Represent-

atives to create an awareness of the Act on how to benefit from it rather than take it on as a burden.

The Task Force presented two resolutions to Alaska Federation of Natives and both were passed on the Convention floor. The first was for AFN to endorse, support and officially sanction the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force; and the other groups to provide training and technical assistance to tribal governments and Alaska Natives in implementing the Act.

Jennifer Evans from Cook Inlet Native Association Family Services was elected as interim Chairperson until the Task Force can hold a formal election. For more information you can contact - Jennifer Evans, CINA at 1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 278-4641 Ext. 283.