

Pres. Ford Signs Bill— Self-Determination

President Ford recently signed into law the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (formerly SB 1017, now P.L. 93-638).

"The bill as we know it," stated Gordon Jackson, Executive Vice-President for Human Resources "would promote maximum Indian participation in the government and education of Indian People; to provide for full participation of Indians and to encourage the development of human resources; to establish a program of assistance to upgrade Indian education; to support the right of Indian citizens to control their own educational activities, and others."

"However," Jackson added, "we're still analyzing the bill to determine what provisions made it through the Conference Committee. At a first glance, we noticed a recommended appropriation was dropped or drastically reduced, the contracting provisions are still

there, the Johnson- O'Malley Act is amended, the Indian Youth Program is done, and others."

"I believe it would be advisable for all Regional Corporation to analyze the bill. It has huge implications for all Native Alaskans and Indian tribes in the other States. Following the analysis, it would be a good idea for all Regions to meet and discuss appropriations, rules and regulations, and a provision in the bill about proration of JOM funds.

"We're presently planning such a meeting in the near future and it will probably be on the agenda during the next AFN Human Resource Committee meeting in mid-February."

Still surprised at the passage of SB 1017, Jackson stated, "We've monitored and supported Senate Bill 1017 for over a year. Hopefully the bill wasn't "gutted" in Conference and will truly be a bill that will assist Indian tribes and tribal organizations towards their goal of self-determination."