

Jackson Attends OEO Region X Conference

In addition to his many duties and responsibilities as Executive Vice-President, Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Gordon Jackson is also the President of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RURAL CAP). It was in that capacity as President of RURAL CAP, he attended a recent OEO Region X Conference in Seattle, Washington.

"The Conference was probably

one of the most informative, productive, and exciting ones I've attended," said Jackson upon his return. "We learned about the Head Start, Economic Opportunity and Community Partnership Act of 1974 (HR 1449, now P.L. 93-644) signed into law on January 4, 1975 by President Ford. Under the terms of the new legislation, the Office of Economic Opportunity was renamed the Community Services Administration. The new CSA will continue as an independent Federal Agency at least until June 15."

Jackson added that "President Ford will probably ask for Congressional approval of a plan to transfer the CSA to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Community Action Programs (CAA's) throughout the Nation, including RURAL CAP, fully intend to fight this transfer. Their strength has always been their retention as an independent organization advocating the need of the poor and disadvantaged."

"President Ford also recommended a reduced appropriation for OEO, or now CSA, during the next year. This reduced appropriation is also opposed by CAA's throughout the Nation and they fully intend to seek grassroots support for a more realistic appropriation to do

a good job."

"Despite the number of problems with the new bill, one thing is for certain, Community Action Programs and other OEO Programs now have a bill. For the past year and a half they've been funded on a Continuing Resolution. Hopefully, the bad portions will be ironed out during this Congress, which we feel will show much more compassion for the poor" said Jackson.

On a more exciting note, Jackson indicated "OEO always does things with a bang! Enroute to Seattle we learned all of our hydraulic systems in the aircraft were out. We made an emergency-type landing that didn't scare me until I saw all of the ground crew following us.

"A lot of people were extremely impressed with the way Western Airlines handled the situation; and when leaving the Olympic Hotel for the SeaTac Airport, we were blessed with a real view of Evil Knievel in action!

"He got out of the taxi and gave the driver a \$50 bill and said 'keep the change.' Needless to say, Mike Harper, Jon Solomon and Gordon waited for the next bus to steal another moment with Knievel and to confirm our suspicions that everything you've heard about Evil is true.