

# Human Rights Commission Public Hearing

ANCHORAGE—The Alaska Human Rights Commission has scheduled its first formal public hearing to examine a charge of discrimination on the basis of age filed against another state agency located in Anchorage.

Executive Director Robert Willard said the hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 1972 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the 11th floor hearing room in the MacKay Building in Anchorage.

Bessie A. Stevens of Anchorage filed charges with the Human Rights Commission alleging that she had been refused employment at the McLaughlin Youth Center because of her age.

Named in the complaint and ordered to appear at the hearing are David Arnold, Director of the McLaughlin Youth Center, Lawrence Michou, Regional Personnel Officer, Southcentral Regional Personnel Office, both employed by the State Department of Health and Social Services.

A 5-member hearing panel will be composed of the Board of Commissioners including Chairman Cyril W. George of Angoon; Benny Estepa of Juneau; Shirley A. Woodrow of Anchorage; Willie Ratcliff of Fairbanks and Thomas Johnson of Nome.

Under the Human Rights laws, the Board sits as a quasi-judicial body empowered to hear testimony, subpoena witnesses and records, and rule on the case. In the Stevens matter, the Commission may order back pay from the date of the alleged offense to the day of resolution.

Since its inception in 1963, the Commission has never conducted a public hearing—as cases brought to attention of the Commission's staff had never advanced to the public hearing stage.

By law, the Executive Director notifies the Board that a conciliation agreement has not been reached, and the case advances to a public hearing.