

Dr. Tooté Meets Native Officials

(Courtesy of Fairbanks
Daily News-Miner)

Native Alaskans will have to learn "grantsmanship" to get the most out of land claims settlement money and federal tax dollars, according to Dr. Gloria Tooté, assistant secretary for equal opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dr. Tooté was in Fairbanks last Thursday as part of a tour of Alaska to visit housing sites and meet with Native corporations.

She is responsible for administration of HUD's civil rights and equal opportunity programs in housing, employment and business opportunity.

With the new housing law signed this fall by President Ford, HUD programs can be more than public housing, she explained, and said communities will be able to take advantage of the funds to create the kind of

communities best suited to their needs.

"You have to learn the sys-



DR. GLORIA TOOTE

tem and how to get taxes for your own benefit," she said. Tooté explained that under the new Better Communities Act, HUD can help fund a total community — not just public housing. The emphasis now, she said, is on creating a community that reflects the culture of those who live there in terms of housing, schools, recreational facilities and all the "amenities of life."

She also emphasized that once new housing is constructed, maintenance is important. "If you don't have the management and the income to maintain new housing properly, the occupants will eventually be living in housing worse than what they had before."

HUD is funding construction of housing units in Barrow, Ft. Yukon, Galena, Tanacross, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Shungnak, St. Michael, Stebbins, Unalakleet, Emmonak, Hooper Bay,

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Dr. Tooté

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St. Mary's, Sandpoint, Togiak, Savoonga and Gambell.

The prototype units were designed by HUD with consultation with tribal leaders and other federal agencies, Tooté said.

Construction is to begin in spring, 1975, with projected completion in 1976. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is handling the development of the housing, Indian Health Service is handling the water and sewers and HUD is funding the construction.

Tooté said HUD will be checking on the construction firms to see that they comply with equal opportunity hiring practices.

This will be especially important with this project she explained, so that persons working on the construction of the units can be trained to continue with maintenance of the structures once they are built.

She said her tour of several towns and villages here has made more clear the unique problems Alaska has in construction.

"The distances are so great and the earth is not cooperative," she said, almost making the cost of construction prohibitive. HUD will get assurance from Congress however, for funding to the extent needed to overcome construction problems here, she said.

Dr. Tooté was sworn in as assistant secretary in June, 1973. She was nominated for the position by former President Nixon in May that year. She came to HUD from ACTION where she served as assistant director and directed the office of voluntary action liaison from October 1971 to May 1973.

Prior to joining the administration, Tooté was president of Tooté Town Publishing, Inc., and was president of Recording Studios, Inc. from 1966 to 1970. She engaged in private law practice in New York City and is a former member of the editorial staff of the national affairs section of Time Magazine.

She said she has experienced discrimination in her career as both a woman and a black. "At first the discrimination was racial," she said, "but I've noticed that more recently it has been because of my sex."

She said the position of secretary is one of the most subtle yet worst forms of discrimination she knows.

"Originally a secretary was someone who typed and took shorthand. Now these women are really administrative aides, they run their offices and get paid as a typist."

She pointed out that the state of Maryland has changed the classification for state employees there to distinguish between secretaries and aides.

"More professional women strive to their maximum ability," she said, "because they feel they have to do better than anyone else."